Sustainable Precision Agriculture: Research and Knowledge for Learning how to be an agri-Entrepreneur



# Sustainable Precision Agriculture: Research and Knowledge for Learning how to be an agri-Entrepreneur























# FINAL DISSEMINATION REPORT

The document reports all dissemination outputs developed in the third year of the project

WP 9 (R9.4)

UNIFI

Date

# Document History

Version	Date	Author (Partner)	Remarks
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### Note:

For anyone interested in the detailed outputs of the WP9 package, such as: a specific phase of the research process, or detailed findings, the project consortium can provide the additional information required. Please contact us at info@sparkle-project.eu

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# INTRODUCTION

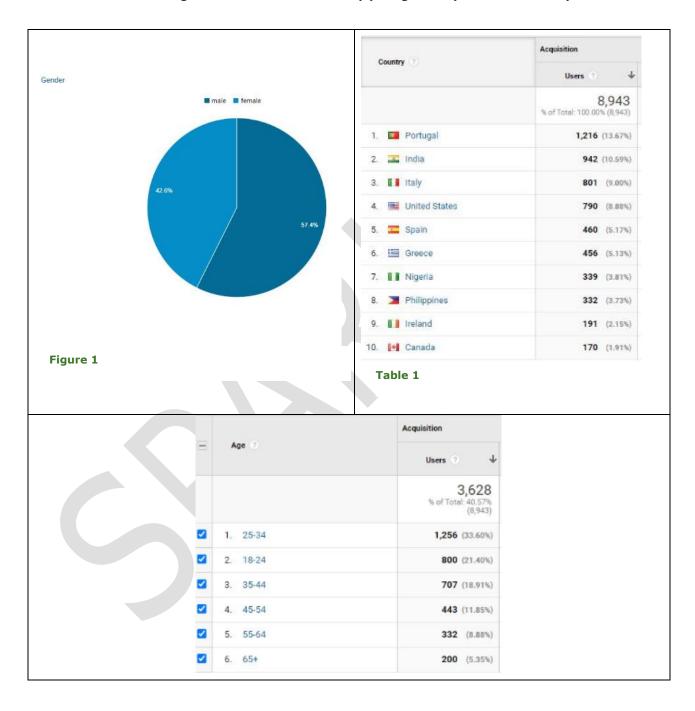
Below we present the results and objectives achieved in relation to the dissemination plan of the Sparkle project for the last year and a half of activities, while previous activities can be seen here (link R.9.3). The dissemination plan is one of the main components of the Sparkle project, which has been given special attention due to its importance in achieving results.



# 1. WEBSITE OF THE PROJECT

The website contains information on the project, partners, results and links to social platforms: <a href="https://www.sparkle-project.eu">www.sparkle-project.eu</a>

From July 2019 the number of visitors has increased from 2240 to 8943 with 57,4% of visitors being male. (Figure 1). As shown in Table 1 most of them come from Portugal, India, Italy and United States whereas it is worth noting that 40,57% of users is very young, namely between 25-34 years old.



As can be seen in the figure 2 below, the article published in the 'news' section on entrepreneurship in agriculture was of particular interest. A further fact that underlines the user's interest in this topic is the most downloaded pdf in the "resources" section, namely the "Handbook for Business Model Canvas in the field of SPA" (R2.4).

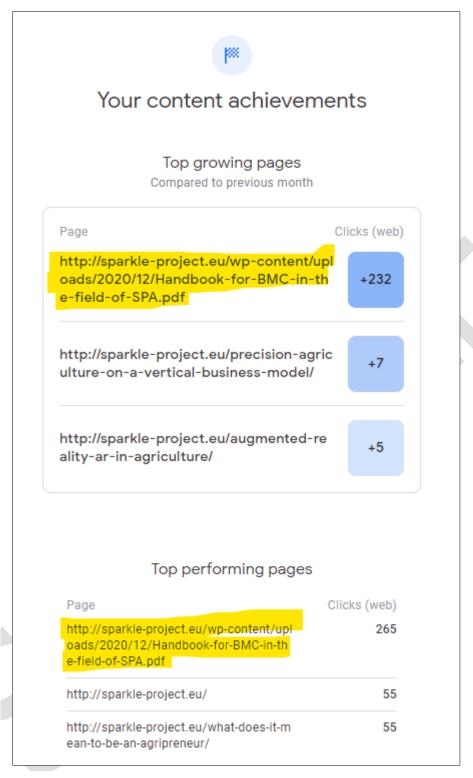


Figure 2

The website has been regularly updated and in the last months before the end of the project the following changes were made:

- a new tab was created with a direct link to the moodle platform for the e-Learning course

NEWS ABOUT PARTNERSHIP RESOURCES ELEARNING COURSE CONTACTS

- the latest newsletters were uploaded

HAVE YOU MISSED OUR PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS?

No problem! You can download them

1st SPARKLE NEWSLETTER
2nd SPARKLE NEWSLETTER
3rd SPARKLE NEWSLETTER
4th SPARKLE NEWSLETTER
5th SPARKLE NEWSLETTER
6th SPARKLE NEWSLETTER
7th SPARKLE NEWSLETTER
8th SPARKLE NEWSLETTER
9th SPARKLE NEWSLETTER

11th SPARKLE NEWSLETTER
12th SPARKLE NEWSLETTER

ABOUT

- the "about" section was updated

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

European farm sector is currently at a crossroad: embracing the future or staying stuck in old practices. The future is represented by **Precision Agriculture** (PA), which is a new mind-set approach and a new network of different technologies (digitalization, metadata, Internet of Things, IT, etc.)

For this reason, the farmer of the future, the so-called "agripreneur 4.0", needs a mix of competencies such as agricultural, entrepreneurial, digital and environmental skills.

### RESULTS ACHIEVED

The main goals of the project was the creation of a new training program for university students, agri-entrepreneurs, academics, service providers, school students in the form of an e-Learning course, in order-to enhance their technical, business-oriented skills and entrepreneurial activity in a smart environment. And so it was! (check the section "e-Learning course").

To achieve this goal, we have worked hard during these years and produced several resources that you can find in the "resources" section.

The concluding virtual Sparkle final conference on 10–11 December was attended by many people, which made us very happy. The Sparkle project has been a crucial opportunity to make order in a common widespread scenario that is often chaotic and poor including that of high technology and digitalization for sustainable agriculture. We hope that the material we have developed, not only the moodle platform, but also the many other resources will be helpful and inspiring for all of you!

