



**European Commission  
Research Executive Agency**

**Marie Curie Actions – International Fellowships**

**Project N°: 622830**

**Project Acronym: MARSUPIA**

**Project Full Name: A Multifunctional Agriculture for Sustainable Peri-urban Areas**

# **Marie Curie Actions**

## **Final Report**

**Period covered: from 01/05/2014 to 30/04/2017**

**Date of preparation : 06/06/2017**

**Period number : final report**

**Date of submission (SESAM) : 30/06/2017**

**Start date of project : 01/05/2014**

**Project coordinator organization name:**

**Project coordinator name :**

UNIVERSITE TOULOUSE 1 CAPITOLE

Prof. Charilaos KEPHALIACOS

**Version: 1**

## Periodic Report

### PROJECT PERIODIC REPORT

<b>Grant Agreement number:</b>	622830
<b>Project acronym:</b>	MARSUPIA
<b>Project title:</b>	A Multifunctional AgRiculture for SUstainable Perl-urban Areas
<b>Funding Scheme:</b>	FP7-MC-IOF
<b>Period report:</b>	1st
<b>Period covered - start date:</b>	01/05/2014
<b>Period covered - end date:</b>	30/04/2016
<b>Name, title and organisation of the scientist in charge of the project's coordinator:</b>	Prof. Charilaos KEPHALIACOS UNIVERSITE TOULOUSE 1 CAPITOLE
<b>Tel:</b>	+33561128780
<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>	charilaos.kephaliacos@ut-capitole.fr
<b>Project website address:</b>	

## **DECLARATION BY THE SCIENTIST IN CHARGE**

I, Prof. Charilaos KEPHALIACOS, as scientist in charge of the project (622830, MARSUPIA), hereby confirm that:

- The attached periodic report represents an accurate description of the work carried out in this project for this reporting period;
- The project:
  - X has fully achieved its objectives and technical goals for the period;
  - ( ) has achieved most of its objectives and technical goals for the period with relatively minor deviations;
  - ( ) has failed to achieve critical objectives and/or is not at all on schedule.
- The project Website (if applicable) is up to date.
- To my best knowledge, the financial statements which are being submitted as part of this report are in line with the actual work carried out and are consistent with the report on the resources used for the project and if applicable with the certificate on financial statement.
- The beneficiary, in particular non-profit public bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs, have declared to have verified their legal status. Any changes have been reported under section 6 (Project Management) in accordance with Article II.2.f of the Grant Agreement.

## Content

1 - Publishable summary .....	5
2 - Project objectives for the period.....	8
3 - Work progress and achievements during the period.....	8
4 - Additional information .....	10
5 - Dissemination activities.....	11
6 - Project management.....	13
Attachments / Appendix .....	15

## 1 - Publishable summary

In urban-influenced areas, urban pressure affects peri-urban farmers' investment decision-making and, therefore, the sustainability of the agricultural sector of peri-urban areas. The MARSUPIA project (A Multifunctional Agriculture for Sustainable Peri-urban Areas) aims to assess the impact of two policies, e.g., Ontario's Greenbelt in Canada and Toulouse InterSCoT in France, designed, among others, to preserve a dynamic agricultural sector at the periphery of metropolitan areas in order to promote policies in favor of the sustainable peri-urban areas. The two policies show clear differences in terms of legislative content (Table 1).

Table 1: Characteristics underlying the construction of Ontario's Greenbelt and Toulouse InterSCoT

Policy	Approach	Initiator	Implementation	Tool	Governance
Ontario's Greenbelt	Top-down	Ontario Provincial Government	1 year	Zoning	Greenbelt Council
Toulouse InterSCoT	Bottom-up	State representative	9 years	Territorial construction	Association for Public Interest (GIP)

In Canada, Ontario's Greenbelt Plan is a top-down approach implemented by the Ontario Provincial Government. Promulgated in 2005, it took approximately a year to design this regulation, which builds on a zoning encompassing existing conservation plans - the Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan - and on the Provincial Policy Statement. The Greenbelt Plan strengthens existing legislation regarding farmland protection, which, in Ontario, is implemented at the municipal level; municipal plans *shall conform* with both the Provincial Policy Statement and the Greenbelt Plan. In addition, a Greenbelt Council is appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs to i) provide advice on the administration of the Greenbelt and ii) guide the Provincial Government on the implementation of the Greenbelt Plan.

