



*Presentazione del progetto*  
*Project overview*

*Marjeta Candek-Potokar*



Funded by European Union  
Horizon 2020  
Grant agreement No 634476

# Some basic data on project



UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



*Diversity of local pig breeds and production systems for high quality traditional products and sustainable pork chains*

Start of the action 01/04/2015

Duration: 48 months

Budget: 3.4 mio EUR

Coordinator:

*KIS-Agricultural Institute of Slovenia*

*Marjeta Čandek-Potokar*

25 partners from 9 countries

TREASURE: l'ineestimabile tesoro delle razze suine locali, Roma 27/9/2016



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# Outline

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- how the project was build
- project challenge/aims



# How did it all start for us?



- The seed of TREASURE is in the network „Symposium on Mediterranean Pig“
- October 2013: organised in Slovenia
- Participants discussed the forthcoming H2020 call SFS-7a-2014 *“Traditional resources for agricultural diversity and the food chain”*

8<sup>th</sup> International symposium on the Mediterranean pig  
Slovenia, Ljubljana, 10-12 October 2013

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**Symposium**

- Foreword
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**Foreword**

Kriškopolje pig drawing from Rohman V. (1999)

The symposium of Mediterranean pig is an event that is organized every three years and represents a network of researchers working in the field of pig breeding in the regions/countries surrounding the Mediterranean. The ambition of the network, from its creation, is to represent an alternative to the modern intensive systems of pig production. The special emphasis has thus been given to less intensive (low input) systems of pig breeding and/or to the autochthonous and traditional breeds as the source for traditional and high quality products. Dry-cured ham, for many countries, is the most important product, but there are other pork products, such as shoulder, pancetta, bacon, sausages, also popular among consumers.

The link between local breed, geographical area and the product is the basis for the success of many commercial strategies in those Mediterranean countries which have decided to adopt the policies for the recovery of their local pig breeds. The examples of good practices can be seen in Spain or Portugal, where the traditional local pigs (Iberico in Spain, Alentejano in Portugal), kept in special agro-silvo-pastoral ecosystems (“dehesa” in Spain, “montado” in Portugal), not only give meat products of special quality, but help to preserve the landscape and agricultural activity. Most of the breeds native to the Mediterranean come from small populations and are reared in geographical areas where the availability of natural resources is not always assured. Moreover, these breeds require collective management to avoid inbreeding and to assure breed preservation. This is one of the critical points for the future because most of the local breeds are presently not managed in a secure way. Development of the sector of high quality products is a way to ensure the preservation of traditional breeds. Successful examples were possible due to a fruitful cooperation between public institutions, producers and scientists and thanks to this synergy products have become popular. Good examples of such synergy can also be found in Italy (e.g. Cinta Senese and Nero Siciliano) or France (e.g. Corsican Nustrale, Porc Basque, Gascon) or Portugal (Bísaro). In other countries like Croatia and Slovenia the preservation programmes for local breeds have been established however the economic potential of local or traditional breeds or rearing systems in pig production is far from being optimally exploited and represents a challenge and opportunity of pig sector in the future.

Until now, the meetings of the researchers interested in the aspects of traditional pig/pork production in the Mediterranean area have been held since 1987 under the form of International Symposia on the Mediterranean Pig in Ajaccio (France, 1987), Badajoz (Spain, 1992), Benevento (Italy, 1995), Évora (Portugal, 1998), Tarbes (France, 2004), Capo d’Oriando (Italy, 2007) and Cordoba (Spain, 2010). On the last three occasions the symposium has been enriched by the participation of new countries surrounding the Mediterranean (i.e. Slovenia and Croatia). Slovenia agreed to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Symposium, to be held 10-12 October 2013 in Ljubljana.