The Sparkle Team

the latest resources were uploaded in the "resources" section



Document

- · Training Needs Assessment in the field of SPA
- The Future of Technology in SPA
  - The Future of Technology in SPA Annex 1 Examples of patents
  - The Future of Technology in SPA Annex 2 Examples of scientific publications
- · Business Model Canvas collection
  - Handbook for BMC in the field of SPA
  - o The 21 carried out Business Model Canvas case studies
    - Greece (.zip)
    - Italy (.zip)
    - Portugal (.zip)
    - Spain (.zip)
- Practical tools for designign a Business Model Canvas (.zip)
- Robotics for future agriculture
- SPARKLE Intermediate Dissemination Report
- SPARKLE brochure
- Sparkle E-learning Brochure
- SPARKLE Final Conference Programme
- SPARKLE Final Conference Flyer

# 2. PROJECT MATERIALS

In addition to the Sparkle project leaflet produced in 2018, two brochures were prepared to illustrate the e-Learning course. The first one, aimed primarily at agricultural students, was created specifically for the Pilot Test and therefore included information on the Business Model Competition. The second one was prepared in conjunction with the launch of the final version of the course. Due to the Covid, it was possible to distribute in a very limited number, however, it is possible to download both from the website at this link: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y32wo5dl">https://tinyurl.com/y32wo5dl</a>



# 3. DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

### **FOREWORD**

Due to the current pandemic situation concerning the worldwide spread of Covid-19, most institutions and enterprises in Europe are suffering restrictions of their daily work. This affects especially Universities and R&D centres, that have restrictions to all face-to-face activities but also agricultural enterprises.

However, neither the project outputs nor the objectives have been changed or affected and have been fully achieved.

Within this scenario, most of the activities planned for the exploitation plan have been carried out online. The Sparkle consortium has followed the evolution of the National and European restrictions adopting decisions in consequence.

\*\*\*

Networking, the organisation of events and the publication of specified contents are important for the exploitation of the SPARKLE results. The last few months have been devoted to a series of initiatives to present, promote and encourage the outputs produced with a focus on the e-Learning platform.

In this section, it is possible to have an overview of the strategy chosen for spreading the overall goals of the project.

# 3.1 THE SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES

The social channels which were activated at the beginning of the project and which it was decided to maintain are listed again:

- Facebook account: https://www.facebook.com/sparkleerasmus/
- Twitter account: https://twitter.com/sparkleerasmus
- LinkedIn account: https://www.linkedin.com/company/sparkle-project/
- Youtube account: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ-LTOnTIIKcAodGDXiaMzQ

Since the creation of the website and social platforms, as agreed with the partnership, 131 articles have been published every week and many of the original articles have been used for the creation of new contents mainly published on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

The social channel that proved to be the most effective to get interaction from users was Facebook as shown in Figure 4 where we can see that the total number of followers has reached 479.

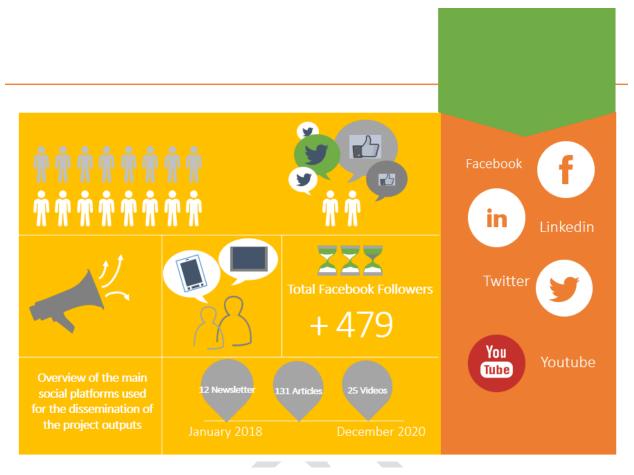


Figure 4 - Social media dissemination outcomes

Besides, the second half of 2019 was dedicated to raising awareness about the funding opportunities of the Erasmus+ programme and how the Sparkle partnership could benefit from them.

On the right is an example of published posts:

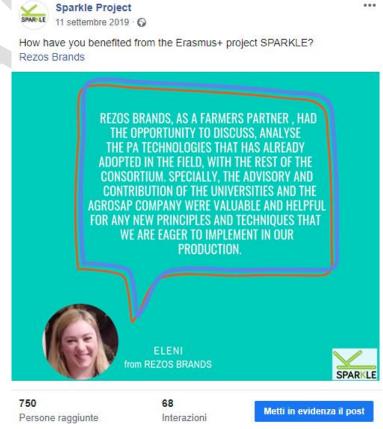


Figure 5 – Sample of a Facebook post

On top of this, The <u>YouTube channel</u> has been enriched with content ranging from course presentations to interviews with partners to promote the Sparkle project.

The list is shown here below:

Intruction for the Sparkle course

- Sparkle course evaluation (for the pilot test)
- Sparkle E-learning course
- Where we are sofar?
- Sparkle Project Interview
- Sparkle Project Genesis
- Sparkle E-learning course now available
- Sparkle Final Conference Day 1
- Sparkle Final Conference Day 2



# 3.2 A SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS PUBLISHED

In this part, 131 "news" concerning the SPARKLE project or related information such as sustainable precision agriculture, other projects in similar field, entrepreneurship and project updates, have been published on the website. The articles published from July 2019 to the end of the project (December 2020) are outlined below:

Table 2: Publications made on the website

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TITLE OF THE CONTENT	DATE	LINK	PARTNER
Don't miss it! Next week: 12th European	01.07.2019	http://sparkle-	UPM
Congress on Precision Agriculture.		project.eu/dont-miss-it-next-	
Congress of the consolity ignicottore.		week-12th-european-	
		congress-on-precision-	
		<u>agriculture/</u>	
What does it mean to be an "Agripreneur"	08.07.2019	http://sparkle-	VALUEDO
		project.eu/what-does-it-	
		mean-to-be-an-agripreneur/	
BM Competition the race for SPA	15.07.2019	http://sparkle-	AGROSAP
implementation		project.eu/business-model-	
		competition-the-race-for-	
		spa-implementation/	

NDWI - Agronomic performance	24.07.2019	http://sparkle-	ICAAM
NDWI - Agronomic performance	24.07.2013	project.eu/ndwi-agronomic-	10/0/11/1
		performance/	
Agribusiness and value chains	29.07.2019	http://sparkle-	REZOS
Agricosiness and value chains		project.eu/agribusiness-and-	
		value-chains/	
Eu projects for Precision Agriculture (PA)	09.08.2019	http://sparkle-project.eu/eu-	ERREQUADRO
		projects-for-precision-	
		agriculture-pa/	
How we analyze the information we	26.08.2019	http://sparkle-	QUINTA
collect at Quinta da Cholda fields?		project.eu/how-we-analyze-	
comportat quinta da circida netec.		the-information-we-collect-	
		at-quinta-da-cholda-fields/	
Pioneers in precision agriculture the	03.09.2019	http://sparkle-	AUTH
farmers of Chalastra Thessaloniki		project.eu/pioneers-in-	
(Greece)		precision-agriculture-the-	
(Oreces)		farmers-of-chalastra-	
	10.00.2010	thessaloniki-greece/	NAN 77E1
The knowledge of the territory leads to	10.09.2019	http://sparkle-	MAZZEI
excellent products		project.eu/the-knowledge- of-the-territory-leads-to-	
		excellent-products/	
lo really Procision Agriculture poorly	16.09.2019	http://sparkle-project.eu/is-	UPM
Is really Precision Agriculture poorly	10.09.2019	really-precision-agriculture-	01 141
used?		poorly-used-take-a-better-	
		look-at-the-last-surveyed-	
		data/	
SPARKLE course: all the benefits in	23.09.2019	http://sparkle-	VALUEDO
		project.eu/sparkle-course-	
attending an e-learning course		all-the-benefits-in-attending-	
		an-e-learning-course/	
Participants of the European projects	30.09.2019	http://sparkle-	AGROSAP
Regions4Food and DIVA visit the ETSIA		project.eu/participants-of-	
regions at ooo and brown visit the Ersint		the-european-projects-	
		regions4food-and-diva-visit-	
		the-etsia/	
Isobus	07.10.2019	http://sparkle-	ICAAM
		<u>project.eu/isobus/</u>	
Gen-Z: The New Farmers	14.10.2019	http://sparkle-	REZOS
		project.eu/gen-z-the-new-	
		farmers/	
SPARKLE Project fourth meeting in	21.10.2019	http://sparkle-	ERREQUADRO
Madrid		project.eu/sparkle-project-	
	20.10.2010	<u>fourth-meeting-in-madrid/</u>	CCIC
A look into the future	29.10.2019	http://sparkle-project.eu/a-	CSIC
	05 44 00 40	look-into-the-future/	LAUE!
How to learn to be an agri-entrepreneur	05.11.2019	http://sparkle-	UNIFI
		project.eu/how-to-learn-to-	
		be-an-agri-entrepreneur/	

