CIHEAM ACTIVITY REPORT



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION





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Introduction

Food and nutritional insecurities, environmental degradation, climate change, and unbalanced development of territories are challenges that question the sustainability and inclusiveness of Mediterranean agri-food systems.

Although climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable fishing, short circuits, relocation, or even food sovereignty are put forward as possible solutions, they cannot be a sufficient answer to these problems without the inclusion and effective participation of the Mediterranean youth. Indeed, these transitions towards more sustainable models cannot achieve their objectives without initiatives targeting young people, especially in rural areas and in the agri-food sectors.

Young people represent a large portion of the Mediterranean population, their energy and potential are the present and the future of the region. The recognition of their role and their empowerment is a priority, especially with the emerging uncertainties resulting from climate change, wars, refugees' crises, and the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, these recent global and regional crises have recalled the need to strengthen the resilience, adaptation, and inclusiveness of Mediterranean agri-food systems. Young graduates or non-graduates must find their place in a constantly changing job market and in sectors that are most affected by new environmental, societal and economic concerns.

Involving young people in addressing the environmental challenges and in the adaptation and mitigation actions to face climate change is a major priority for the CIHEAM. We believe that the youth could be a key stakeholder of sustainable food systems and an engaged actor concerning local development and territories' resilience.

SDG 1 - No Poverty SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 - Reduced inequalities Youth Empowerment & socio-economic inclusion are mainly linked to 4 Sustainable Development Goals

• Education & Skills Developpement • Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship • Governance, Peace & Security • Youth Health & Sexual Reproductive Health Rights • Agriculture, Climate Change & the Environment African Union The Youth Decade Plan of Action

11 Goals - Youth Dialogue · Connecting EU with Youth . Equality of all Genders Inclusive Societies • Information & Constructive Dialogue · Mental Health and Wellbeing · Moving Rural Youth forward Quality Employment for All Quality Learning Space & Participation for All Sustainable Green Europe · Youth Organisations and **European Programmes EU Youth strategy** NEW YOU STRATEG 2019-2027

These commitments are translated in its Action Plan for the Mediterranean (CAPMED), which is in line with international, regional and national agendas.

In this respect, the CIHEAM has established a dedicated corporate working group including referents from each institute and from the headquarters to support the joint work conducted by the institutes on this matter. As such, the inclusion of youth and the strengthening of their role in food systems is addressed through 3 key dimensions:

- 1. Mobility of people and knowledge for a common vision of the challenges facing the Mediterranean and enhancing intercultural dialogue;
- 2. Jobs of tomorrow Training, capacity building for sustainable food systems and economies of the future
- 3. Achieving resilience of the local communities with a multi-stakeholder approach to cooperation



On May 21, 2022, the CIHEAM celebrates its 60 years!

The initiatives to celebrate the CIHEAM's 60th anniversary are being developed in the spirit of overcoming the various recent crises in the Mediterranean, with the aim of building a better sustainable future for the Mediterranean youth.

The youth is expressing their vision of the possible future of the Mediterranean region: In partnership with Plan Bleu and as part of its MED2050 prospective study, the CIHEAM is mobilizing its students and ALUMNI to imagine the future of the Mediterranean! The survey is structured around various questions related to the perception of the current situation, probable future visions, ruptures, and/or long-term transformations.

Mobility of people and knowledge for a common vision of the challenges facing the Mediterranean and enhancing intercultural dialogue



Since its establishment in 1962, the CIHEAM has been devoted to sharing knowledge and expertise among Mediterranean member countries through post-graduate training, applied research, the development of cooperation projects and the animation of research networks in the Mediterranean. More than 40,000 students and young researchers have been welcomed at the 4 CIHEAM Institutes (Bari, Chania, Montpellier and Zaragoza). The CIHEAM is a major actor in student mobility and Mediterranean intercultural dialogue. Each year, several hundred of students coming from the Middle East, Africa and Europe are trained (Masters and short-term specialized training courses) at the CIHEAM Institutes. During their stay, they discover the common roots of Mediterranean cultures and the virtues of intercultural dialogue and diversity. Together with science diplomacy, "cultural diplomacy" is a strong symbol of the identity of the CIHEAM.