Dear colleagues,  
you are kindly invited to participate at 8<sup>th</sup> Symposium on the Mediterranean Pig in Ljubljana

Organizing committee

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**Sustainable Food Security**  
H2020-SFS-2014-2 Sub call of: H2020-SFS-2014-2015

Opening Date	11-12-2013	Deadline Date	12-03-2014 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)
Publication date	11-12-2013	Stage 2	26-06-2014 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)
Total Call Budget	€128,000,000	Main Pillar	Societal Challenges
Status	<b>Closed</b>	OJ reference	OJ C361 of 11 December 2013

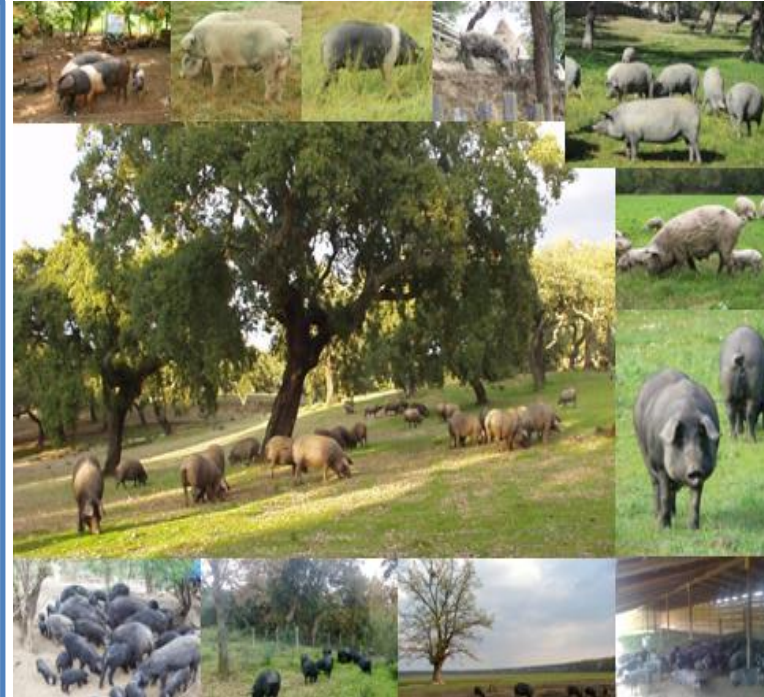
**Topic:** Traditional resources for agricultural diversity and the food chain SFS-07a-2014



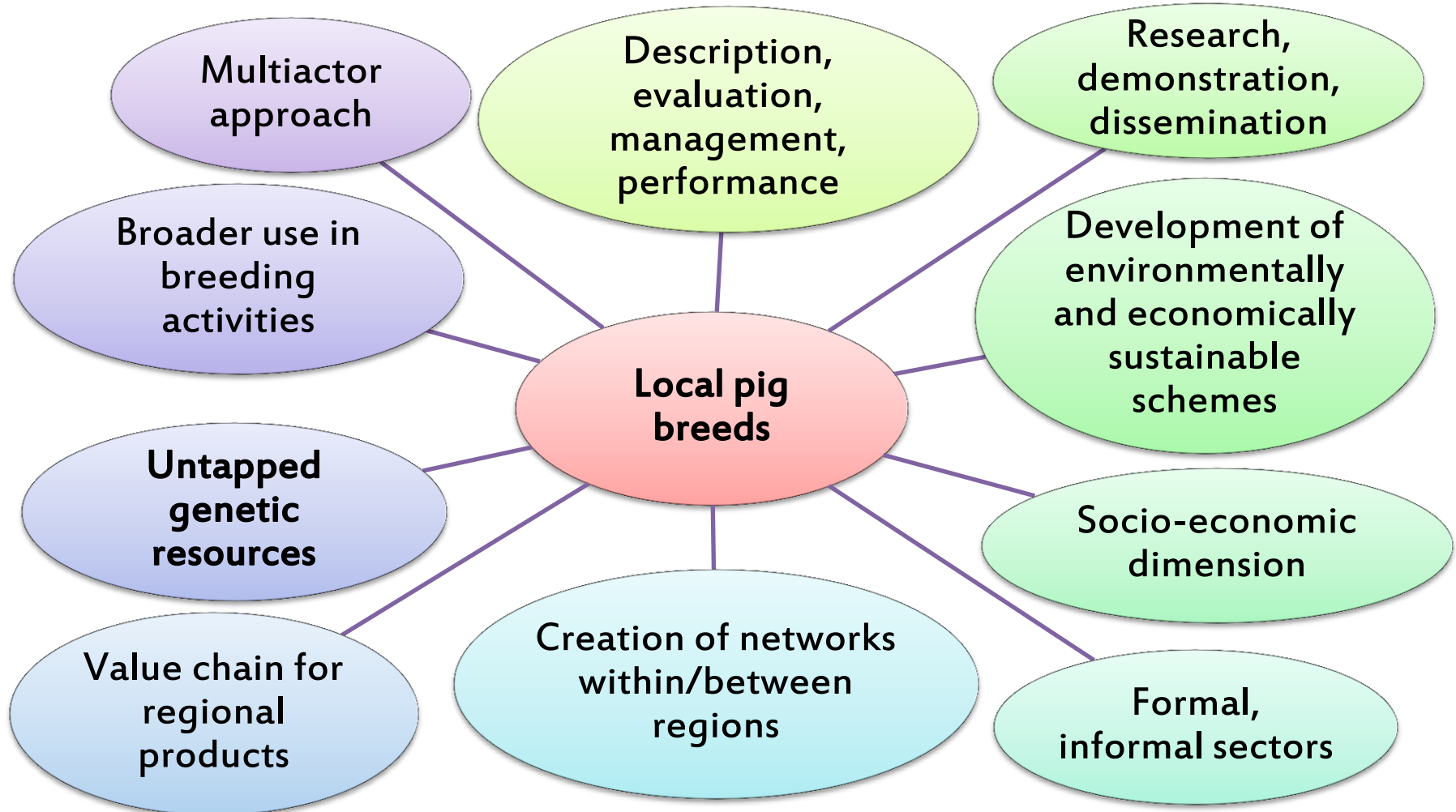
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# The call was tailor-made for our network... ..