	21 11 2010	hattan / / a m a wlul a	AUTH
Exploring the perspectives of innovative	21.11.2019	http://sparkle-	AUTH
agricultural educational programs in		project.eu/exploring-the- perspectives-of-innovative-	
Greece		agricultural-educational-	
		programs-in-greece/	
December adopting quetainable precision	28.11.2019	http://sparkle-	QUINTA
Reason for adopting sustainable precision	20.11.2013	project.eu/reason-for-	QUINTA
agriculture (SPA)		adopting-sustainable-	
		precision-agriculture-spa/	
Precision farming goes hot: sensors for	02.12.2019	http://sparkle-	UPM
	02.12.2013	project.eu/precision-	
monitoring livestock welfare		farming-goes-hot-sensors-	
		for-monitoring-livestock-	
		welfare/	
Fasten your seatbelts and get ready for	09.12.2019	http://sparkle-	VALUEDO
take-off the SPARKLE course is		project.eu/fasten-your-	
		seatbelts-and-get-ready-for-	
starting!		take-off-the-sparkle-course-	
		<u>is-starting/</u>	
The Vineyard just a click away	12.12.2019	http://sparkle-	MAZZEI
		project.eu/the-vineyard-just-	
		<u>a-click-away/</u>	
How IoT could help Precision Agriculture	26.12.2019	http://sparkle-	REZOS
, 0		project.eu/how-iot-could-	
		help-precision-agriculture/	
The future of chille in the Agree Tech and	09.01.2020	lesses / / emendal e	ERREQUADRO
The future of skills in the Agro-Tech and	09.01.2020	http://sparkle-	ERREQUADRO
_	09.01.2020	project.eu/the-future-of-	ERREQUADRO
Agro-Food sectors	09.01.2020	project.eu/the-future-of- skills-in-the-agro-tech-and-	ERREQUADRO
Agro-Food sectors		project.eu/the-future-of- skills-in-the-agro-tech-and- agro-food-sectors/	
_	10.01.2020	project.eu/the-future-of- skills-in-the-agro-tech-and- agro-food-sectors/ http://sparkle-	ICAAM
Agro-Food sectors		project.eu/the-future-of- skills-in-the-agro-tech-and- agro-food-sectors/ http://sparkle- project.eu/risk-monitoring-	
Agro-Food sectors  Risk monitoring platforms	10.01.2020	project.eu/the-future-of-skills-in-the-agro-tech-and-agro-food-sectors/ http://sparkle-project.eu/risk-monitoring-platforms/	ICAAM
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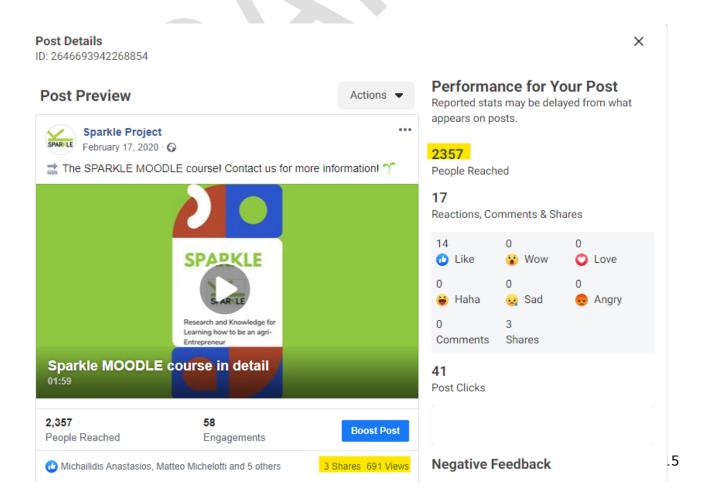
	10.00.000	1 11	\
Awareness to reduce the environmental	12.02.2020	http://sparkle-	MAZZEI
impact		project.eu/awareness-to-	
'		reduce-the-environmental-	
	47.00.000	impact/	110).4
Digital technologies can also help Africa's	17.02.2020	http://sparkle-	UPM
farmers: the power of digitalization		project.eu/digital-	
		technologies-can-also-help-	
		africas-farmers-the-power-	
50.44.0000	00.07.0000	of-digitalization/	A CDOCAD
FIMA 2020 is committed to innovation,	02.03.2020	http://sparkle-	AGROSAP
sustainability and digital technologies		project.eu/fima-2020-is-	
, 5		committed-to-innovation-	
		sustainability-and-digital-	
TI CDADIUE : I	00.07.0000	technologies/	\/ALLIEDO
The SPARKLE course is about to start	09.03.2020	http://sparkle-	VALUEDO
		project.eu/the-sparkle-	
	21.07.2020	course-is-about-to-start/	REZOS
Robotics & Precision Agriculture	21.03.2020	http://sparkle-	REZUS
		project.eu/robotics-	
COVID 10 CDA DIVIE	01.04.2020	precision-agriculture/	CSIC
COVID-19 SPARKLE update	01.04.2020	http://sparkle-	CSIC
		project.eu/covid-19-sparkle-	
L L CDADKIE	06.04.2020	update/	UNIFI
Instructions for the SPARKLE course	06.04.2020	http://sparkle-	UNIFI
		project.eu/instructions-for- the-sparkle-course/	
Debation & Draginian Agricultura	08.04.2020	the-sparkle-course/	REZOS
Robotics & Precision Agriculture	00.04.2020		REZOS
The importance of space data for the	16.04.2020	http://sparkle-	ERREQUADRO
·	10.0 1.2020	project.eu/the-importance-	
agritech sector		of-space-data-for-the-	
		agritech-sector/	
Enhancing academic work through the	22.04.2020	http://sparkle-	AUTH
		project.eu/enhancing-	
synergy between teaching in Aristotle		academic-work-through-the-	
University of Thessaloniki and SPARKLE		synergy-between-teaching-	
moodle platform		in-aristotle-university-of-	
		thessaloniki-and-sparkle-	
		moodle-platform/	
Safeguard the environment and people	25.04.2020	http://sparkle-	MAZZEI
31 and and and prophe		project.eu/safeguard-the-	
		environment-and-people/	
Success of the Sparkle online course: 385	02.05.2020	http://sparkle-	UPM
students enrolled!		project.eu/success-of-the-	
Stocents emotics.		sparkle-online-course-385-	
		<u>students-enrolled/</u>	
Sustainable Precision Agriculture - Main	14.05.2020	http://sparkle-	QUINTA
Takeaways		<u>project.eu/sustainable-</u>	
, and mayo		precision-agriculture-main-	
		<u>takeaways/</u>	
NDVI – Environment	14.05.2020	http://sparkle-	ICAAM
		project.eu/ndvi-	
		<u>environment/</u>	