In France, Toulouse InterSCoT is a bottom-up approach that was initiated by the National State representative, who launched a collective reflection with the local representatives in 2001. In 2010, this resulted in the definition of a strategy organized in four axes - control, polarize, connect, and pilot - and four subareas (SCoTs), where these axes can be adapted according to local specificities. In the end, more than 400 municipalities have pooled resources to strategically construct<sup>1</sup> the territory delimited by the group of municipalities. The GIP<sup>2</sup> governance body is supported by the AUAT<sup>3</sup>, a planning consulting agency in charge of coordinating Toulouse InterSCoT policy, and acts as an interface to collectively reflect, work, and elaborate projects. Their goals are to i) strengthen the consistency of the policies implemented at the SCoT level and ii) support sustainable cooperation within the territory.

The Principal Investigator (PI) has conducted a comparative analysis using mixed-methods research in Ontario's Greenbelt and in Toulouse InterSCoT. In each case, the two-step sequential protocol consists of a qualitative analysis of farmers' investment decision-making, based on mental mapping, followed by a quantitative analysis, based on econometric analyses. The qualitative research was based on in-depth interviews with farmers and focus groups with policy and agricultural experts. The purposive samples were selected to illustrate the diversity of farm operations in our research fields. During the interview, interviewees were asked to create a mental map of their farm investment decision-making. The quantitative research based on econometric analyses was designed

<sup>1</sup> The verb to construct is used on purpose to highlight the negotiations to define a territorial project.

<sup>2</sup> *Groupement d'Intérêt Public*

<sup>3</sup> Agence d'Urbanisme et d'Aménagement Toulouse aire métropolitaine or *Agency for the Planning and Development of Toulouse metropolitan area*.

to improve the representativeness of the qualitative results and expand the conclusions of the research. As a matter of fact, the quantitative analysis has been carried out by another group of researcher at the University of Guelph. Additionally, a modification of the French legislation on personal data access has delayed the research in Toulouse InterSCoT.

➤ **Ontario's Greenbelt, Canada**

The results highlight a set of threats and opportunities that have to be taken into account by decision-makers to achieve the primary objective of Ontario's Greenbelt, *i.e.*, protect agriculture, as described in the SWOT analysis in Table 2.<sup>4</sup> Generally speaking, the results show that land preservation is not enough and the progressive dismantlement of the agricultural value chain in Ontario's Greenbelt is another burning issue.

**Table 2: SWOT analysis of Ontario's Greenbelt**

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <p>Ontario's Greenbelt is geographically well-identified. The goal to protect agriculture is well accepted by farmers.</p>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <p>Lack of consultation with the farmers during the setting up process. Mistrust by the farmers of the political process.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <p>Strong demand for local food. Promote local food with a landscape label. Support new farmers and actors of the value chain.</p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <p>Lack of knowledge of local planning. Misconceptions of Greenbelt objectives. Grandfathered development permits.</p>

Since the economic analyses had already been conducted by Li, Vyn, and McEwan, the PI decided to collaborate with R. Vyn to analyze the advantages and drawbacks of using a qualitative or a quantitative approach to analyze the impact of Ontario's greenbelt on farmers' investment. The results can be found in Table 3 below.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 3: Comparative analysis of the findings of the qualitative and quantitative research**

