



# Knowledge Hubs: the MACSUR experience

2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Workshop on Smart Mitigation of GHG Emissions from Livestock Production

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# Chronology

- 1<sup>st</sup> step launched in 07/2011
- Selection of Research Groups in 09/2011
- Networking meeting
- 2<sup>nd</sup> step launched in 10/2011
- Submission of the proposal 12/2011
- Online evaluation
- Evaluation&Recommendation Meeting
- Improvement submitted
- Final recommendation by Chair of Eval. Committee
  
- MACSUR launched in 06/2012 for 3 (+2) years (some dates might slightly differ depending on national granting processes)
- 2015: proposal for 2 year continuation (incl. Report on MACSUR) evaluated and acknowledged
- 06/2015: MACSUR2 until 06/2017
- Evaluation of the whole MACSUR done in Summer 2017
- Follow up activity?



## Genesis (1)

“A detailed climate change risk assessment for European agriculture and food security, in collaboration with international projects”  
from SAB (Fall 2010)

Instrument developed by and for FACCE-JPI (Nordic Centres of Excellence) First meeting 02/2011

Organized in three coordinated networks on:

- ✓ Crops
- ✓ Grasslands and Livestock
- ✓ Economics and trade















## Genesis (2)

- For FACCE-JPI: Respond to scientific questions defined in the Scientific Research Agenda
- Also should provide political advice: tool for FACCE-JPI
- Expected to develop a joint research plan (align research) and carry out integrating and training activities
- To increase and facilitate transnational cooperation and coordination between excellent researchers and research organisations, building a progressive and long-lasting network.
- It is about joining existing, ongoing or already committed research (projects, institutional...) and funding new transnational research

## Genesis (3)

- Applicants are « Research Groups » (% country).
- 1 Main Coord. and 3 Theme Coord. with list of duties
- Eligible costs (depends on the funder!):
  - Contribution to costs of the Main Coordinator and Theme-Coordinators
  - Travel costs for attending Knowledge Hub meetings
  - Communication and dissemination costs (workshops, newsletters, etc.)
  - Training and capacity building (seminars, summer schools etc.) & Mobility
  - Research costs (e.g. staff and consumables)
- Duration: 3 years (+2)
- Eligibility: the research group must already be active in the field

Country		Coordinators cost (Main and/or Theme-Coordinator) <sup>2</sup>	Research costs (staff and consumables...)	Travel costs (for Knowledge Hub Meetings)	Communication and dissemination costs (workshops, newsletters, etc.....) <sup>3</sup>	Training and capacity building (seminars, summer schools...) <sup>3</sup>	Mobility
AUSTRIA		Theme-Coordinator					
BELGIUM			According to eligible costs		According to eligible costs		According to eligible costs
CZECH REPUBLIC							
DENMARK		If eligible Danish main or theme coordinator					
ESTONIA		Only if the Estonian coordinators are involved	Research costs		Workshops	Seminars	
FINLAND							
FRANCE							
GERMANY							
ISRAEL							
ITALY					Workshops, proceedings, books	Fellowships, research grants, PhD	Travel & subsistence
NETHERLANDS					Workshop yes, and no dissemination/ com.		
NORWAY					1 Workshop/year		