A soit and thousand and a still a familial a	20.05.2020	http://oportdo	AGROSAP
Agriculture and robotics for kids	20.05.2020	http://sparkle-	AGRUSAP
		project.eu/agriculture-and-	
	05.05.0000	<u>robotics-for-kids/</u>	10444
Yield maps	25.05.2020	http://sparkle-	ICAAM
		project.eu/yield-maps/	
What happened in "Evora"? The next	28.05.2020	http://sparkle-	VALUEDO
steps of SPARKLE project		project.eu/what-happened-	
Steps of of Attitle project		<u>in-evora-the-next-steps-of-</u>	
		sparkle-project/	
Artificial Intelligence & Precision	04.06.2020	http://sparkle-	REZOS
Agriculture		project.eu/artificial-	
Agriculture		intelligence-precision-	
		agriculture/	
Mitigate covid-19 effects on precision	10.06.2020	http://sparkle-	ERREQUADRO
agriculture through digital extension		project.eu/mitigate-covid-19-	
		effects-on-precision-	
services and spread of information. the		agriculture-through-digital-	
pad case		extension-services-and-	
'		spread-of-information-the-	
	1	pad-case/	
Standardization of communication	15.06.2020	http://sparkle-	CSIC
		project.eu/standardization-	
protocols for site-specific weed treatment		of-communication-	
		protocols-for-site-specific-	
		weed-treatment/	
KATTIVO project	25.06.2020	http://sparkle-	UNIFI
10 (1 11 v o project		project.eu/kattivo-project/	
Using SEBAL to Investigate How	06.07.2020	http://sparkle-	AUTH
	00.07.2020	project.eu/using-sebal-to-	7.0111
Variations in Climate Impact on Crop		investigate-how-variations-	
Evapotranspiration		in-climate-impact-on-crop-	
		evapotranspiration/	
The evolution of wine just a click away	09.07.2020	http://sparkle-	MAZZEI
The evolution of wine just a click away	05.07.2020	project.eu/the-evolution-of-	1.17 (222)
		wine-just-a-click-away/	
The precision A - TEAM	15.07.2020	http://sparkle-	UPM
The precision A = TEAM	10.07.2020	project.eu/the-precision-a-	01111
		team/	
SDADKLE project let's take the stake of	22.07.2020	http://sparkle-	VALUEDO
SPARKLE project: let's take the stoke of	22.07.2020	project.eu/sparkle-project-	VALUEDO
the situation before the summer break		lets-take-the-stoke-of-the-	
		situation-before-the-	
		summer-break/	
Hanny Sparkla Pusinasa Madal	03.08.2020	http://sparkle-	AGROSAP
Happy Sparkle Business Model	00.00.2020	project.eu/happy-sparkle-	AONOGAI
Competition! And may the odds be ever in		business-model-	
your favor!		competition-and-may-the-	
		odds-be-ever-in-your-favor/	
Foonamic Pick Mans	06.08.2020	http://sparkle-	ICAAM
Economic Risk Maps	00.00.2020	project.eu/economic-risk-	ICAAIVI
	<u> </u>	<u>maps/</u>	

A soi Farad Value (Dlast) alacias	18.08.2020	http://sparkle-	REZOS
Agri-Food Value (Block)chains	10.00.2020	project.eu/agri-food-value-	REZUS
		blockchains/	
Patent analysis and Data Mining for	24.08.2020	http://sparkle-	ERREQUADRO
,	21.00.2020	project.eu/patent-analysis-	ERREQUIERO
disruptive technologies' detection: the		and-data-mining-for-	
agritech sector in Israel, a case study		disruptive-technologies-	
		detection-the-agritech-	
		sector-in-israel-a-case-	
		study/	
How can Robots See? (Part 1)	03.09.2020	http://sparkle-	CSIC
		project.eu/how-can-robots-	
		see-part-1/	
Precision Agriculture and the CAP reform	17.09.2020	http://sparkle-	QUINTA
The second of th		project.eu/precision-	
		agriculture-and-the-cap-	
		<u>reform/</u>	
Sparkle entrepreneurial education	21.09.2020	http://sparkle-	UNIFI
training in Italy		project.eu/sparkle-	
training in reacy		entrepreneurial-education-	
		training-in-italy/	
A challenge to improve eco-sustainable	28.09.2020	http://sparkle-project.eu/a-	MAZZEI
fertility		challenge-to-improve-eco-	
Tortally		sustainable-fertility/	
Monitoring seed trench condition with	05.10.2020	http://sparkle-	UPM
smart seed firmer		project.eu/monitoring-seed-	
		trench-condition-with-smart-	
	10.10.0000	seed-firmer/	A 1 1 T 1 1
"The Greek Sparkle Challenge	12.10.2020	http://sparkle-	AUTH
Experience" @AUTh SPARKLE team		project.eu/the-greek-	
		sparkle-challenge-	
		experience-auth-sparkle-	
Multifur ation of Armicultures a TOMATO	13.10.2020	team/	VALUEDO
Multifunctional Agriculture: eTOMATO	13.10.2020	<u>http://sparkle-</u> project.eu/multifunctional-	VALUEDO
project and the future of farming		agriculture-etomato-project-	
		and-the-future-of-farming/	
Augmented Reality (AR) in Agriculture	02.11.2020	http://sparkle-	REZOS
Toginence healty (Air) in Agriculture	02.11.2020	project.eu/augmented-	200
		reality-ar-in-agriculture/	
Modelling olive grove productivity with	03.11.2020	http://sparkle-	ICAAM
satellites		project.eu/modelling-olive-	
Satetilles		grove-productivity-with-	
		satellites/	
How PA technologies can help in locust	05.11.2020	http://sparkle-	ERREQUADRO
fight		project.eu/how-pa-	
1.9.16		technologies-can-help-in-	
		<u>locust-fight/</u>	
DronFruit Project: Yield estimations in	09.11.2020	http://sparkle-	AGROSAP
citrus orchards via drones and computer		project.eu/dronfruit-project-	
vision		<u>yield-estimations-in-citrus-</u>	
VISIOLI		orchards-via-drones-and-	
		computer-vision/	