In this direction, all four institutes provide grants and mobility possibilities for students of the Mediterranean. Also, in the framework of the Erasmus+ Program, the **CIHEAM Montpellier**, through 2 agreements, provides mobility possibilities for Albanian students to follow a degree course at the Institute, and for Lebanese students to prepare for a dual degree between CIHEAM-Montpellier and the Faculty of Agronomy of the Lebanese University. Educational support and doctoral grants are also provided to students from the southern shore of the Mediterranean who wish to pursue a Ph.D.

degree through the doctoral platform of CIHEAM Montpellier as a first stage where they become part of an international research network.

Simultaneously, in the framework of ERASMUS, the CIHEAM Montpellier contributes to promoting better adaptation of young people to the new challenges of the agricultural world through 2 projects:

<u>RUR'UP</u>: helps 7 higher education institutions in Europe to equip their graduates with qualifications and skills adapted to the specific needs of the labor market and the society of the peripheral rural regions of the EU;

<u>SmartAL</u>: implementation of an innovative Master's degree in territorial development in Albania responding to the needs of the labor market in order to strengthen the employability of young people.

The **CIHEAM Bari** is also a partner of two ERASMUS Projects:

<u>EYE - Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs</u>: that aims at encouraging the matching between young aspiring entrepreneurs and host companies at the European level. Young people with a business idea, thanks to a database, are offered the possibility to carry out work experience useful for the development of their start-up in a company based in another European country.

TTO4FOOD: promotes the creation of the Third university mission in the Albanian Universities, specifically n. 4 Technology Transfer Office through the exchange of knowledge and experience (mobility – exchange lab) with the CIHEAM Bari, the University of Bari and Cypro. The TTOs carry out the activities of Patent, Business creation for students and researchers (spin-off and Startups), and cooperation among Research-companies were co-designed (living lab approach).

On the other hand, the **CIHEAM Bari** was involved in <u>strengthening knowledge</u> <u>management for greater development effectiveness in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe</u>. This project, funded by IFAD, and in collaboration with ICARDA, aims at facilitating and supporting the growth of knowledge management and capacity development operations within the Near East and North Africa (NENA) and Central Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEN) regions.

Jobs of tomorrow - Training and capacity building for the sustainable food systems and economies of the future



Leverage hard and soft skills at the same time for better employability of young people

Through its comprehensive Vocational Education and Training - school-based and work-based learning, the CIHEAM provides its students with the necessary hard skills to achieve their professional goals. It offers training for the jobs of tomorrow in various specialties with innovative scientific and technological approaches. Also, training courses take account of the challenges, crises (climatic and economic), and innovations ...

The Institutes are also a great environment for developing soft skills and enabling a smooth school-to-work transition. Extra-curricular activities push students outside their comfort zones (public speaking, group debates, competitions) and the diversity of profiles of CIHEAM students allows them to easily fit into a diverse team.

The CIHEAM also provides professional internship possibilities within private companies as well as other opportunities on the ground such as the Field Research Initiatives. These opportunities facilitate the transition to Professional life.

In this regard, the **CIHEAM Chania** has participated in 7 Work-Based Learning European Programs, offering training on its premises and in local agri-food companies for two-months placement of 126 young students from European Education Institutions. The project significantly reduces skills imbalances between the labour market expectations and the skills developed during theoretical training but also promotes the inclusion of young people.

The training provided at the CIHEAM allows students to access a large variety of jobs in the fields of environment, agriculture and food systems, rural development and

coastal management. Each Institute offers various Masters, vocational training courses, summer, and e-learning programs, facilitating and encouraging contact between students and local stakeholders. The training courses are designed to enable future professionals and decision-makers to better respond to environmental and socio-economic challenges through innovative approaches.

Finally, and in order to reduce the gap between young graduates and field operators, the CIHEAM opened a call for contribution to its "Field Research Initiative" (FRI) project with 4 main objectives:

- Strengthening the interactions between young scientists, rural communities, and local organizations, promote knowledge exchanges,
- Empowering youth with practical skills,
- Sharing good practices and innovative tools for sustainable agriculture and rural poverty reduction,
- Fostering networks and employment opportunities for young researchers and Ph.D. students across the Mediterranean region, also through South-South Cooperation.

Adoption of new technologies and scientific innovations

As it is important for the CIHEAM to advance the new technologies and innovative tools that are being developed in its areas of activity, its training offer evolves through the years to respond better to the necessities of the job market.