	Quantitative research	Qualitative research	Discussion about mixing methods
<b>Goal</b>	Identifying factors influencing farm investment decision-making		-
<b>Data collection</b>	Ontario Farm Income Database	In-depth interviews using mental mapping techniques	Quantitative data collection is time-saving; however, qualitative data better corresponds to researchers' requirements.
<b>Time of data collection</b>	2003-2011	2015	Time series can be used in quantitative analyses to make pre/post-Greenbelt comparisons and avoid annual fluctuations.
<b>Selected sample</b>	32,512 farm operators	21 farm managers	Provide results that can be generalized with complementary substantive explanations.
<b>Creation of variables</b>	Use of proxies	Emerging information	Proxies can bias results in quantitative analyses; however, emerging information can be missed in qualitative analyses.
<b>Persistence in agricultural investment</b>	Use of lagged and mean variables that demonstrate different effects in the short/long-term	Changes are introduced slowly since farmers stick to their farming system, which is expected to be beneficial on the long-term. The identification of someone to take over the farm maintains investment.	Explanations by qualitative researchers based on in-depth interviews support the trends assumed and observed by quantitative researchers.

<sup>4</sup> More details can be found in the article 'Green lights in the Greenbelt? A qualitative analysis of farm investment decision-making in peri-urban Southern Ontario' published in *Land Use Policy* (2016) Vol. 55: 24-36.

<sup>5</sup> More details can be found in the paper 'Two of a kind: The complementarity of quantitative and qualitative analyses. The case of farm investment in Ontario's Greenbelt' presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mixed Methods International Research Association: 3/5 Août 2016, Durham, Angleterre. It has been proposed as a book chapter for the book *Researching the rural*.

<b>Farm location</b>	Investment is decreasing in the Protected Countryside area and increasing in the Oak Ridges Moraine.	The multi-layered regulations complicates investment decision-making. Information is hard to access and generates extra costs.	
<b>Number of farm operators</b>	Negative effect of the number of taxfilers associated with the farm on level of investment (variable <i>Opcount</i> )	Farm managers rely on programs to access cheaper labour (SAWP being the most frequently used).	These results hardly align with each other but, at the same time, are not in opposition. There may be different interpretations associated with each of these observations.
<b>Generalization power</b>	Satisfying due to the number of observations	Possible with emerging consensus	Each method has a potential for generalization. Combining the results improves the breadth and depth of the analysis.

### ➤ Toulouse InterSCOT, France

The results highlight a set of threats and opportunities that have to be taken into account by decision-makers to protect agriculture in Toulouse InterSCoT, as described in the SWOT analysis in Table 4.<sup>6</sup> Generally speaking, the action of the many organizations involved in agricultural support and urban planning are not coordinated enough. This lack of coordination could find its origin in the opposition between traditional rural organizations that have been in charge of rural areas, and urban planning decision-makers that can make decisions without enough ex-ante consulting. Their non-matching views about agriculture and farming have created a gap that needs to be filled.

Table 4: SWOT analysis of Toulouse InterSCoT

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <p>More municipalities are interested to join the territory. The goal to protect agriculture is well accepted by farmers. Existence of dynamic agricultural organizations.</p>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <p>Little consultation with farmers to define the territorial agricultural project. Lack of coordination between the organizations in charge of urban planning and agricultural support.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <p>Motivation of urban planning organizations to supply the metropole with local food. Strong demand for local food. Strong traditional food culture.</p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <p>Mistrust by the farmers of the political process. Spread of agricultural scope of powers. Existence of a strong professional norm around the concept of family farm.</p>

## Conclusion

Despite a more stringent preservation of land, which was assumed to result in a more favourable context for farmers, Ontario's Greenbelt production context is disadvantaged by the progressive dismantling of the agricultural value chain. Therefore, land preservation is not enough to protect a dynamic peri-urban agricultural sector. On the other hand, in Toulouse InterSCoT, the existence of traditional agricultural actors that have politically dominated rural areas for years results in a lack of coordination with urban planning decision-makers, whose growing awareness for the protection of a dynamic peri-urban agricultural sector cannot result in concrete actions due to their lack of expertise. Their diverging views need to be confronted and discussed in places such as the AUAT to improve their coordination. Finally, the common interest for preserving peri-urban agriculture has resulted in a growing awareness of the emergency to preserve peri-urban farmland. The irreversibility of farmland loss could be genuinely dealt with by granting farmland the status of commons, which would durably preserve agricultural land uses.