How can Robots See? (Part 2)	16.11.2020	http://sparkle-	CSIC
,		project.eu/how-can-robots-	
		see-part-2/	
Smart monitoring for sustainable	15.12.2020	http://sparkle-	MAZZEI
agriculture		project.eu/smart-monitoring-	
agriculture		for-sustainable-agriculture/	
Automated tractor guidance and	21.12.2020	http://sparkle-	UPM
implements control in vineyard		project.eu/automated-	
		tractor-guidance-and-	
		implements-control-in-	
		<u>vineyard/</u>	
Final Conference of the SPARKLE project	29.12.2020	http://sparkle-	VALUEDO
' '		project.eu/final-conference-	
		of-the-sparkle-project/	
POSHMyCo : Precision Agriculture for	30.12.2020	http://sparkle-	AGROSAP
fighting mycotoxins contamination in		project.eu/poshmyco-	
		precision-agriculture-for-	
cereal crops		fighting-mycotoxins-	
		contamination-in-cereal-	
		<u>crops/</u>	

The contents created and published on social media during the first half of 2020 contained a call for students interested in participating in the pilot test. Unfortunately, actions aimed at promoting the course in presence had to be rescheduled due to the sudden pandemic situation. That is why we have focused on a series of publications on social platforms starting from giving information about the pilot test of the e-Learning platform e.g. how to log in to the platform, how to access the forum and how to post a question (Figure 6). Thanks to the cooperation between all partners, relevant information has been spread on their social channels or sent via emails.



# 3.3 THE EXPLOITATION PLAN

As already mentioned, the objectives set out in the exploitation plan (see R9.1) were to multiply and transfer the successful project results to appropriate stakeholders in local, regional, national, and European systems and to convince individual end-users to adopt and/or apply the results of Sparkle project.

Therefore, the last six months have been crucial in implementing the strategy of the exploitation plan, i.e. reaching as many people as possible to encourage them to adopt the outputs produced, especially the e-Learning platform. This was possible by engaging in several activities:

1. Participation in the Erasmus Days: The #erasmusdays were held in October and together with the partnership, it was decided to make a <u>video interview</u> telling the evolution of Sparkle through the words of the project partners.



# from October 16 – 2020 SPARKLE PROJECT INTERVIEW

### UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE, THESSALONIKI, MADRID AND EVORA

Higher education

Conferences, presentations, round tables

Tags: Other

On the occasion of #ErasmusDays Sparkle presents itself: https://tinyurl.com/y2ejjjzd SPARKLE, an acronym standing for Sustainable Precision Agriculture: Research and Knowledge for Learning how to be an agri-Entrepreneur, is a Knowledge Alliance project, co-financed under the ERASMUS+ project.

### Discover the Erasmus + project of this organization:

What are we trying to do? 1. Fostering the introduction of the new paradigm in Agriculture: Sustainable Precision Agriculture. 2 Supporting the digitization providing new competencies.

# Figure 7 - Sparkle project on the #Erasmusdays website

- 2. Launch of National Conferences by the academic partners in November and December to show the final version of the e-Learning course and invite people to use it (for further details see paragraph 3.2).
- 3. Preparation and organisation of the Final Conference: The Final Conference took place online on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December and consisted of four sessions with the main theme of precision agriculture and education, technology and entrepreneurship. Below is the <u>flyer</u> with the programme.



Figura 8 - Programme of the Sparkle final conference

The successful speakers, coming from other national and international backgrounds, such as Horizon2020 projects, Erasmus+, International Students Association, representatives of the Italian Ministry of Agricultural Food, Forestry and Tourism Policies made the meeting fruitful of ideas and inspiration for future reflection.

To promote the event, many visual materials have been prepared and shared both on social media and through the eleventh newsletter. For instance, the Europe Direct Firenze, a service centre in partnership with the European Commission Representation in Italy, agreed to spread the news through its own channels, as did some newspapers such as the Informatore Agrario.



Figura 9 - Promotion of Sparkle final conference on *Europe Direct* and *L'informatore agrario* 

More than 200 people attended the two-day event. It is possible to review the entire conference here.

The webinars lasted about 4 hours. Most of the participants were from our partnership countries and were represented mainly by the following categories: students, agronomist and technicians, researchers and farmers. Furthermore, while research centres, higher education institutions and other public bodies connected from the partnership countries, it was interesting to see that many higher education institutions also connected from non-EU countries.

4. Contact via e-mail institutions and organisations in the agricultural sector, announcing the official launch of the E-learning platform. Following sample has been produced and shared among partnership:

Dear Sir/Madam,

SPARKLE e-Learning course "Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Precision Agriculture" is **now available**!

We are pleased to announce the release of our free course hosted on moodle: <a href="http://sparkle-project.eu/moodle/">http://sparkle-project.eu/moodle/</a>
This course is designed for university students, academics, school students, agri-entrepreneurs, service providers in the field of agriculture who wish to deepen their knowledge of Sustainable Precision Agriculture.

The course is free (<a href="http://sparkle-project.eu/moodle/">http://sparkle-project.eu/moodle/</a>)

The e-Learning course is developed by the **Sparkle consortium** (http://sparkle-project.eu/partnership/) composed of 3 different categories of European partners: Universities, Companies providing advanced services to companies/farms, Farms adopting PA technologies from Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal.

The teaching materials and architecture have been designed on the basis of a primary needs assessment research conducted on a large number of European university students, researchers and farmers.

The course includes four general areas (Sustainable Precision Agriculture Overview, Technology, Social and Economic Aspects and Entrepreneurship in Farming) and twelve lessons in total (Introduction to SPA, Variable and Systems, Positioning Systems, Proximal Sensing, Variable Rate Technology, Data Analysis, Communications, Policy and Management, Entrepreneurship in SPA and a Toolkit for Agripreneurs 4.0).

The course is designed to cover a multitude of technical and social, economic or environmental aspects and is therefore a holistic approach to precision farming and related entrepreneurship.