For that reason, training activities related to new digital technologies include:

Big data applications in the food supply chain, Precision livestock farming,

Social innovation in rural areas,

Innovative tools and methods for ensuring seafood authenticity.

Technological innovation for intensive greenhouse production,

Statistical tools for genomic and phenomics data analysis, Use of sensors in precision agriculture and Greenhouse gas assessment and mitigation in agriculture have been developed since 2019 in **CIHEAM Zaragoza**



Also, the **CIHEAM Chania** delivers a program on Geoinformation in Environmental Management focusing on providing graduates with skills concerning the use of Geographical Information Systems in Environmental Management and decision support systems and the analysis of remotely sensed data for a variety of applications.

In addition, the CIHEAM has set up some new training courses for developing the innovation mindset, for example:

- Innovation broker (October 2020): to strengthen collaboration between research organizations and companies, interpret corporate innovation needs and build bridges with researchers.
- Innovation coach (November December 2020): where qualified professional figures support teams of aspiring start-ups.
- TTO manager (November 2020): to encourage the enhancement of technology transfer from research organizations to businesses.
- Cooperation between research and businesses (November December 2020): with the aim of improving collaboration skills for future researchers and businesses, starting from the development of research-based on the needs of companies.

Professional integration of young people from various backgrounds

The CIHEAM Bari is leading the project Social Inclusion paths of young people at deviation risk of the Bari Metropolitan area through work placement in the Agricultural supply chain. The project intends to activate an offer of services aimed at social and work inclusion (subordinate work and/or self-employment) targeting young people aged between 16 and 24 at risk of deviance. In particular, the activities include the collection of needs and information, training, coaching, tutoring, and the setting up of a permanent laboratory of social innovation. The project will be supported by a public-private collaboration, the territorial network of social innovation, which will encourage the employment and social inclusion of young people as well as the future sustainability of the project. As part of the project, the construction of a land bank is being considered: available goods and lands that can be enhanced through new entrepreneurial activities promoted by trained young people.

The CIHEAM Chania, through the Project SCOBE, works towards systematizing Collaboration amongst Business and Educational institutions. The project has the objective of allowing young people without expertise who need extra effort to adapt to real working life in the field of renewable energy sources.

The CIHEAM Montpellier has implemented the project "Creation of jobs in Tunisia to support agriculture and handicraft: solidarity economy and professionalization" aimed at contributing to job creation in the agricultural and craft sectors in the governorate of Medenine. It has promoted the economic integration of young people and women - graduates and nongraduates - living in remote and disadvantaged areas by meeting the needs of artisans, farmers, and cooperatives in terms of skills and services.

Moreover, **the CIHEAM Zaragoza** has a mentoring programme to enable alumni to share their professional and personal experience and expertise with current students, provide academic and professional advice and help them prepare for a successful career.

Supporting innovation & youth entrepreneurship



Training for innovation and entrepreneurship

The **CIHEAM Bari** has set up with the collaboration of the University of Bari an international first-level Master on "Open Innovation and Youth Entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean Agrifood sector" with the aim of initiating young people to the entrepreneurial culture and encouraging them to create innovative businesses.

This Master's programme (CIHEAM Bari in collaboration with the University of Bari) adopts the work-based learning (WBL) strategy. It includes 2 work projects: Lean start-up and Open innovation -including design thinking. The programme is in close collaboration with private companies through work projects (open innovation- design thinking approach) and internships.

Enhancing Incubation and Innovation

To support innovation, many initiatives were conducted by the CIHEAM institutes, especially in the last few years. The **CIHEAM Chania** has promoted the <u>DTRAIN project</u> (Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship in the Agri-food Sector). The project revitalizes the production in the agro-food sector through capacity building for professionals willing to upgrade their skills in Design Thinking for innovation. The methodology is developed in an innovative educational model based on a learner-centred approach.

The SIMRA project, led by the **CIHEAM Zaragoza** aims for the mobilisation of new technologies and innovation to create jobs. It has compiled a database of social innovations in marginalized rural areas showcasing examples of social innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural development in rural areas across Europe and non-European Mediterranean regions.

In partnership with the Ministries of Agriculture of Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Tunisia - **the CIHEAM Bari** contributes to the Water MEDYIN project "Youth and innovation for a sustainable management of water and marine resources" in the Mediterranean. The project aims to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mediterranean region by promoting youth entrepreneurial initiatives, as well as youth inclusion and socio-economic opportunities in water resources management, in both marine and coastal areas. It also aims to enhance the contribution of youth-led (<35 yo) innovative companies to the sustainable management of water and coastal/marine resources in Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine.

