

## **BIOENERGY PRODUCTION IN RURAL AREAS:**

**CREATION OF A BIOMASS MARKET IN MEDITERRANEAN AREAS  
AND REGIONS WITH DECLINING WATER RESOURCES**

# ***The Novagrimes project and the « agroenergy chain » action***

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**September, 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**Salón de Actos de la Consejería de Agricultura y Agua,  
Murcia**



Programme cofinancé par le Fonds  
Européen de Développement Régional  
Programme cofinanced by the European  
Regional Development Fund

## ***General informations***



### ***Novagrimes – Agricultural Innovations in Mediterranean Areas***

- **Transnational co-operation : Mediterranean area**
- **ERDF financing (2007-2013)**
- **Budget : 1 856 719,47 euros (73 % = ERDF)**
- **From April, 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 to March, 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

## ***Main objectives of the project***

### **General objective:**

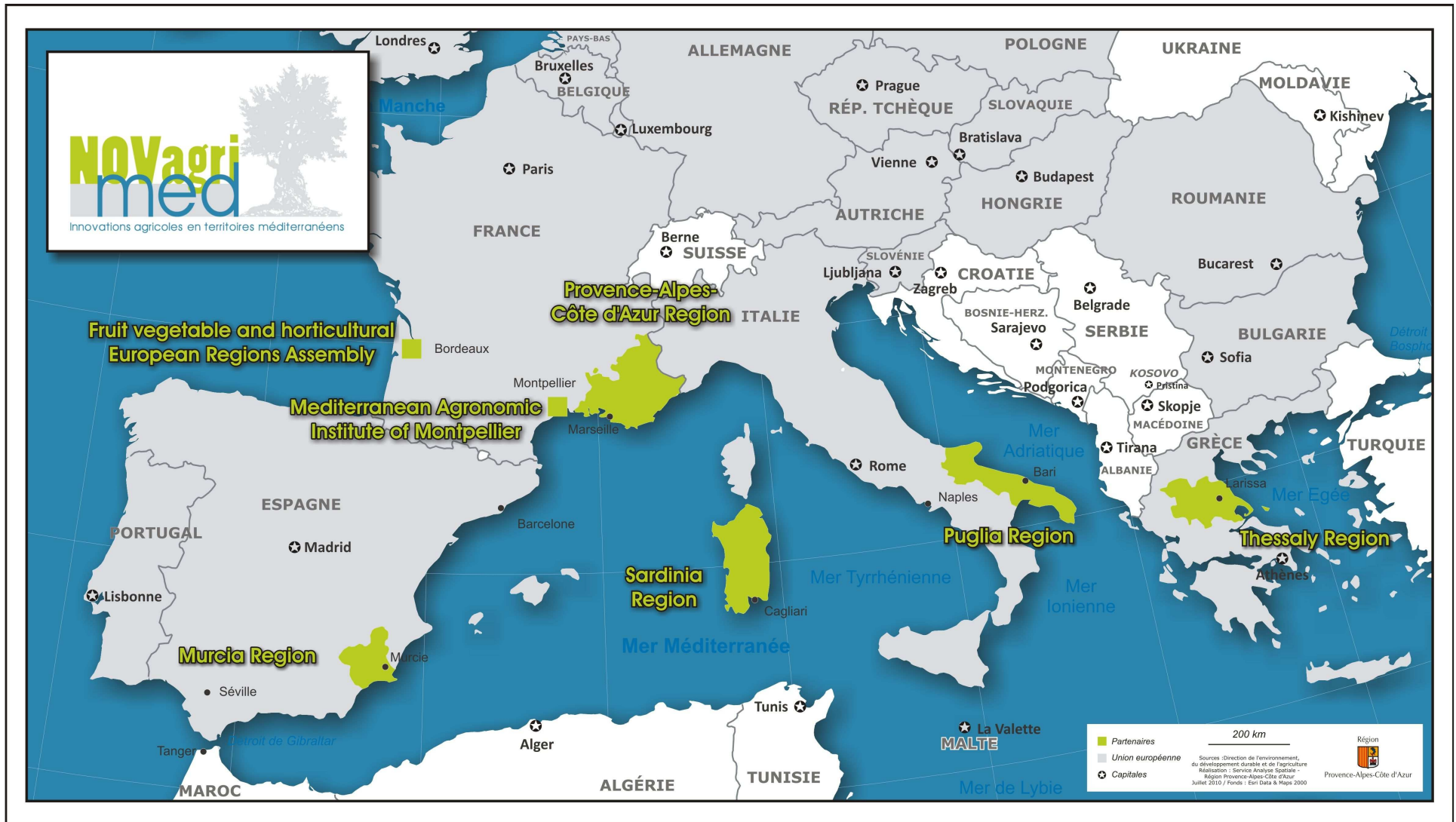
***Help Regions to implement new policies supporting Med agriculture through collective and innovative actions contributing to the sustainability and competitiveness of the sector***

