



PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Digitalisation: Needs and Impacts

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DIGITAL SERVICES FOR RURAL AND FARMER COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN GREECE

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This Living Lab operates geographically in the area of Trilofos, a village and community belonging to the municipality of Katerini, located in Northern Greece.

This region of Greece has a long tradition with tobacco cultivation. In the recent years, the position of the local farmers in the supply chain has been weakened, mainly due to the production limitation system EU has applied to tobacco and the suspension of any subsidies to tobacco growers. At the same time the economic risk and dependency from the local tobacco distributors-retailers is being increased.

The Living Lab delves into the identification of digital services and functionalities and proposes digital solutions and ways to implement them to a group of local farmers that are gradually transitioning from tobacco to leek cultivation.

Outline of the main needs that were identified during the course of the Living Lab workshop:

- Strengthen the position of farmers in the supply chain
- Explore digital solutions that will benefit the agricultural process and attract more-younger individuals in the agricultural business
- Train the farmers operating inside the scope of this LL to fully utilise the technologic solutions and ensure a self-sustainable use of the introduced solutions in the future.

The Socio-Cyber-Physical system is mainly characterised from the interacting elements of Farmers group-American Farming School (innovation facilitator and technology advisors) – adopted agricultural Digital tools – and existing agricultural land and equipment. The digital transformation actions led to the adoption of smart agriculture digital tools and establishment of a LoRa Wan network in the region. The introduction of these digital interventions has reshaped the interactions among the entities of the LL's

Living Lab

Digital Services for Rural and Farmer Communities

Key Digital Technologies

Lora Wan network, On field precision agriculture sensors, data sharing platforms

Keywords

Digital Agriculture, Smart Transition, Capacity Building

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SCP system and introduced new agricultural processes that entail agricultural data gathering and data driven information sharing routines, all administrated and coordinated by the American Farming School. The LL farmers who embraced digital solutions in their agricultural practices have quickly benefited from the daily monitoring and regular feedback on their crop status as well as the timely weather and temperature warnings that helped them protect their crop from sudden physical hazards. The acquisition and circulation of information and data have enhanced the overall climatic resilience of the crops and yield. Furthermore, the data-driven decision-making has enabled a better utilisation of land in the region that translates also in better seasonal and spatial exploitation of the agricultural fields and adoption of optimised land preservation practices.

