



Kick-off Meeting

"Valorization of olive stone by-product as a green source of innovative and healthy value-added products in the context of the circular bioeconomy and sustainability"



Gabes-Tunisia, 28 September 2023

VALOstones is part of the PRIMA Program supported by the European Union and funded by the national funding bodies of five Participating States (Tunisia, Italy, France, Morocco and Turkey) for a period of 3 years, starting from September 2023. **VALOstones** is composed of seven partners from six countries: UGT and OIL (Tunisia), DI4A (Italy), UMF (France), UMF-R (Morocco), MU (Turkey) and BioP (Malta). The overall objective of **VALOstones** is the exploitation of new opportunities for the management of olive stone biomass in the Mediterranean Basin to generate innovative products with high added-value in food, pharmaceutical and cosmeceutical sectors, enabling the transition to healthy and sustainable behaviour in the Mediterranean region.

To celebrate the start of **VALOstones** project funded under the PRIMA calls for proposals 2022 (section 2- Food value chain), a kick-off meeting (KoM) will be held on **28 September 2023**. As coordinating institution of this project, the University of Gabès (UGT, Tunisia), will organize this event under the auspices of the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR), in collaboration with the other partner institutions. The KoM will be held in Tunisia in the presence of representatives from the different partners involved in the **VALOstones** project, and will be hosted by the Faculty of Sciences of Gabès (FSG) of the University of Gabès (UGT). The representatives of our consortium partners and stakeholders will meet for the first time to formally launch the project. They will use this opportunity to get to know each other, get more familiar with the project's objectives and assess the upcoming activities.

This event is open to science policy makers, academicians, students, scientists working in the Agriculture, Food, Pharmaceutical and Cosmeceutical sectors from all Euro-Mediterranean states participating in PRIMA program and from all over the world.

KoM Agenda

28 September 2023

Auditorium Hatem BETTAHAR-Faculty of Sciences of Gabes (FSG, Tunisia)

09.00-10.00	Registration	
10.00-10.30	Opening Session by moderator (Pr. Mabrouk Montacer)	
Welcome addresses		
Rector of the University of Gabes (UGT)		Pr. Kamel Abderrahim
Dean of the Faculty of Sciences of Gabes (FSG)		Dr. Fadhel El Kamel
Head of the Laboratory of Biodiversity and Valorization of Bioresources in Arid Zones, FSG		Pr. Mohamed Mars
PRIMA Executive Director of The PRIMA Secretariat		Dr. Octavi Quintana
10.30-10.45	Project Context: PRIMA call 2022 (Section 2)	Project Officer
	Agro-Food Value Chain	
PRIMA Presentation, Rules for the monitoring of PRIMA projects		Dr. Mohamed Wageih
10.45-11.00	Project Presentation	Coordinator
Project Overview: objectives, approach, impacts		Dr. Hana Maalej
11.00-11.45	Presentation of the project Partners	All Principal Investigators
University of Gabes (UGT, Tunisia).		Dr. Hana Maalej
BOUKHRIS Oil mill (OIL, Tunisia)		Mr. Boukhris
University of Udine (DI4A, Italy).		Dr. Sonia Calligaris
University of Montpellier (UMF, France).		Dr. Suming Li
University Mohammed V (UMV-R, Morocco)		Dr. Abdelhakim Bouyahya
Marmara University (MU, Turkey).		Dr. Ebru Toksoy Oner
BioPowder.com, SCHILLINGLTD. company (BioP, Malta)		Mrs. Kathrin Schilling
11.45-12.15	Coffee break	
12.15-13.15	Work Plan, Work Packages, Deliverables	Speakers
WP0. Project management and communication		H. Maalej - UGT
WP1. Collection and characterization of OS powder		H. Maalej - UGT
WP2. Conversion of OS into biopolymers		S. Li - UMF
WP3. Extraction, purification and characterization of antioxidants		A. Bouyahya - UMF-R
WP4. Optimization and scaling up		H. Maalej - UGT
WP5. Development of active ingredients and materials		S. Calligaris - DI4A
WP6. Application of developed products in food, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals		E. Toksoy Oner - MU
WP7. Technology transfer and market development of prototypes		K. Schilling - BioP
WP8. Sustainability assessment		H. Maalej - UGT
WP9. Dissemination and exploitation		H. Maalej - UGT
13.15-13.30	Discussion (Q & A Session)	
	Group Photo + Closing Session	
13.30-15.30	Lunch	
15.30-18.00	City tour	