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Dear reader,

In DiverIMPACTS we strive to achieve the full diversification potential of cropping systems for improved productivity, delivery of ecosystem services and resource-efficient and sustainable value chains. The project is funded under Horizon 2020, the European Union's Research and Innovation programme.

We are pleased to share the third DiverIMPACTS newsletter with you, and look forward to sharing more news with you soon. Enjoy!

Registration and call for abstracts: European Conference on Crop Diversification 2019 in Budapest, Hungary



The registration and call for abstracts for the European Conference on Crop Diversification 2019 are now available. The deadline for submission of abstracts is January 31st 2019

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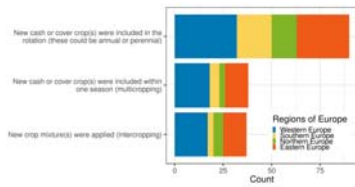
Clustering efforts for crop diversification



Antoine Messéan, the project coordinator writes about the work being done in the H2020 'crop diversification cluster', which has been meeting on a regular basis since it started back in 2017.

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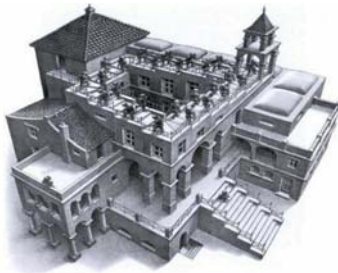
Sharing the results of the survey on crop diversification experiences in Europe and preparing the qualitative interviews



The first survey on crop diversification across Europe was completed in early 2018. Based on the results, we are now preparing a user-friendly application for sharing the data collected with DiverIMPACTS partners and the public. Qualitative interviews on specific crop diversification experiences are also ongoing.

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Co-innovation: changing the perspective to bring about change



Are you familiar with M. C. Escher, the Dutch artist whose artwork reinterprets perspective and symmetry? And with his Ascending and Descending lithograph? Well, the print gives a good idea of the whole monitoring system put in place for the 25 DiverIMPACTS case studies and the cycle of feedback loops implied. Guidelines are being prepared to help better understand, assess and monitor the case studies.

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Crops and sheep: more interactions for more diversification



Recreating a link between stock breeding and arable crops is a current agro-ecological concern. This is explored by the Belgian case study aiming to add value to cover crops through sheep grazing. In Wallonia, sheep are not very present, particularly on arable farms. A stronger link between sheep and crop farming would, therefore, also be synonymous with re-developing social links between different types of farmers.

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Field experiments: a focus on two experiments testing innovative systems in organic situations



DiverIMPACTS tests innovative cropping systems combining temporal and spatial diversification through a network of 10 field experiments in Europe in different agricultural systems. Field experiment 6 and 8, which test new diversified systems in organic rotations using a high amount of legumes and intercropping, are outlined in the article.

Biodiversity measurements in DiverIMPACTS field experiments



In order to determine how the strategies tested in the field experiments affect biodiversity, several different measurements are carried out, including soil biodiversity measurements as well as biocontrol measurements. Both are outlined in the article.

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A new analytical framework of indicators sensitive to crop diversification



DiverIMPACTS aims to develop an adapted analytical framework to evaluate crop diversification sustainability and performance. The final list of the identified criteria and the related indicators is composed of 19 criteria and 29 performance indicators, described in the "indicator fact sheets". As a next step, a tool was developed to facilitate the collection of the data needed for the indicator computation across the 25 DiverIMPACTS case studies.

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Assessment of cropping systems impacts on biodiversity: integrating indicators into the multi-criteria assessment tool Systemre®



DiverIMPACTS aims to develop an indicator framework to evaluate the sustainability of diversified cropping systems. However, it is still not clear what the best indicators are to assess these types of cropping systems. Here we present the outcome of a master's thesis, which was supervised by project partners. The thesis compared biodiversity indicators to determine the most relevant indicators that can be integrated into the Systemre® tool, a multi-criteria assessment tool.

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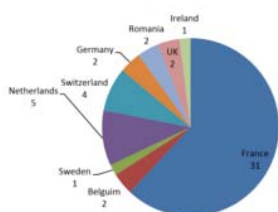
On the way to overcoming barriers to diversification



After identifying barriers to crop diversification, the DiverIMPACTS project will support selected case studies with expertise to overcome major issues shared across case studies. Here are a few examples of the work being undertaken.

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Fifty existing tools and methods already available for farmers and advisors



An inventory of existing tools and methods for crop diversification was conducted, aiming to identify and characterize existing tools and methods according to their purpose, type, users, and technical characteristics. The database describing all of the tools will be available soon.

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DiverIMPACTS dissemination



The DiverIMPACTS project makes use of a wide range of dissemination tools, such as videos, practice abstracts, a stakeholder forum, and social media in order to inform the DiverIMPACTS community of what is happening in the project, promote stakeholder awareness and ensure access to and uptake of information, materials and results.

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Crop diversification and sustainability: a sample of Italian experiences

In the study "Crop diversification and sustainability: early results from a sample of Italian experiences", which was published in the journal *BioAgricultura*, 20 actors were interviewed. These farmers and technicians are involved in 17 diversification initiatives including 8 cases concerning organic farming systems and 9

Share your suggestions

Do you know of any initiatives that work toward building localised food networks for novel grains and pulses? If so, share them with case study 15 so that they can create a co-learning community between similar initiatives.

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cases concerning conventional farming systems. The diversification initiative introduced new crops (vegetables, cereals, soybean, cover crops) in crop rotation, multiple cropping and intercropping.

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DiverIMPACTS Flyers

The DiverIMPACTS Flyer, which provides an overview of the project aims, activities, expected outcomes and more, is in available in various languages.

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DiverIMPACTS Stakeholder Forum

The DiverIMPACTS Stakeholder Forum is an online platform on which the DiverIMPACTS project members aim to come into an active dialogue with representatives from key sectors along the value chain of crop diversification. These representatives include a wide variety of stakeholders, for example farmers' representatives, advisors, policy makers, industry, retailers, consumers and many other relevant actors.

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Share your experience and discuss how to use catch crops and organic fertilizers in maize

In the new DiverIMPACTS factsheet, practical recommendations show how combination of catch crops and organic root fertilization stabilizes yields, reduces costs for mineral fertilizers and reduces necessary storage for slurry or manure. Please share your own experience with us by using the new Disqus comment section.

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DiverIMPACTS Youtube channel now online!

Stay tuned for new videos about field experiments, case studies, success stories, conferences and more.

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Upcoming events of relevance to the DiverIMPACTS project

Some events that are related to DiverIMPACTS topics, and may be of interest to you.

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