<sup>6</sup> More details can be found in the paper 'Dynamiques d'investissement agricole dans l'InterSCoT toulousain : une analyse qualitative des décisions en milieu périurbain' presented at the 54<sup>th</sup> conference of the "Association de Science Régionale De Langue Française" (ASRDLF): 5/7 July 2017, Athens, Greece.

## 2 - Project objectives for the period

The objectives of the MARSUPIA are described in the Gantt chart below.

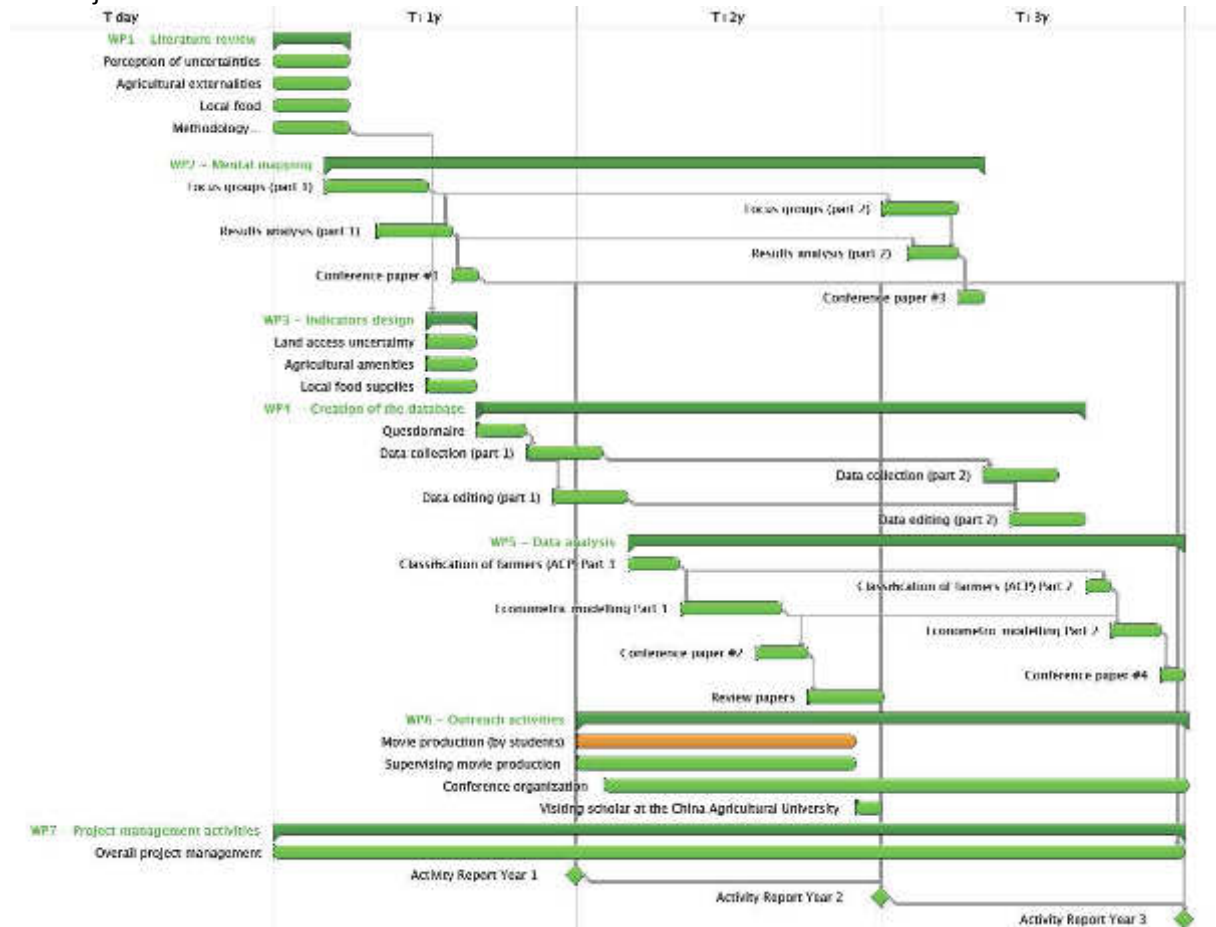


Figure 1: Gantt chart of the MARSUPIA project

During the research project, the PI has adapted the research project to classical research contingencies, seizing opportunities and mitigating constraints. Therefore, the results may be relatively different from the expected results.

## 3 - Work progress and achievements during the period

In conformity with the agenda detailed in the Gantt chart, the PI has completed the objectives of the MARSUPIA project.

### Research objectives

#### 1. Ontario's Greenbelt

The qualitative research is now achieved. The PI interviewed 21 farmers. The results have been presented at the CAFS conference (Ottawa, ON, May 2015) and at the CAES conference (Newport, RI, June 2015). The results have also been published in the scientific journal *Land Use Policy*.

The quantitative research consisted of analyzing farm investment decision-making with econometric models and farm census data. During the CAES conference, the PI met with Dr. Vyn from the FARE department of the University of Guelph, who had carried out an econometric analysis of factors influencing farm investment in Ontario's Greenbelt using the Ontario Farm Income

Database. Instead of duplicating Dr. Vyn's research, the PI decided to collaborate with Dr. Vyn to highlight the advantages and drawbacks of mixed methods research using their respective analyses as research material. The two researchers presented the results of this reflection at the CAES conference (Victoria, BC, June 2016), at the MMIRA conference (Durham, England, August 2016), and at the ERSA conference (Vienna, Austria, August 2016). A book chapter is under development.