Best regards,

Figura 10 - Sample of e-mail sent to present the e-Learning course

Below is the achievements plan of the different countries, which will be used for the exploitation of the project results in the medium to long term. The whole document is available <u>here</u>.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR	DESCRIPTION	TARGET	INDICATOR	RESPONSIBLE PARTNER
Cooperation with other universities	Following Italian universities will be contacted to present the platform and invite them to use if: UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI TERAMO UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI VERONA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI VERONA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI BODONA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI BOLOGNA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI BOLOGNA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI PISA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI PISA UNIVERSITA' POLITECNICA DELLA TUSCIA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI PERUGIA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI "FEDERICO II" UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO UNIVERSITA' MEDITERRANEA DI REGGIO CALABRIA UNIVERSITA' MEDITERRANEA DI REGGIO CALABRIA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI SASSARI	academics and researchers	n. of interactions	UNIFI
Cooperation with agricultural schools	The Sparkle platform will be presented to many Italian schools (For details see. exploitation plan_stakeholders)	agricultural school students	n. of interactions	UNIFI
Dissemination in conferences and events	Dissemination of the SPARKLE course in conferences and other events through paper publication or poster. Events: ECPA, AgEng, AlIA, Regional, international and national conferences on PA, CIGR, Accademia dei Georgofili	Academics, researchers, entrepreneurs, professionals, policy makers	Number of events where SPARKLE course has been presented	UNIFI
Integration of the Sparkle course to the Bachelor degree	Application of the Sparkle course contents as a specific module in a Bachelor Degree Program at the University of Florence.	Bachelor degree students	Number of lectures dedicated	UNIFI
Integration of the Sparkle course to the Master degree	Application of the Sparkle course contents as a specific module in a Master Degree Program at the University of Florence.	Master degree students	Number of lectures dedicated	UNIFI
Implementation of the Sparkle course contents in other projects	Application of the Sparkle course contents in other innovation or R&D projects (local, National, European)	-Academics, researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals	Number of projects that mention Sparkle course materials	
Adopting Sparkle materials in other UNIFI projects		bachelor and master students	n. of participants	UNIFI
Presentation of the project outputs in one of the eTOMATO project meetings	Presentation of the project outputs in one of the eTOMATO project meetings	Universities and Multifunctional farms	n. of participants	Valuedo
Presentation of the final results on Valuedo/91C: official website	Preparation of one piece of news to dissemination through the Valuedo/91C: official website and facebook page	Wide audience		Valuedo
Presentation of the Foresight Analysis and final results in professional courses		Companies	n. of participants	Erre Quadro
Presentation of the Foresight Analysis and final results in University courses		Universities' students	n. of participants	Erre Quadro
Business competition on PA data	Competition on extraction of technological trends from PA data	Universities' students	n. of teams	Erre Quadro

Table 3 – Italy achievements

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR EXPLOITATION	DESCRIPTION	TARGET	INDICATOR	RESPONSIBLE PARTNER
Exploitation of Sparkle learning materials to promote entrepreneurship in agriculture		Farmers and business associations	Number of reached entities	UEvora
Dissemination in conferences, workshops and similar events	Presentations, posters	Farmers, reseachers, students	Number of events	UEvora
Sparkle project presentation in a National Conference	Sparkle Course presentation at Congresso Nacional de Rega e Drenagem. 25, 26 e 27 de Novembro Online Congress	Farmers, reseachers, students, public administration	Number of attendees	UEvora
Colaboration with other universities and agriculture schools	Presentation of the Sparkle Course to be implemented by other universities and schools	Academics and students	Number of interactions	UEvora
Integration of Sparkle Course content in undergraduation and master degree courses	Sparkle course lessons can be used as training materials at University of Évora courses	Students	Number of students	UEvora

**Table 4 – Portugal achievements** 

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR EXPLOITATION	DESCRIPTION	TARGET	INDICATOR	RESPONSIBLE PARTNER
Promotion of the Sparkle course to be used in other Spanish universities	Contacts with teachers and directives of other technical universities in Spain, to whoum the course will be offered to be included in their curricula	Spanish universities and high education centers, as the ones mentioned in the previous list.	No of interactions with other universities	UPM
Integration of the Sparkle course materials into existing degrees at UPM	Use of created online materails and adaptation of current syllabus, in order to accomodate the Sparkle course or derivates in existing undergraduate degrees	UPM	No of programmes and subjects affected	UPM
Integration of the Sparkle course materials into existing MASTER degrees at UPM	Use of created online materails and adaptation of current syllabus, in order to accomodate the Sparkle course or derivates in existing posgraduate degrees	UPM	No of programmes and subjects affected	UPM
Launch of a brand new degree at UPM to train Experts on Precision Agriculture	Integration of the Sparkle syllabus on PA and entrepreneurship into a new UPM degree about new technologies applied to agricultural enginnering	UPM	No of students entering the course, yearly	UPM
Translation into Spansih, for local farmers	Contact with the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture to search for support and funding, in order to translate the Sparkle materials into Spanish ,and make the course available to Spansih farmers not skilled in English language	Ministry of Agriculture	Amount of funds	UPM
Promotion of the course to stakeholders and related farmers associations	Contact with associations, to check the interest in using the Sparkle course as educationl activity for their associates	Professional associations	No of contacts	UPM
Presenting the course at international conferences	Communications at congresses and other similar forums. Specifically: ECPA2021 congress at Budapest https://www.ecpa2021.hu/	Researchers, professors and PA specialists	No of interactions	UPM

Table 5 - Spain achievements

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR EXPLOITATION	DESCRIPTION	TARGET	INDICATOR	RESPONSIBLE PARTNER
Cooperation with other universities	Following Greek universities will be contacted to present the platform and invite them to use it. University of Thesally, Democritus University of Thrace, International Hellenic University, Hellenic Open University, Agricultural University of Athhens, University of Western Macedonia, University of Macedonia	academics and researcher	No of interactions (web meetings with representatives of each University)	AUTH
Cooperation with an agricultural school	The Sparkle platform will be presented to the students of the Technical Secondary School of Epanomi Thessalonikis (Branch of Agriculture)	Agricultural school students	No of interactions (web meetings with the students of each class)	AUTH
Dissemination in conferences and events	Dissemination of the SPARKLE course in conferences and other events through paper publication or poster. Possible events: 16th National Conference of Agricultural Economics, EBEEC Conference etc	Academics, researchers, entrepreneurs, professionals, policy makers	Number of events where SPARKLE course has been presented	AUTH
ntegration of the Sparkle course to the Bachelor degree	Application of the Sparkle course contents as a specific module in a Bachelor Degree Program at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and University of Western Macedonia	Bachelor degree students	Number of lectures dedicated	AUTH
Integration of the Sparkle course to the Master degree	Application of the Sparkle course contents as a specific module in a Master Degree Program at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Master degree students	Number of lectures dedicated	AUTH
Adopting Sparkle materials in other AUTH projects	Possible projects: SUWANU EUROPE (H2020), HEGO (BLACK SEA), INCLIMATE (ERASMUS+), MAYA (ERASMUS+)	Academics, researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals	Number of projects that adopt Sparkle course materials	AUTH
Presentation of the project outputs in one of the HEGO project meetings BLACK SEA PROJECT)	Presentation of the project outputs in one of the HEGO project meetings	Universities and RTDs from Greece, Armenia, Georgia and Moldova	N. of participants	AUTH
Presentation of the final results on ETAGRO site (Greek Association of Agricultural Economics)	Preparation of one piece of news to dissemination through the ETAGRO official website and facebook page	Wide audience		AUTH
Presentation of the final results on RURAL-LAB Website (Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology Unit)	Preparation of one piece of news to dissemination through the RURAL-LAB official website and facebook page	Wide audience		AUTH
Translation of the SPARKLE moodle matterial in Greek and inclussion in the thitps://inationaldigitalacademy.gov.gr/.(Citizens' Digital Academy) an initiative of the Greek Ministry of Digital Governance.	Preparation of Free and Open educational matterial in Greek (based on SPARKLE contents)	Wide audience		AUTH
nclussion of SPARKLE course in the Academic Calendar of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (being part of two courses) and recognized by ECTS	50% of the undergraduate course "Agricultural Extension" and 30% of the postgraduate course "Agricultural Extension"	> 100 students per year		AUTH
Submission of Paper to an Internation Journal Presentation to a paper in an International Conference	"Precission Agriculture" "HAICTA 2020"	Wide audience Wide audience		AUTH AUTH

**Table 6 – Greece achievements** 

# 3.3.1 SYNERGISTIC NETWORKS

Particular synergies were created with the Italian contact persons of the Liaison project (H2020 programme). In fact, after having made contact with the organisation for thematic similarities and having sent them the Sparkle presentation, Liaison proposed to arrange some interviews in February 2020.