Specific challenge: Genetic diversity in agriculture and forestry - both within and between species - is commonly recognised as a pre-requisite to ensure food security, productivity as well as resilience of crops, forests and animals vis-à-vis biotic and abiotic threats in changing environments. Widening the genetic basis of crops, forest trees and animals as well as diversifying production is therefore essential. This requires coordinated efforts to enhance conservation, access and use of a wide range of genetic resources conserved in ex-situ and in-situ/on-farm conditions. **Local livestock breeds**, forest plants and crops are a particularly important source of genetic variation as they are with a number of **favourable characters** such as robustness, adaptation to local — often marginal — conditions or **organoleptic and health attributes**. They also provide the basis for **products with a regional identity** for which there is increased consumer interest. Despite these benefits their use has been decreasing partly because of lower productivity as compared to modern, high yielding and more uniform breeds and varieties. The improvement of local breeds and crops provides opportunities for diversification in agriculture along with new openings for **regional, high quality products and for economic development**.



# Scope of the call



# Chronology

- two-stage, deadlines **12/03/2014** and **26/06/2014**
- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting for project preparation 23-24 JAN 2014
- Proposal deposited 11/03/ at 14:06
- Result of the first stage received 08/05/2014
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting 26-27 MAY 2014
- Proposal deposited **25/06/2014** at 18h
- Results - **official email from EC on 21/11/2014 at 17:40**

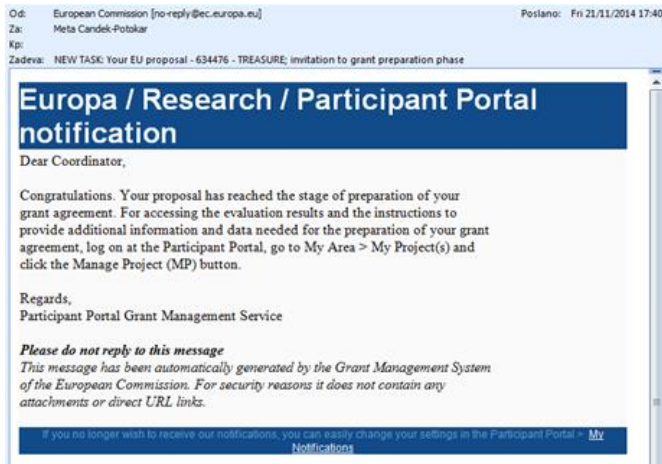
H2020 SFS-07a-2014 ... stage 1  
• N=59



H2020 SFS-07a-2014 ... stage 2  
• N=20



Invited to grant preparation  
• N=3



A colleague from PT working all his career with local breeds wrote:

*"I beleive this is a remarkable moment in the history of the European local pig science and its production chains."*



# Battles won – war not over



25/06/2014



**EU gives three months for GA signature with strict deadlines** (3wk for corrected DoA, 6 wk for signature of DoH, 3 months for GA, CA must be signed before GA)  
=> 12/12/2015.....02/01/2015..... 21/2/2015)

- Validation of partners in the ECAS system (completed 28.1.2015)
  - Signing of Declaration of Honour (completed 20.1.2015)
    - Signing of **Consortium Agreement**
      - Coordinator signed GA on 12/02/2015
        - EC signed GA on 20/2/2015 (= entry into force)
          - Last accession signature 06/03/2015
            - Project starts on 01/04/2015
              - Pre-financing received 01/04/2015
                - **Kick-off meeting 9-10 April 2015**





# Societal challenges/relevance

## Traditional agricultural resources

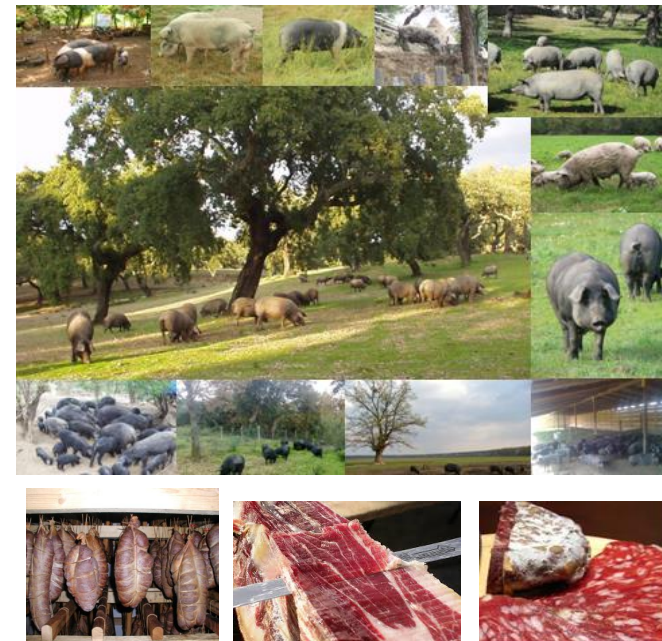
genetic diversity important for food security, diversification, productivity esp. in view of the changing environment



## enhance their better use

- **Favourable characteristics** (robustness, adaptation to local, marginal conditions, special quality, healthiness)
- **Increased consumer interest** for products with regional identity
- **Not well exploited** i.e. less competitive as modern, high yielding varieties
- Progress in **local breeds** as opportunity for **economic development**

*SFS-07a-2014 Traditional resources for agricultural diversity and the food chain*

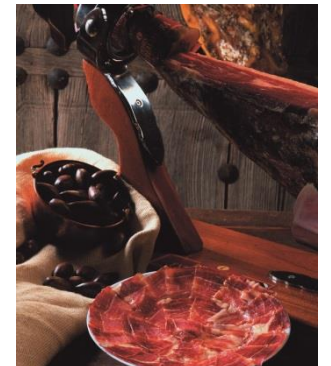


# Expected impacts

- Adaptation to changing agro-climatic conditions  
adaptive capacity, resilience robustness
- Enhanced quality/scope of *in situ* collections; **more on-farm use**,
- Improved **productivity, economic gain** of specialised farming systems
- **Promotion** of traditional resources (local pig breeds)
- **Identification of useful traits**  
=> breeding programmes



- Increased awareness of their value
- Increased **availability of products**
- Enhanced **benefits for consumers**
- New products, markets



# What did TREASURE propose?

How were project's objectives targeted to challenges/relevance



## RATIONALE

Public opinion is not favourable to intensive pig production which is confronted with environmental and animal welfare issues.