# MACSUR proposal

20 WPs (3+7+5+5)

2360 PM (mean value: 35 PM / partner):

288 PM at MC level

1383 PM for CropM

253 PM for LiveM

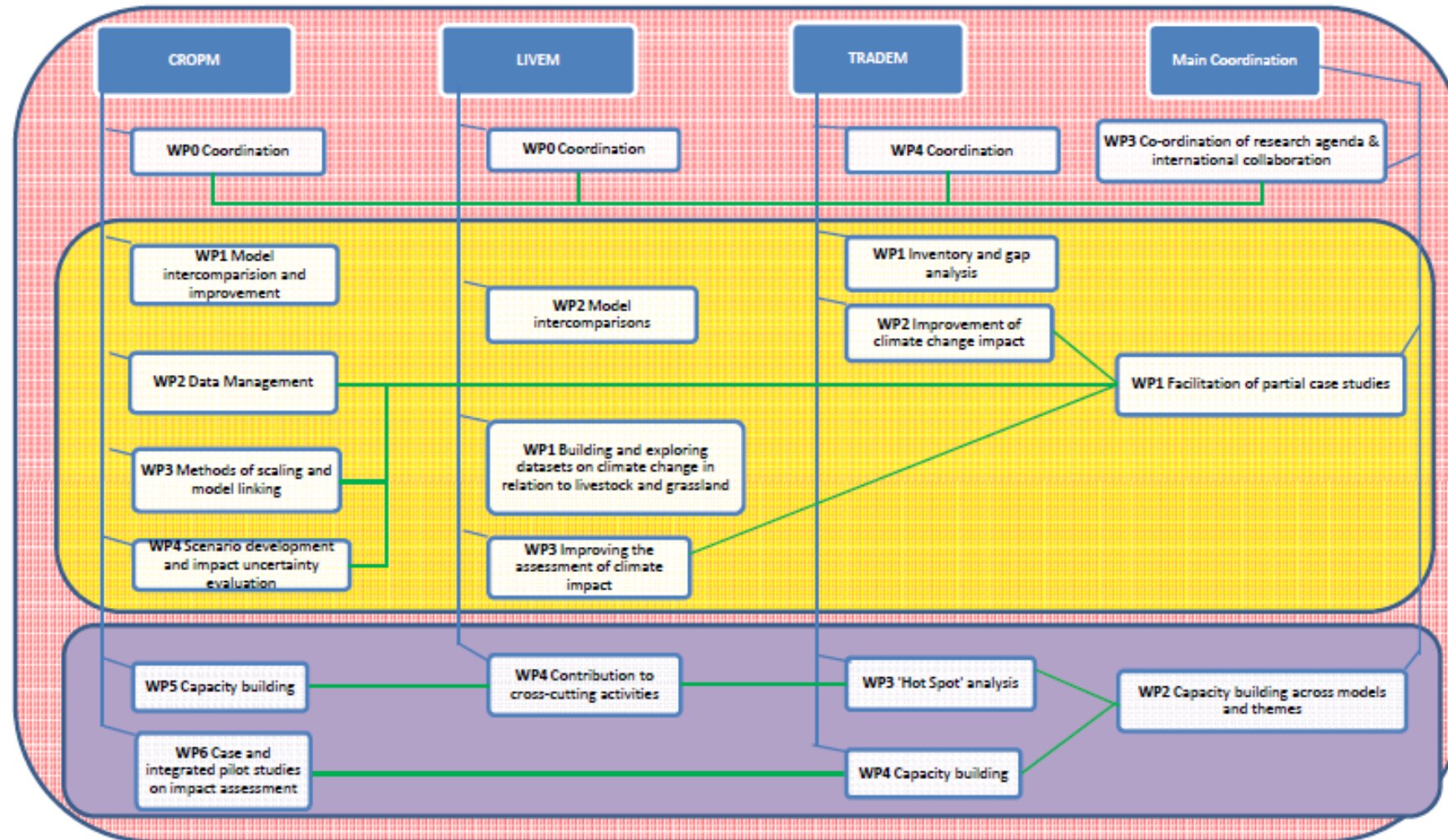
437 PM for TradeM

Total costs: 15 mio.€ (227 K€ / partner)

Req. funding: 8 mio.€ (132 K€ / partner)

« Fresh » funding rate: 58%

Graph 1: Structure of FACCE-MACSUR Knowledge Hub



Explanations:

- Activities across themes
- Activities within themes

Total FACCE MACSUR



Improvement of data bases and facilitation of partial case studies



Capacity building across models and themes





## In practice (1)

- Very large network: not easy to coordinate, recommended to have (at least) 1 FTE for the project manager
- Variable geometry of funding: some partners have low resources, some even almost no travel costs -> difficulties to integrate all partners; it might be recommended to ensure sufficient resources for networking, travels for each partner
- Monitoring: should be designed at an early stage, so to avoid « unpleasant » surprises for the coordinators
- MACSUR (or actually some partners) has made substantial publication, dissemination, communication efforts, in particular large amounts of peer-reviewed articles; however this cannot always be linked solely to MACSUR (knowledge partly generated in other projects)
- The networking in MACSUR has been very successful: many new cooperations emerged (in particular contacts between crop-experts and livestock-experts, which apparently was not at all the case beforehand)
- MACSUR generated many new research projects, in H2020 but also in (almost) each FACCE-JPI call (FACCE-ERA-NET+, FACCE SURPLUS...)-> MACSUR is recognized as a « brand » for excellent research

## In practice (2)

- Such a Knowledge Hub is meant to be a long-term cooperation, however national funding rules might complicate + some funders stepping out after 3 years; long-term funding of the same project is difficult
- Make sure that MACSUR has sufficient resources to join meetings, conferences (e.g. FACCE-JPI GB meetings).
- By their presence at events, MACSUR enhanced the FACCE-JPI visibility but could be improved
- Make sure that the Knowledge Hub applies your « brand » (e.g. logo etc...)
- New partners/countries joining during the project -> an easy process should be defined so to allow a smooth entry into the consortium
- Also define an easy way to go from 1st phase to 2<sup>nd</sup> phase (and then?); this should be applied early enough to avoid gaps in funding between phases and keep the consortium together
- Best is to have (at least) 1 Scientific Advisor who follows up the Knowledge Hub from the very beginning (we had 1 SAB member; maybe have more)



*Thank you!*