In addition, the CIHEAM Bari contributes to the INCUBA project with the aim of strengthening business incubators for start-ups and training courses for young aspiring entrepreneurs in Greece and Italy. Thanks to this project it was possible to create the incubator at the CIHEAM Bari campus - Medab "Mediterranean Innovation Hub".

Innovation centres

Since October 2020 the "Mediterranean Innovation Hub"- a centre promoted by CIHEAM Bari in collaboration with the University of Bari, Almacube University of Bologna, Confindustria, Legacoop and Confcooperative- has been providing an international public-private centre of excellence for innovation and the setting up of new businesses. It combines training, internationalization and open innovation. It involves young people, start-ups and innovative businesses.

Strengthening incubators and networks

In order to encourage and support innovation led by young people, several initiatives were launched by the CIHEAM institutes. The **CIHEAM Bari** has contributed to <u>FoodSHIFT2030</u>, a new European project on the sustainable transformation of food systems that aims at establishing a food-accelerator-lab across Europe to incubate local food system innovative initiatives. The CIHEAM Bari encourages also the strengthening of incubators and their networks -Cross- over HUBS - developing cross-innovation between agro-food and creative enterprises. In the framework of the project <u>Food4Health</u> - sustainable and innovative agro-food and fisheries value chain for SMEs cross border market program priority (Italy, Albania and Montenegro)- it has put in place a HUB in agrifood processing to <u>support the creation of start-ups</u> and encourage the development of local micro-entrepreneurship. Also, in cooperation with Albania and Montenegro through the <u>FILA project</u> it has contributed to strengthening cooperation between research organizations and the private sector, supporting the development of innovative enterprises and start-ups, and guaranteeing more job opportunities, especially for young people by enhancing enterprises' competitiveness.

Operating also in Africa in collaboration with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the CIHEAM Bari has let the project <u>SUSTLIVES</u> - SUSTaining and improving local crop patrimony in Burkina Faso and Niger for better LIVES and ecosystems. This project is a Climate-relevant Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture funded under the 2019 (and 2020) Global Public Goods and Challenges Program, which involves the upgrading of incubators in Burkina Faso and Niger. In addition, the **CIHEAM Chania** through the European project <u>TOURNET</u>, contributes to creating a Network that supports existing SMEs and new entrepreneurs from all the sectors of the economy, especially agro-food entities that could promote sustainable tourism development. The project seeks, through the collaboration among the SMEs and the exchange & transfer of knowledge, to generate entrepreneurship opportunities for young people, create stable and quality jobs, decrease the unemployment rate, and increase the income and standards of living mainly in rural areas.

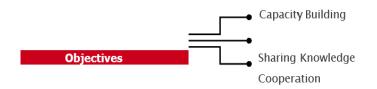
The MIP Network

Established in 2016 and coordinated by the CIHEAM Bari, the MIP is the first Mediterranean Network for youth entrepreneurship and technology transfer in the agri-food sector. It is composed of governmental bodies, and International Organizations (ICARDA, BusinessMed, Unimed, INSME) operating in the agri-food sector in Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. In addition to the founders, 60 Support Organizations (accelerators, incubators, TTO, business clusters...etc) from the Euro-Mediterranean region have joined the initiative. MIP aims to create the Mediterranean Innovation Ecosystem, enhancing the collaboration among public institutions and Innovation Support Organizations (ISOs) to support the creation and innovation of agri-food enterprises of young entrepreneurs through knowledge sharing and transfer, capacity building, and cooperation.



BUILDING THE MEDITERRANEAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

The Mediterranean Innovation Partnership (MIP) Network for Youth Entrepreneurship and Technology transfer in the Agrifood sector. The strategy of the Network consists in its consolidation and enlargement to new members, public and private (in particular ISO and enterprises cluster) to favour further knowledge sharing and simultaneously increase job opportunities for young entrepreneurs through.



