

## CAPSELLA & DIVERSIFOOD Projects MEETING PRESS RELEASE

*The CAPSELLA Project, launched on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 under Horizon 2020, establishes a Collective Awareness Platform for Environmentally-sound Land Management based on Data Technologies & Agrobiodiversity*

**07 April 2017:** In the past decades, it has become clear that rich biodiversity ensures undeniable benefits for the maintenance of our ecosystem, including protection of water resources, healthier soil conditions, nutrient storage and contribution to climate stability.

In other words, biodiversity fulfills any need of human beings including good food, clothing, medicine and material for shelter. These concepts have been understood and conservation of agrobiodiversity is increasing also thanks to active EU players, who, over the years have encouraged, developed and promoted the dynamic management of diversity on farm and in gardens. The H2020 projects CAPSELLA and DIVERSIFOOD, both working on issues related to agrobiodiversity and food, met in Pisa to discuss how the European seed networks could benefit and be supported by ICT tools, especially the ones that will be developed in the frame of CAPSELLA.

The meeting was enriched by the active participation of a truly large European networks representation including seeds experts and savers such as **PRO SPECIE RARA** from Switzerland, **ARCHE NOAH** from Austria, **Red de Semillas Andaluz** from Spain, **Aegilops** from Greece and the U.K – **Garden Organic** who presented their national experience and databases. Experts from France **INRA** and **CIRAD** contributed to a stimulated discussion on the development of an IT tool for agrobiodiversity data collection. To this end, the seeds networks agreed on the importance of having a simple, common data model for data entry possibly with high scalability and interoperability.

The CAPSELLA Coordination Team acknowledged the request and commits itself to the release of a data entry tool. With regards the model, it might be evaluated by the ICT experts in CAPSELLA as currently there are already some innovative IT tools, tailor-made under development on the base of concrete farmers request. In this light, the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna took the opportunity to present one of the CAPSELLA's pilot activities that will focus on **Soil Health**. Within the pilot, a soil health monitoring tool will be co-designed with farmers from Greece and Italy. The web-app will integrate modelling of experimental data together with participatory assessments by the farmers

to forecast the effect of fertilization on soil health and therefore on the sustainability of the production.

The meeting offered the opportunity to the CAPSELLA Coordination Team to present the interactive map developed by the consortium that aims at giving another dissemination and visibility tool for those networks, clusters and organisations who wish to network and share potential challenges with other EU agrobiodiversity players who have already joined the [CAPSELLA Map](#)

The participants showed interest and willingness to continue the established collaboration between the two consortia and plan future meeting possibly next June during the Rete Semi Rurali three-day event at the FLORIDDIA Organic farm in Volterra, Tuscany.

#### Further information

[www.capsella.eu](http://www.capsella.eu)

<https://twitter.com/Capsella12>

<https://www.facebook.com/capsellaproject/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8524214>

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