The PI also tried to pursue his initial plan to use Farm Census Data. His first attempt to access data via OMAFRA failed. The alternative way via the CDER (Canadian Center for Economic Development and Economic Research) was judged too expensive given the severe constraints limiting the use of personal data that would have reduced the quality of results.

## 2. Toulouse InterSCoT

The qualitative research is now achieved. The PI interviewed 20 farmers. The results will be presented at the ASRDLF conference (Athens, Greece, July 2017) and at the EAAE congress (Parma, Italy, August 2017). The results will also be published in a scientific journal.

The quantitative research has been delayed. The many steps of the new procedure to access farm individual data include describing the research project to an expert in the field, defend the project in front of the Committee of Secret, validate a training on personal data and confidentiality, and finally sign a convention that grants data access. Therefore, the econometric analyses are not yet completed. The results will be presented during conferences and will possibly be published in a paper.

## 3. Perspectives

Two more potential papers are foreseeable: one presenting the results obtained in Toulouse InterSCoT in a mixed methods research manner and another one synthesizing the results of the research carried out both in Canada and in France. The PI has also developed an interest for the concept of community food hubs due to his proximity to the research group Nourishing Communities. A research, which consists of assessing the impact of community food hubs on the constitution of Community Food Hubs members' sense of place, is on-going. The PI has also developed a research project proposal, the FEAST project (Food for Education, Agro-ecology, and Social Ties), which is currently under review.

### **Learning and career objectives**

In terms of learning, the PI has participated at several trainings and self-trained in the perspective to become an autonomous researcher. He has also significantly improved his skills in using the English language. His efforts will positively support his future job applications in the academic world.