Local pig breeds and their respective production systems meet high criteria and expectations of modern society in regard to the environment, animal welfare and food quality.

## KEY CHALLENGE

## CONCEPT

TREASURE is built on the inherent value encompassed in local pig breeds, their production systems and product qualities. The idea is a new paradigm of pig production that meets societal demands regarding environment, genetic diversity, ethical and social aspects and economic value.



The key challenge is a development of sustainable pork chains in geo-agro-climatically different regions of Europe by using the biodiversity resources encompassed in European local pig breeds.



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# Challenge of TREASURE



„untapped“ genetic  
resources

**Local breeds** in Europe (majority) are conserved thanks to the support of public money (**gene banks**).

In order to be **sustainable** it is important to make them self-sufficient, **economically viable**

➤ **research** needed because there is a big void of scientifically proven evidence of their qualities (e.g. characterisation) and of their needs (e.g. nutrition)

➤ **interaction** of different actors needed to build up „pork chains“

improve **knowledge, skills and competences** necessary to develop existing and create new **sustainable pork chains** based on European **local pig genetic resources** (local pig breeds).

- Scientific challenges
- Exchange of knowledge/experience btw partners
- Joint ventures („trade mark“)



# Activities are structured in 5 interrelated WPs



WP1

**Genetic characterisation** of local pig breeds, esp. untapped, and development of DNA tools (authentication, traceability, conservation and breeding programs)

WP2

**Multicriteria evaluation of production systems, nutrition** (nutritional requirements of local pig breeds, use of locally available feeding resources), innovative **management** strategies and **environmental impacts**

WP3

**Quality and healthiness attributes of regional pork products** in line with consumer demands including innovations in traditional products

WP4

**Socio-economic perspective:** Cost/benefit analysis at different levels of the chain and for the society, and research of market potential and strategies for regional high quality products

WP5

**Measures to maximise impact** – activities of dissemination and knowledge exchange between actors and also joint ventures (TM)



**Table 2: List of local pig breeds involved in the project**

Country	Native name for pig/breed	Alternative name (found in the literature)
DE	Schwäbisch-Hällisches	Schwäbisch-Hällisches
ES	Ibérico	Iberian
ES	Negre Mallorquí	Black Majorcan
FR	Gascon	Gascon
FR	Basque	Basque
HR	Crna slavonska	Black Slavonian
HR	Turopoljska	Turopolje
IT	Cinta Senese	Cinta Senese
IT	Mora Romagnola	Mora Romagnola
IT	Sarda	Sarda
IT	Apulo Calabrese	Apulo Calabrese
IT	Casertana	Casertana
IT	Nero Siciliano	Nero Siciliano
LT	Lietuvos vietinës	Lithuanian indigenous wattle
LT	Senojo tipo Lietuvos baltosios	Old type Lithuanian White
PT	Bisaro/Bisara	Bisaro
PT	Alentejano/ Alentejana	Alentejano
RS	Mangulica	Mangalitsa
RS	Moravka	Moravka
SI	Krškopoljski/ Krškopoljska	Krškopolje



# Thank you for your attention



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TREASURE - Diversity of local pig breeds and production systems for high quality traditional products and sustainable pork chains is a Research & Innovation Action financed by European Commission under the Horizon 2020 - grant agreement no. 634476.

Start of the action: 01/04/2015 Duration: 48 months (31/03/2019)

Budget: 3,395,986.75 EUR

The project is coordinated by **Kmetijski institut Slovenije = Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (KIS)**

and involves a **Consortium of 25 partners** from 9 countries.

The **aim of the project** is to improve knowledge, skills and competences necessary to develop existing and create new sustainable pork chains based on European local pig genetic resources (local breeds). The project will address:

- Description and evaluation of local pig breeds, with an emphasis on untapped ones using novel genomic tools.
- Performance of local pig breeds in contrasted agro-geo-climatic conditions and production systems (indoor, outdoor, organic). Focus will be on pig feeding and management strategies and on the use of locally available feeding resources.
- Intrinsic quality of traditional and new regional high quality pork products and attitudes of consumers from various market areas; in particular the motives for the choice and willingness to pay such products.

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**ANY  
QUESTIONS?**



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