5 activities

Creation of The Mediterranean Innovation Ecosystem

Capacity Building

Reinforce the dialogue between innovation chain actors at local and international level

Tools for sharing and transfer knowledge

Cooperation actions

Promoting Mediterranean talents and innovation

Mediterranean forums for Phd students and young researchers



Since 2016, through the organization of these Forums, the CIHEAM intends to set the basis for a Mediterranean initiative aimed at supporting and guiding Master students graduating from its Institutes that wish to further their studies through a PhD. This initiative is also open to young researchers that already completed their Ph.D. within associated national HEI and research intuitions.

MEDFORUM 2016: Food security and rural development

MEDFORUM 2018: Research and innovation as tools for sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security

MEDFORUM 2021: Arid land and agri-food systems

Up-coming

MEDFORUM 2022: Mediterranean Agriculture and Food Systems in a Time of Climate Change and Agrofood Crisis

The CIHEAM's best thesis prize

This Prize was established in 1994 to promote the research work undertaken by the CIHEAM students in the framework of their Master of Science and to support the development of their scientific career. It is awarded every year by the Governing Board of the Organisation upon recommendation of its Advisory Board.



Objectives and impact:

Promote innovative solutions proposed by young people Enhance the student network

Allow young Mediterranean people to be agents of change

<u>Prize:</u> The awarded prize amounts to 5,000 euros allowing the winner to develop / pursue his professional and/or academic project.

Some awarded theses:

2019 - "DNA--based markers combined with High Resolution Melting analysis for olive oil

authentication and adulteration"; 2018 - "Assessing agricultural trade integration among EU and Mediterranean countries signed under the Agadir agreement" and "Isolation and molecular characterisation of Xylella Fastidiosa from different host plant species in the Apulia region (Italy)

CIHEAM Youth Innovation Award

To be launched in current 2022, this award aims at recognizing and promoting Innovation and disruptive projects within the CIHEAM's community.

Objective and impact: CIHEAM will reward the innovative, disruptive or most audacious project designed and led by members of the CIHEAM's community (current students and Alumni) and contributing to more sustainable, inclusive and equitable Mediterranean food systems.

Award: Both material and promotional. The winner will be awarded 5 000 euros as financial support to the project and he/she will receive a CIHEAM medal and diploma.



Achieving resilience of the local communities with a multi-stakeholder approach to cooperation



The CIHEAM provides a wide range of master programs and training to the youth of the Mediterranean to give them the right tools to help meet socio-economic and environmental challenges of the region and to support the resilience of communities, especially in rural and coastal zones. For example, the Sustainable Water Management and governance in *Natural and Agricultural Environments Master* offers key skills and competencies in the fields of water management and governance; the *Agricultural Management and Territories Master* trains students in agricultural production systems management by taking into account the specific characteristics of territories and adopting both a technical and an economic approach; and so on. In addition to that, the CIHEAM leads a wide range of projects in the territories to increase the attractiveness of the rural and coastal areas for the youth and enhance their socioeconomic inclusion in rural and coastal areas.

Attractiveness and increased connections between rural, agricultural and coastal areas

The CIHEAM works on the challenges related to the job's attractiveness in rural, agricultural and coastal areas. The CIHEAM **Montpellier** supports the <u>DEVLOK</u> project which addresses local development of the Kerkennah archipelago by supporting start-ups of young entrepreneurs in accordance with the priorities identified by the population.

The project "Stabilization and socio-economic development of Tunisia's coastal regions", managed by **the CIHEAM Bari**, is designed to support the sustainable development of coastal communities, and set up a planning system for participatory and integrated development of coastal areas that will serve as a framework for future initiatives. The objective is to improve and diversify the production and incomes of fishing operators and coastal communities, to reduce poverty by improving access to support services and management, but also by accessing financial instruments that target young people and women.

Publications, events & partnerships for youth empowerment and socio-economic inclusion



The CIHEAM has developed diverse partnerships with public decision-makers - Member States' Ministries of Agriculture, Mediterranean regions, and with local communities- to meet challenges, seize opportunities and develop innovative projects. Inter-university partnerships also strengthen mobility across the Mediterranean and at international levels. This is necessary to achieve a better understanding of the various dynamics across the region and beyond.

Moreover, CIHEAM has participated in several international meetings and events on the topic of youth inclusion and youth empowerment through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Reinforcing employability

The CIHEAM participated in the 4th UfM Ministerial conference on Employment and Labour and shared good practices during the side event on "The Employment of Mediterranean University Graduates: Bridging the Employability Gap Between Advanced Skills and Markets". In the framework of this collaboration with the UfM, FAO, and PRIMA for promoting the sustainability of food systems,, a side event for the 3rd world conference on the revitalization of the Mediterranean diet (Bari, 22nd September) is planned to explore the contribution of higher education and research in supporting a shift towards more sustainable food system models in the Mediterranean, by showcasing some key items in their toolbox, which contribute to support our youth.