#### 1. Development of teaching skills

At the University of Guelph, the PI completed the University Teaching Theory and Practice course, which aims at providing theoretical and practical elements for teaching and learning. The course was mostly centered on constructivist approaches and has familiarized the PI with active learning techniques. In order to keep this new knowledge updated, the PI participated in Graduate Teaching Community (GTC) workshops, which aim at training graduate students to teach. The GTC is an excellent community for teaching assistants, where they can find support and help. Developing

such a structure at the University of Toulouse would be a great marketing tool for the University. In 2017, the PI participated at the Educational Developers Caucus organized at the University of Guelph.

## 2. Development of research skills

The PI self-trained with the software VUE and NVivo. These two software are respectively designed to enhance visual presentations by creating maps and analyze qualitative data. The skills he has developed in writing research projects has been put in use for the FEAST project (Food for Education, Agro-ecology, and Social Ties), for which he submitted a research proposal, and the INPALA project (INstitutional PrActices for Land Access), which has been developed in collaboration with Dr. A. Diendéré with the University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Scientific journals have also contacted the PI to peer-review article proposals, which highlights the recognition of his skill acquisition.

## 3. Improved use of the English language

The PI's experience at the University of Guelph has clearly allowed him to improve his use of the English language. In France, the PI joined an English class to maintain his proficiency, to facilitate his future international collaborations, and to ease his interactions with English-speaking researchers during conferences. For instance, the PI will participate in the 2017 ICRPS Summer School (International Comparative Rural Policy Studies) as faculty, where he will facilitate a session on territorial construction in urban-influenced areas.

# 4 - Additional information

With the MARSUPIA project, the PI has actively networked to foster future collaborations. His main connections are with the ICRPS and Nourishing Communities research groups.

## 1. ICRPS

ICRPS is a research network composed of North-American and European researchers involved in research on rural areas, who are involved in research with top institutions such as the World Bank, FAO, and other international organizations. No French academic is involved yet in the network. Each year, they organize a summer school to promote research on rural development issues throughout the world. The PI participated in the 2014 and 2016 ICRPS summer schools in Toluca, Mexico, and Fairbanks, Alaska, respectively. In 2017, the PI has been invited to facilitate a session on territorial construction in urban-influenced areas. The PI will use this opportunity to strengthen his existing relationships with ICRPS members.

## 2. Nourishing communities

PI's analysis of Ontario's Greenbelt agricultural value chain has resulted in an increased interest in the concept of Community Food Hubs, as developed by the Nourishing Communities research group, and network theory. This growing interest is resulting in a current project developed with his University of Guelph supervisors, which consists of assessing the impact of Community Food Hubs on their members' sense of place. In addition, he has submitted a research proposal in collaboration with the start-up CitizenFarm to assess the social impacts of CitizenFarm' urban farms on the communities where they are located.

3. Interest for neuroeconomics

Interested by the field of neuroeconomics, which he found complementary to his own research in economics and that corresponds to his propensity for interdisciplinary research, the PI organized a LEREPS workshop on neuroeconomics on April, 21<sup>st</sup> 2017.

## 5 - Dissemination activities

The dissemination of the results of the MARSUPIA project is still on-going.

### ➤ Publications

#### \*\*\* Journal articles \*\*\*\*

- Green Lights in the Greenbelt? A Qualitative Analysis of Farm Investment Decision-Making in Peri-Urban Southern Ontario. *Land Use Policy* Vol. 55 (2016): 24-36 (with H. Cummings and K. Landman)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264837716302630>

#### \*\*\* Book chapters \*\*\*

- Peri-urban agriculture around sprawling cities: A comparison of Ontario's Greenbelt and Toulouse interSCoT territorial policies (with H. Cummings, C. Képhaliacos, and K. Landman, accepted for "ICRPS Textbook", Eds: M. Vittuari, M. Pagani, J. Devlin, J. Stallman, and T. Johnson, RPLC)
- Using Mixed Methods Research in Agricultural Economics: An Exemplar with Farm Investment in Ontario's Greenbelt, Canada (with R.J. Vyn, H. Cummings, and K. Landman, submitted for 'Researching the rural', Ed.: D. Strijker, SAGE)

