



Università
Ca'Foscari
Venezia

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: BLUEGRASS - Boosting the Long term development of the GReen Agrifood through Aquaponics Sustainable Solutions

FUNDING PROGRAMME: INTERREG ITALIA-SLOVENIA 2014-2020

CALL: Standard Project - Bando 3/2016 ASSE 3 - Priorità di investimento 6f : “Sviluppo e sperimentazione di tecnologie verdi innovative per migliorare la gestione dei rifiuti e delle risorse idriche”

HOST DEPARTMENT/CENTRE: DAIS – Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Pastres Roberto

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 758.976,44	€ 254.010,12

ABSTRACT:

Aquaponics is an integrated production practice, strongly rooted on circular economy principles, which could lead to reduce impacts deriving from the agricultural sector. Based on this technique, vegetables can be cultivated without the use of soil and limiting the water consumption up to 90%, if compared to traditional agricultural practices. Aquaponics present other important advantages: (1) does not need the use of fertilizers, because nutrients for plants derived from fish waste waters; (2) limits the land-use, since plants are not competing for nutrients and are thus cultivated at high densities; (3) avoids the use of pesticides for plants, since these would harm the farmed fish (4) reduces energy consumption and greenhouse gases emissions, since this intensive practice does not involve the use of tractors. Based on these characteristics, Aquaponics can be considered as a green technology, and the development of this practice in the INTERREG area will represent a development for the agricultural sector, and create new employment opportunities for the inhabitants of the area.

BLUEGRASS aims at introducing and sustaining the development of the Aquaponics technique in the area covered by the Programme.

The project will focus on 4 main activities: (1) performing a market analysis, aimed at determining specific territorial needs in terms of products demand; (2) implementing and testing two aquaponics “demo systems” (in both Slovenia and Italy) which will be use as pilot sites in the project; (3) performing technical working tables with stakeholders, which are agriculturists and fish farmers, in order to identify critical issues for implementing this productive practice, and propose concrete solutions; (4) raise consumers awareness, through performing educational and demonstration activities. A 5 members consortium was established, including Universities (Ca' Foscari University and University of Ljubljana), public administrations (Porcia municipality) and cooperatives with competence in both aquaculture (Shoreline – Italy) and agriculture (KZ Agraria –Slovenia).

PARTNERSHIP:

1	Università Ca' Foscari Venezia	Venice (IT)	Coordinator
2	Biotechnical faculty, University of Lubiana	Ljubljana (SLO)	Partner
3	Unione Territoriale Intercomunale del Noncello	Pordenone (IT)	Partner
4	KZ Agraria Koper	Koper (SLO)	Partner
5	Shoreline Società Cooperativa	Trieste (IT)	Partner