



This project is founded in the frame of the ERA-NET CORE Organic Cofound Third Call 2021



## **SCOOP- an International research project to develop intercropping systems with camelina in order to increase the yield and quality of local underutilized crops**

Current conventional agriculture is mainly based on monoculture. Organic farming, in order to be successful and reach its environmental, climatic, social and economic goals, needs to increase farm diversification. Research demonstrated clear benefit evidence from crop diversification at soil and ecosystem level, which leads to enhanced water and nutrient use efficiency, and increased biodiversity (above- and belowground) and system resilience. The SCOOP project focuses on innovative and diversified organic intercropping systems with the aim of preserving ecosystem and agricultural land integrity, biodiversity, and food/feed security.

SCOOP will increase farm diversity at least in two ways: 1) introducing camelina (*Camelina sativa* (L.) Crantz) cultivation within the current organic crop rotations; 2) trying out intercropping systems that include camelina and other crops (mainly underutilized, such as chickpea, lentils, buckwheat, fenugreek, coriander, linseed etc.) in a site specific combination.

The identification of the best cropping system for camelina and the choice of the companion plants will be done locally with a broad consultation of local actors and taking into account not only climatic and soil conditions, but also all other farming characters, such as mechanization available, other crops grown etc., and the possibilities to use camelina and the companion plants in local organic value chains, or to develop, within the project frame-work and beyond, new value chains able to grant the needed economic revenues to farmers and other practitioners involved.

The shaping of project activities will be fine-tuned at local scale using the living lab approach. It means a group of persons with different skills and expertises, willing to share them and cooperate with colleagues and researchers. The Living Lab (LL) will be locally created at hoc and gather farmers, breeders, scientist, food processors, policy makers, advisers and other representatives of the local organic farming community.

The project will be implemented in four European pedo-climatic environments: Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, and Turkey. The project started in December 2020 and will be concluded in November 2023, so including at least 2 cropping seasons. During the project development there will be space for exchange among the countries and to interact with colleagues engaged on the same topic in different conditions.

The project builds on partners previous experience of the partners on camelina cultivation, processing and use and on several European research projects outcomes, such as REMIX, DIVERSIFARM, DIVERIMPACT.

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