The CIHEAM was also involved in a project for reinforcing the Innovation-Employability Nexus in the Mediterranean via the elaboration of a handbook for Academia, Industry and Policymakers.

Through the data analysis of qualitative and quantitative input from 35 organisations around the Mediterranean including the CIHEAM and the mapping of 146 programmes, the handbook presents initiatives and best practices, and a literature—review of 1,350 publications. The steering committee chose to focus on a total of eleven themes ranging from Skills (Chapter 3), Teaching & Learning (Chapter 4), Collaborative Doctorates (Chapter 5), International Mobility (Chapter 6) and Internships (Chapter 7) to Career Services (Chapter 8), Knowledge Exchange (Chapter 9), Partnerships for Innovation (Chapter 10) and Digital Innovation (Chapter 11) to Capacity Development inside Higher Education Institutions (Chapter 12) and Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (Chapter 13).

The CIHEAM was involved as well in the Digital UfM Research and Innovation Steering Committee meetings and intervened in preparatory seminars on employability and digitalisation, and how to promote entrepreneurship and start-up creation in research and innovation.

Enhancing human capital

In 2016, the CIHEAM and the FAO published a joint edition of the <u>Mediterra report: Zero Waste in the Mediterranean</u>, highlighting issues related to the waste of traditional knowledge and the potential of young people who must be supported, particularly with regard to study conditions, the lack of vocational training and the difficult conditions of graduates in rural areas.

CIHEAM and FAO field research initiative

The FAO-CIHEAM Field Research Initiative is a competitive grants initiative designed for Ph.D. student/young researcher placement in a rural community-based local organisation (PO, SME, cooperative...), to scale-out and disseminate research findings which can contribute to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, to the increase of the sustainability and resilience of agriculture, to the improvement of livelihoods, and to the reduction of rural poverty, thus supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship



<u>Innovation in the Mediterranean agri-food sector: actors, policies and future prospects in a developing ecosystem - MIP REPORT 2021 - CIHEAM Bari</u>

The MIP report is a collection of information and data used to describe the scenario of youth innovation and entrepreneurship in the agri-food sector in MENA countries. One of the main aspects of the analysis is the direct information collection by MIP countries' focal points. The report is based on desk analysis and direct interviews with 295 Innovation support organizations. The main findings of this research refer to their specialization, partnerships, governance, target and year of establishment, the innovation-oriented policies in the MIP member countries, youth entrepreneurship, and access to funding. The MIP report of 2021 is the third annual edition (2019,2020) and the data analysis is in progress as part of an Observatory on youth entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean under development.

<u>The CREATIVE CAMPS Project – CIHEAM Bari: "Creative Camps–Cross-over HUBS" with</u> the objective to foster the development of entrepreneurial initiatives

It is a platform where start-ups meet and discuss bilaterally their business ideas with the participants in dedicated exhibition stands set up within the CIHEAM Bari Campus. Part of the project a Business marathon was held in Bari on the 1st June 2021 and was the first opportunity for the project participants to meet in person, visit the Hub and exchange ideas and perspectives on cross innovation between the agri-food, creative and cultural sectors. Within the Mediterranean Innovation Agri-food Week, Creative Camps project presents the state of the art of project activities and the results achieved. Also, a training was organized starting the 3rd of June 2021 for Hub managers it includes 34 hours of lessons taught by international lecturers, experts, and operators from business incubators and start-ups, on empowerment in management skills, promotion of services provided, creation of the local ecosystem, provision of development and support services to youth entrepreneurship, and Cross-Innovation.