### **Specific objectives:**

***Through the regional co-operation, elaborate an argumentation concerning:***

- ➡ **The relevance and legitimacy of the Region in agricultural policies (elaboration of a Med agricultural strategy)**
- ➡ **The identification and recognition of Med agriculture specificities within the framework of the CAP reform**

# Novagrimes project - partnership



# Novagrimes project – structuration of work

- « Agroenergy Chain » Action
- « Water Management » Action
- « Organic Agriculture » Action
- « Agricultural Practices » Action
- « Adaptation of Products » Action
- « Rural Integrated Development » Action
- « Mediterranean Label » Action
- « Governance Action » Action
- « Governance Capitalisation » Action

Component  
« *A Med Agriculture producing  
a quality environment* »

Component  
« *Specification and valuation  
of Mediterranean agriculture* »

Component  
« *The Region, actor  
of Med agriculture competitiveness* »

***Novagrimes***





***The « agro-energy chain » action***

**A main question :**

***How to organize agro-energy activities at local / regional scales  
in order to avoid specific problems? (competition with food crops, intensification)***



***The concept of Sustainable Mediterranean Agro-energy District  
(SMAD)***

-  A tool for the structuration of agro-energy in a sustainable and competitive way
-  Important opportunities for the development of rural areas
-  Local / regional production, processing and consumption of energy
-  The territorial anchorage of SMAD : a concept « made to measure » and not « ready to wear »

# What is a « *Sustainable Mediterranean Agro-energy District* » ?

## **S** Sustainable

- principles of functioning
- decentralized nature of the activity (SME's)
- limitation of « pitfalls »
- collective organization (governance)

## **M** Mediterranean

- territorial anchorage of the concept
- non « standard » model, but adaptation to local / regional context
- post-fordits approaches (active role of territory)

## **A** Agroenergy:

- specific form of district
- paradigm of « green growth »
- specific co-ordination of local agroenergy chains

## **D** District:

- specific form of territorialized development
- geographic area bringing a large range of specialized SMEs (industrial atmosphere)
- skills accumulation (training, R&D)
- local governance



# The components of the agroenergy district

Farms,  
professional organizations

Firms

Training institutions

Associations, civil society

**AGROENERGY  
DISTRICT**

R&D institutions

Local & regional  
public authorities





# **CAP reform and agro-energy sector : main stakes**

## **The concept of « public goods »**

- ➔ Services provided by agriculture to society**
- ➔ Non exclusive, non competing**
- ➔ Opportunities for rural development**
- ➔ Environnemental or social public goods**
- ➔ Not governed by the market : public support**

**➔ Agro-energy sector as a provider of public goods**

# Novagrimes proposals for UE policymakers

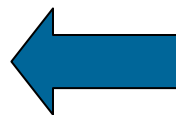
The institutional recognition of the « *Sustainable Agroenergy District* » concept through a territorial certification.



« *District Agroénergétique Durable* »



**RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT**



- Definition of criteria (proximity, governance, R&D strategy...)
- "Labellisation of territories"
- Public support (technical, financial, administrative)
- Contribution to the organization of agroenergy sector at local scale

# Possible criteria for the implementation of a sustainable agroenergy district

**Proximity:** local activity, avoid strategies of importation / export

**Governance:** coherence, efficiency, involvement of civil society

**Sustainability:**

- link with EU Directive 2009/128 bound to renewable energy
- cohesion rural / urban area, energy "well being", distribution of added value, employment, rural areas competitiveness
- limitation of size power, surfaces, income, SME's)

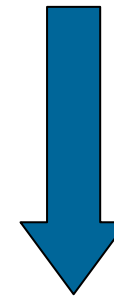
**Public policies:** financial, technical & administrative support, long term

**Territorial anchorage:** preservation of added value on territories, adaptation to Med specificities

## Conclusion : the contribution of Novagrimesd to a possible new co-operation project



**Agro-energy sector**



- ➔ **Preservation of natural resources : waste, climate change, greenhouse gases;**
- ➔ **Social equity: distribution of added value, cohesion and quality of life in rural areas**
- ➔ **Economic development: farmers' incomes, jobs, integration of agriculture / industry, organisation of the agro-energy sector, competitiveness of rural areas**