Some Sparkle project partners accepted to be interviewed and the final result was published online on their page in the form of a case study: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y2eyt796">https://tinyurl.com/y2eyt796</a>

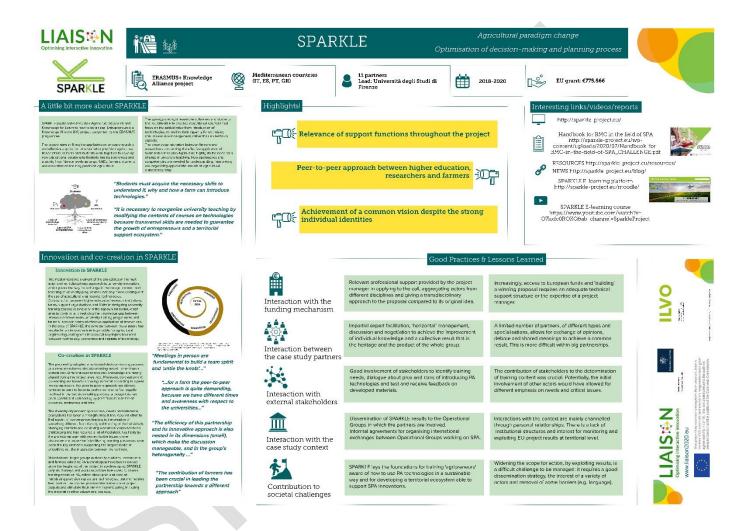


Figure 11 - Liaison project Sparkle case study



Finally, Agrifood FVG (Friuli-Venezia-Giulia) is a regional agency for development and innovation in agriculture that has decided on its own to relaunch the news of the e-Learning course and the opportunities offered by the Sparkle project both on their website and on their facebook page: https://tinyurl.com/yxjafm2x

Figure 12- Sparkle e-Learning course

### 4. A SUMMARY OF THE EVENTS

As the project is focused in precision agriculture and the aim of this work is to design a specific e-learning course for agricultural students aiming to enhance their entrepreneurial skills, it had been considered very important to have the opportunity to present and to share the first results of the project over the first year and a half. Therefore, four National Dissemination Conference took place in each partners' country at national level (See Table 5).

Table 7. National	Discomination	Conference	organicad	hy partners
Table 7. National	Disserrination	Connenence	Organiseo	ov partiers

EVENT TITLE	DATE &	EVENT OFFICIAL	PARTNER
	LOCATION	WEBSITE	IN CHARGE
National Conference at Agrifoodnext	15-16.11.2019	https://agrifoodnext.it/	Unifi
National Conference at EIMA Digital Preview 2020	12.11.2020 Virtual event	https://tinyurl.com/yydcvblb	University of Florence
Jornada Sparkle UPM 2020	21.12.2020 Madrid, Spain	www.etsiaab.upm.es	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

National Conference in Greece	22.12.20 Thessaloniki, Greece	n/a	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
National Conference at VIII Congresso Nacional de Rega e Drenagem	26.11.2020 Évora, Portugal	https://tinyurl.com/y5mk96sa	University of Évora

Besides, many initiatives have been organized by the partners around Europe during the second half of 2019 and 2020 at both national and international level, such as relevant conferences, seminars and workshops, with the aim of widening the sparkle network and disseminating outproducts, the most important of which is the free e-Learning course on sustainable precision agriculture and entrepreneurship. (Table 7).

Table 8. A summary of the events organised by partner

EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	EVENT OFFICIAL WEBSITE
ECPA	Montpellier (France)	https://tinyurl.com/y5zzoxr8
Congreso Nacional de Agroingeniería	Huesca (Spain)	https://tinyurl.com/y4fokhvl
"Dall'aumentata ai MOOC. La didattica universitaria tra apprendimento blended e online"	Florence (Italy)	https://tinyurl.com/y6x9n2j9
I-RIM 3D Roma - Maker Faire	Rome (Italy)	https://tinyurl.com/y6mmkdmc
ERASMUS+_KA Cluster Meeting and UB Forum 2019- on-going projects	Brussels (Belgium)	https://tinyurl.com/y2rhyxab
EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP	Bucharest (Romania)	https://tinyurl.com/yyztplpd
EIP-AGRI seminar: New skills for digital farming	Aranjuez (Spain)	https://tinyurl.com/y594mf94
Accademia dei Georgofili "Digitalizzazione per l'agricoltura e lo sviluppo rurale"	online	https://tinyurl.com/y3a7cc8g
University of Evora "Presentation of the Sparkle course in a master class"	Evora (Portugal)	n/a
Informal Meeting "Tertúlias Agronómicas"	Evora (Portugal)	https://tinyurl.com/y28av6ud
Rede Rural Nacional and AgroPortal	Online	https://tinyurl.com/y42tlfgd
Society of Agronomy Students (NEAE)	Online	https://tinyurl.com/y27cx4te
MED - Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development	Online	https://tinyurl.com/y57yxpdh
Presentation of the Learning Modules to the Department of Business Administration of Food & Agricultural Enterprises (B.A.F.A.E.), University of Patras	Patras (Greece)	n/a
Presentation of the Learning Modules to the Department of Food Science & Technology (FST), University of Patra	Patras (Greece)	n/a
Post on facebook	Online	https://tinyurl.com/y2mahj8m
Post on facebook	Online	https://tinyurl.com/y3vbcz2n
Article on SPARKLE	Online (website + facebook)	https://tinyurl.com/y6gpewy6

Article "Summer doesn't stop Sparkle Project!"	Online (website)	https://tinyurl.com/y5bsjw5x
Article on Sparkle	Online (website + facebook)	https://tinyurl.com/y2kkz7v2
Meeting of DHIP ("Development of Higher Education Institutions' Internationalization Policies") project	Pisa	https://tinyurl.com/y6l6yb6h
Training course with students of the course of management engineering of the universities of Pisa at GATE spa	Pisa	n/a
post on linkedin	online	https://tinyurl.com/yxruwlou
Course in "Strategic and competitive intelligence in the master programme in data science"	Pisa	n/a
post on linkedin	online	https://tinyurl.com/y5osxnf5
post on linkedin	online	https://tinyurl.com/y34rppjt

In these events SPARKLE's work has been presented in multi-formats: regular papers presenting the progress and results of the project; panels with invited speakers on the project's topics etc.

