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MEMBER

Occitanum

Living Lab Occitanum | France

Occitanum

Occitanum main goal is to codesign and evaluate digital technologies to foster the agroecological transition of agriculture and local food supply. Occitanum is an archipelago of 13 Living Labs deployed on different pedo-climatic sites and production systems across the Occitanie Region. These users-centred labs bring together the local and regional stakeholders, including farmer communities, local authorities, agricultural development actors, AgTech firms, citizens as well as researchers, engineers, technicians, and academics, to develop innovative projects for a variety of agricultural systems (orchards, beekeeping, livestock, field crops, vineyards and market gardening) and local food systems.

Aim

Deploying digital technologies to foster agroecological transition of agriculture and local food supply.

Background information

Occitanum brings together almost 50 regional actors of the agriculture and agrifood sector, including the Occitanie Region.

Occitanum is led by INRAE due to its expertise on agriculture, digital tools and participatory approaches with a strong participation of a larger network including the Chambres d'Agriculture, the Agriculture Cooperative Federation, local authorities, the Higher Education and Research Agronomy institute – AGRO Montpellier, the technical institutes, the Competitiveness cluster called AgriSudOuest Innovation.

Occitanum follows an original structure allowing flexibility and complementarity. It is based on seven open labs based on six production systems (beekeeping, orchards, vineyard, field crops, livestock, market gardening) and one on local supply chain. Each open lab is dispatched on different pilot sites. And on each pilot site, different innovative projects can emerge. In the Open Labs, each site organizes its specific governance to conceive and support Innovative Projects. General governance is managed through the CORE entity allowing for the general coordination, research and training actions, valorization and financial actions.

Funding structure

The project is a winner of the "Territoires d'Innovation" Grand Plan d'Investissement, Banque des Territoires. The Occitanie Region supports Occitanum as part of the green new deal action plan.

Activities

- Design and implement innovative projects:
 - test new or already existing but not used digital solutions in a real-world environment
 - develop co-innovation with stakeholders
- Codevelop innovative methods
- Foster involvement of AgTech Firms in open innovation process
- Develop multidisciplinary research
- Assessment of the potential of digital technologies used in Open Labs

Methods, stakeholder engagements and tools

Different tools are used to get a strong stakeholder participation and involvement.

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- Regular meetings even during the Covid crises using participatory remote tools
- Transparent and clear method to go from the stakeholder's need to the requirement for AgTech to develop new products.
- Call for interest to the AgTech enterprises to propose and codevelop if needed solution to farmers
- Development of robust protocol to evaluate innovative solution on real life (environmental, economic and social evaluation)
- Capacity building on AgTech to motivate the different stakeholders

Achievements

- 49 partners involved
- 25 emerging innovative projects
- 7 working group to cobuild (data, research, ideal open lab, formation, CMI, assessment)

Publications



[Film about general assembly](#)

Contact



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