The Agrobiodiversity Innovation Challenge

It is organized by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, with the support of the Italian Government and in partnership with **CIHEAM Bari**, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Italian Institute of Technology, the IITA Business Incubation Platform, the Accelerate for Impact Platform, Rockstart, and The Lexicon. The Innovation Challenge is intended for innovations (technologies, methodologies, and best practices) that could be made available to farmers, consumers and food companies to increase production effectiveness, competitiveness and resilience while conserving agrobiodiversity. It aims to inspire research and ideas in the field of agriculture and food systems and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mediterranean Innovation Agrifood week | CIHEAM Bari, 25-28 October 2021

A week of events organized by CIHEAM Bari in collaboration with MIP - Mediterranean Innovation Partnership, dedicated to young aspiring entrepreneurs, start-ups and innovative companies. The initiative included workshops, pitches of start-ups (15 from Lebanon, Tunisia, Palestine and 10 from Italy) and meetings/matching with companies and investors, training of Hub managers and a final international seminar: "dialogues on the innovation of the Mediterranean agricultural system". The international seminar was attended by UFM, Alliance / CGIAR, AICS, Businessmed, LINK2007 and regional and representative institutions of Italian companies. This first edition, within the project WATERMEDYIN, funded by the Italian Cooperation, is gathering about 100 guests among start uppers, trainers, agricultural entrepreneurs - from Italy and from the Mediterranean region – as well as renowned international experts in the field of innovation, with the following objectives:

- contribute to the identification of strategies for the creation of an environment conducive to the sustainable development of the agri-food sector in the Mediterranean, by leveraging on young people and on the combination of innovation and competitiveness;
- deepen strategic aspects on the strengthening of the innovation ecosystem.

The new edition of the MEDITERRANE INNOVATION AGRIFOOD WEEK is scheduled for October 2022.

Webinar: "Business incubation: where it all began and where we are now. Insights from an industry veteran",10 march 2022

In the framework of Mediterranean Innovation Partnership - MIP WebAcademy activities, CIHEAM Bari organizes a webinar with Thomas Mancuso, Economic Development Business Incubator Advisor, leader of the Mancuso Group in Batavia NY, to share his insights about the origins, the story and the transformation of the incubation industry.

CIHEAM Watch Letter (September 2022): Youth4SFS

This special issue is the result of a collaboration between the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) and its partners from the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI). For its 41st edition, the CIHEAM Watch Letter gives a voice to young researchers, entrepreneurs, associative or union activists who have ideas and projects to share for more sustainable and inclusive food systems in the Mediterranean region.

5th Annual Arab Water Forum



The CIHEAM (Secretariat General and the CIHEAM Bari) participated in the 5th Annual Arab Water Forum which took place from 21st - to 23rd September 2021 in Dubai (UAE). Involved in two panels: «Water Security in The Mediterranean Region: Sustainable Water Reuse Strategies in Agriculture - Case Studies & Regional Perspectives » in partnership with NRD/UNISS and IWMI, and "Research and Innovation for Youth Engagement in MENA's Water Sector", the CIHEAM has stressed the importance of integrating youth and women, especially in rural and agricultural areas and vulnerable communities for a successful regional cooperation.

Le forum des mondes méditerranéens : Mediterranean gastronomic heritage

The CIHEAM has participated in the Forum des Mondes Méditerranéens that was held in Marseille (France) on 7 and 8 February 2022 and was one of the first signatories of the "Manifesto for a Mediterranean Gastronomic ambition" supported by various actors in the fields of agriculture and fishing, cuisine and gastronomy, culture, tourism and even education and training. This manifesto calls among other objectives to build more adapted, demanding and attractive training courses for the younger generations. Also, a working meeting was held in the presence of the various actors involved in the programming of the culinary component of the Forum to discuss collaborations, and especially to develop synergies between the various actors of the food value chain in the region, with particular attention to the challenges of training and youth employment.



Established in 1962, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) is a Mediterranean intergovernmental organisation composed of 13 Member States (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey). It operates through its 4 Institutes based in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France) and Zaragoza (Spain) and the Headquarters based in Paris.

As a key player in multilateral cooperation in the fields of sustainable agriculture and fisheries, food systems, coastal and rural development, its missions revolve around four main objectives:



Protection of the planet by combating all forms of waste: waste of natural resources, food waste and waste of knowledge and know-how;



Food and nutrition security by boosting sustainable agriculture and food systems;



Inclusive development by investing in new generations and fragile territories;



Prevention of crises by managing tensions and working for the resilience of communities.

The CIHEAM strives to achieve these objectives through education and capacity building, networked research, cooperation and technical assistance and political dialogue. Cooperation is essential for CIHEAM, which collaborates with more than 50 countries, several regional and intergovernmental organisations, and more than 600 universities and research centre.

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