Most of the events organised in the third year had to be held online due to the pandemic situation, nevertheless the number of participants can be considered good.

An internal database on conferences and events has been set up and regularly updated.



Figure 13. A sample of pictures that highlights the events included in Table 7.





# 5. PUBLICATIONS

Here below it is possible to find a summary of papers in the last year and a half, which have been published by SPARKLE partners whether in agricultural journals or in conference proceedings. The full list is available <a href="here">here</a> on the Sparkle website.

Table 9: Papers published or being submitted from the partnership

Title	Author	Corresponding partner	When	Where (Conference or Review)
Mejorando la formación en nuevas tecnologías para una agricultura digital: Proyecto Sparkle	Constantino Valero, Anne Krus, Juan José Ramírez, Pilar Barreiro, Belén Diezma, Blanca Muñoz, Natalia Hernández, Miguel Garrido, Adolfo Moya, Guillermo Moreda, Marco Vieri	Upm, Unifi	September 2019	Agroing 2019
SPARKLE e- Learning Platform for Sustainable Precision Agriculture	Thomas Bournaris, Andreas Mattas, Anastasios Michailidis, Dionisio Andujar, Manuela Correia, Valentina De Pascale, Manuela Díaz, Belén Diezma, Alessandro Guadagni, Eugenia Karamouzi, Jeremy Karouta, Anne Krus, Stefania Lombardo, José Rafael Marques da Silva, Panagiotis Panopoulos, Manuel Pérez-Ruiz, Angela Ribeiro, Dimitrios Tsolis, Constantino Valero and Marco Vieri	Auth, Agrosap, Valuedo, Unifi, Uevora, Csic, Upm, Rezos	September 2019	Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies in Agriculture, Food and Environment (HAICTA 2020), Thessaloniki, Greece, September 24- 27, 2020. CEUR Workshop Proceedings 2761, CEUR-WS.org 2020 (pp. 334-339)

1 - 6				
La formación en agricultura de precisión, ¿una asignatura pendiente? (Teaching precision farming: a pending subject?)	Constantino Valero, Anne Krus, Pilar Barreiro, Belén Diezma, Blanca Muñoz, Natalia Hernández, Miguel Garrido, Adolfo Moya, Juan Jose Ramirez, Guillermo Moreda, Marco Vieri	Upm, Unifi	October 2019	"Vida Rural" magazine, number 471
A tool for business model camvas analysis: effective implementation of sustainable precision agriculture	Maria Partalidou, Aikaterini Paltaki, Marco Vieri, Stefania Lombardo and Anastasios Michailidis	Auth, Unifi	29-31.05.2020	12th International Conference - EBEEC 2020
SPARKLE e- Learning Platform for Sustainable Precision Agriculture	Thomas Bournaris, Andreas Mattas, Anastasios Michailidis, Dionisio Andujar, Manuela Correia, Valentina De Pascale, Manuela Díaz, Belén Diezma, Alessandro Guadagni, Eugenia Karamouzi, Jeremy Karouta, Anne Krus, Stefania Lombardo, José Rafael Marques da Silva, Panagiotis Panopoulos, Manuel Pérez-Ruiz, Angela Ribeiro, Dimitrios Tsolis, Constantino Valero and Marco Vieri	All Partners	24-27 September 2020	Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies in Agriculture, Food and Environment
Current skills of students and their expected future training needs on Precision Agriculture: Evidence from Euro-Mediterranean higher Education Institutes	Thomas Bournaris, Manuela Correia, Alessandro Guadagni, Jeremy Karouta, Anne Krus, Stefania Lombardo, Dimitra Lazaridou, Efstratios Loizou, José Rafael Marques da Silva, Jorge Martínez- Guanter, Anastasios Michailidis, Stefanos Nastis, Aikaterini Paltaki, Maria Partalidou, Manuel Pérez-Ruiz, Ángela Ribeiro, Constantino Valero, Marco Vieri	Auth, Agrosap, Valuedo, Unifi, Uevora, Csic, Upm	Submission December 2020	Precision Agriculture Journal
SPARKLE - Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Precision Agriculture	Edited by Marco Vieri	All partners	Nov. 2020	FUP - Florence University Press
Αειφόρος <u>Γεωργία</u> <u>Ακριβείας:</u> Έρευνα και Γνώση <u>γ</u> ια την Εκμάθηση	Maria Partalidou, Aikaterini Paltaki and Anastasios Michailidis	Auth	15.01.2021	University Newspaper (Vol. 9)

πώς να Γίνεις <u>Αγρο-</u> επιχειρηματίας				
SPARKLE e- learning course: entrepreneurship and knowledge for precision agriculture	Valero, C. et al	UPM, Unifi, Auth, Evora, CSIC, Valuedo, AgroSAP, REZOS brands	Submitted February 2020	HEAd'21 conference

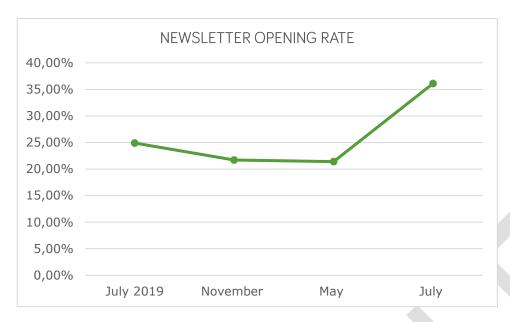
# 6. SPARKLE NEWSLETTER PUBLICATIONS

Six newsletters have been distributed by e-mail through the Mailchimp platform from July 2019 to December 2020.

The newsletters included project updates, audio-visual material as well as news about other organisations in the sector.

As can be seen from the Figure 14, the newsletter open rate has remained constant over time at around 31%. What has changed over time is the number of recipients. By posting regular invitations to subscribe to the newsletter on social channels or during the last months of dissemination of the project results, a total of 648 people were reached.

The target groups remained mainly the same stakeholder groups such as students, researchers, entrepreneurs, service providers and the scientific community with an agricultural background, interested in learning more about Sustainable Precision Agriculture on the one hand and agricultural entrepreneurship on the other.



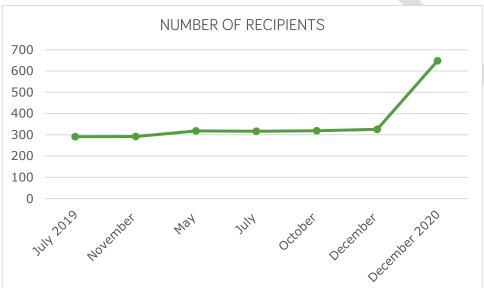


Figure 14 - Newsletter opening rate and number of recipients

All newsletters are available to download on the website: <a href="http://sparkle-project.eu/blog/">http://sparkle-project.eu/blog/</a> Besides being received by subscribers, the SPARKLE partners were asked to forward the newsletters within their network.



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