



# AgroRES

Interreg Europe

## Dossier Interregional Event 1



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## INTRODUCTION

The exchange of experiences is the key factor in the learning process of AgroRES. This intense work of identification and sharing of best practices through permanent cooperation will project objectives and will produce the intended outputs and results.

These exchanges among partners are an interregional learning process. The typical activities supported under interregional cooperation projects are activities such as seminars, workshops, site visits, staff exchanges and peer reviews. The learning process is based on the identification, analysis and exchange of knowledge and practices in the policy tackled by the project.

Interregional cooperation projects need to analyse the experiences and/or practices exchanged within the projects and disseminate the most interesting findings.

## 1st INTERREGIONAL EVENT

In this framework, the first Interregional Event took place in Extremadura (Spain) on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2019. It was organized by the Extremadura Energy Agency (AGENEX).

During the event, the chosen learning strategy and learning objectives by each partner was peer-reviewed by the rest of the partnership and the quality unit, producing individual recommendations and setting a clear commitment.

The 1st Interregional Event was divided in two-stage. The first was held on Tuesday when each partner had the possibility to make a presentation of their region and their organisation, and AGENEX team introduced the Technical and Financial reviews of AgroRES. Furthermore, RCNK, as the responsible of communication, presented the communication and dissemination program. Tuesday afternoon partners and stakeholders attended to the technical visit in the Irrigation Community of Merida to watch the solar plant floating.

The second stage was composed by a workshop when partners, stakeholders (including Spanish), and experts and professionals in the energy field attended. Later on, one of the installations analysed in the workshop and seminar was visited.

## AGENDA

### 12th November

9:30-13:30	AgroRES KOM –Steering Committee
13:30-15:00	Lunch - (Badajoz)
15:30-17:30	Technical visit. Plant Photovoltaic – Merida Irrigation Community.
19:00-20:00	Walk around Badajoz City Centre
20:00	Project Dinner. Badajoz

### 13th November

8:30	Meeting point
8:45-9:45	Travel from Badajoz to Merida
10:00-13:30	Interregional Learning Workshop on Good Practices
13:30-15:00	Lunch
15:00-16:00	Walk around Merida City Centre
16:00-17:30	Technical visit - Agricultural Investigation Institute Finca La Orden
17:30-18:30	Travelling back to Badajoz

## STEERING COMMITTEE AND WORKSHOP

On the first day, an internal project meeting took place in FUNDECYT-PCTEX to kick the beginning of the project. The main topics to be discussed were project outputs and outcomes, exchange methodology, project management, and communication and dissemination.

The Foundation FUNDECYT Scientific and Technological Park of Extremadura is a non-profit organisation based in Extremadura with the aim of contributing to the social and economic exploitation of science and technology in the region, supporting and promoting scientific and technological development and a better use of research and innovation outcomes.

The kick-off meeting was hosted by the Lead Partner AGENEX and provided the first opportunity for all project partners to meet in person. The day was split into two main topics: Presentation of all partners and Project Management, including communication.

The Lead Partner presented a variety of administrative and financial aspects of the project. A Steering Committee was established. RCNK introduced a Communication and Dissemination Plan for the project, including publicity requirements.





*Figure 1. Images of Steering Committee in FUNDECYT-PCTEX.*

The following day, on Wednesday 13 November an Interregional Workshop on Good Practices took place in the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Sustainability in Merida. Both national and international partners and stakeholders learned about regional policy instruments supporting renewables in the agricultural and rural sector and actively helped to define how to evaluate best practices.

In the first section, three of the stakeholders of AGENEX had the opportunity to have a presentation.

Firstly, Fernando Cuenda Portilla, as Head of Service of Consolidation of Land from the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, Population and Territory introduced the public aids for the improvement of energy efficiency in the irrigable areas of Extremadura.

Afterwards, Luis Royano Barroso, as technician from Centre of Scientific and Technological Research of Extremadura, CICITEX, had the chance to make a presentation of Finca La Orden and about some projects that they are developing there.

Finally, Ramón Salas de la Cruz, as Administrator of TXT Engineering, exposed about isolated solar pumping in agriculture, focusing especially on Merida Irrigation Community.

After the coffee break, project partners made a brief presentation about some examples of their best practices of their region and it was time for all participants to engage in a discussion with each other to meet the objectives of the workshop, which was to evaluate the Best Practice exposed.



*Figure 2. Images of seminar and workshop in Ministry of Ecological Transition and Sustainability.*

## TECHNICAL VISIT

On Tuesday afternoon, the project partners had the possibility to visit the first solar plant floating installed in Extremadura. It is located in the Irrigation Community of Merida and is one of the biggest solar plant floating in Spain. They had the chance to visit the installations and to know from first hand why it has been installed over the water and all the technical aspect about this kind of installations.

The solar plant is composed by 1600 PV panels over the water, with an extension of four-hectare (next year another hectare could be expanded). This project was promoted by the Irrigation community of Merida, with an innovation objective to improve the energy efficiency of the facilities.

This project was born by the hand of the management authorities of Extremadura, and thanks to this, the regional department of agriculture wrote a decree of energy efficiency.

This irrigation plant is projected in 4 parts, at the moment only the first stage has been done (next year, the second stage will start) with an investment cost of 744.695,23 € and with a co-financing of the 75% by EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development).

The power of this irrigation plant now is of 500 kW. Nevertheless, in the future with the other 4 stages created could reach 2,5 MW.

The goal of this irrigation plant is to minimise costs of the agricultural holding, with the uses of solar energy, reducing the carbon emissions.

In the future, the Irrigation community would like to make a hybridization system. The PV panels will be producing energy pumping water to the top. The water reservoir above would be used as a huge battery during the day and in the night or raining seasons will use the hydroelectric power.





*Figure 3. Images of technical visit in Merida Irrigation Community.*

The second day afternoon, all partners and stakeholders attended to the second technical visit in Finca La Orden where they watched the different projects that CICTEX has developed concerning the renewable energies in agricultural sector as biogas or biomass.

CICTEX aims to support the Extremadura agricultural sector in the field of R + D + I, developing projects adjusted to the needs of the field, investing in the training of the personal researcher, supporting the agricultural company and betting on the transfer of knowledge generated in its facilities.

Finca La Orden, through different projects co-financed with public grant, is investigating the obtaining of biogas from waste from the farming and meat industry, determining the methane potential of each waste by testing in the laboratory and in the pilot plant for use of biogas.

On the other hand, another of the projects involves the use of residual biomass and waste from crops to obtain solid biofuel in the form of pellets and chips.

CITEX is investigating the obtaining of filaments for 3D printing using organic products, reducing the use of PLA by up to 50%.

Finally, partners and stakeholders had the opportunity to see the biomass boilers that generate heating for the main building. One of the boilers is a prototype that produces heating and electricity employing a Stirling engine.



*Figure 4. Images of technical visit in CICYTEX, Finca La Orden.*