#### \*\*\* Conference Proceedings \*\*\*

- Etat des lieux, dynamiques d'investissement et opportunités pour les éleveurs périurbains : le cas de la Ceinture verte de l'Ontario, Canada. In: Institut de l'Élevage et Inra (Eds), 2016, *Actes des 23<sup>èmes</sup> Rencontres autour des Recherches sur les Ruminants*, 161-164, Paris (with H. Cummings and K. Landman)

<http://www.journees3r.fr/spip.php?article4230>

#### \*\*\* Work in progress \*\*\*

- A place for food or food for a place? The impact of community food hubs on their members' sense of place in peri-urban southern Ontario (with K. Landman and H. Cummings)
- Dynamiques d'investissement agricole dans l'InterSCoT toulousain : une analyse qualitative des décisions en milieu périurbain (with C. Képhaliacos)
- Factors influencing farm investment dynamics in peri-urban areas. The case of Toulouse InterSCoT in southwestern France (with C. Képhaliacos)

➤ **Conferences**

**\*\*\* Communications \*\*\***

- A place for food or food for a place? The impact of community food hubs on their members' sense of place in peri-urban southern Ontario (with K. Landman and H. Cummings)
  - *Uneven processes of rural change, On diversity knowledge and justice*, XXVII Conference of the European Society for Rural Sociology (ESRS): 24/27 July 2017 (forthcoming), Cracow, Poland
- Dynamiques d'investissement agricole dans l'InterSCoT toulousain : une analyse qualitative des décisions en milieu périurbain (with C. Képhaliacos)
  - 54<sup>th</sup> conference of the 'Association de Science Régionale De Langue Française' (ASRDLF): 5/7 July 2017 (forthcoming), Athens, Greece
- Etat des lieux, dynamiques d'investissement et opportunités pour les éleveurs périurbains : le cas de la Ceinture verte de l'Ontario, Canada (with H. Cummings and K. Landman)
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> 'Rencontres autour des Recherches sur les Ruminants': 7/8 December 2016, Paris, France
- Two of a kind: The complementarity of quantitative and qualitative analyses. The case of farm investment in Ontario's Greenbelt (with H. Cummings, K. Landman, and R.J. Vyn)
  - CAES-WAEA Joint Annual Meeting: 21/24 June 2016, Victoria, BC
  - *Moving beyond the linear model*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mixed Methods International Research Association: 3/5 August 2016, Durham, England
  - *Cities and regions: Smart, sustainable, inclusive?*, 56<sup>th</sup> European Congress of the Regional Science Association International: 23/26 August 2016, Vienna, Austria
- Green lights in the Greenbelt? A qualitative analysis of farm investment decision-making in peri-urban Southern Ontario (with H. Cummings and K. Landman)
  - NAREA/CAES Joint Annual Meeting: 27/30 June 2015, Newport, RI
  - Canadian Association for Food Studies Conference: 30 May/2 June 2015, Ottawa, Canada

**\*\*\* Posters \*\*\***

- Towards Territorial Peri-Urban Agriculture? The Case of Toulouse InterSCoT in Southwestern France (with C. Képhaliacos)
  - *Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems: Balancing between Markets and Society*, XV European Association of Agricultural Economists: 29 August/1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 (forthcoming), Parma, Italy
- Researching peri-urban areas: impacts from "fields" to academie
  - *Researchers and Society*, MSCA-ESOF Satellite event 2016: 28/29 July 2016, Manchester, England

➤ **Seminars and other media**

2016/17    **Project Art & Science: Photogrammes, Mission 'Partage des savoirs' DROP/Espace Culturel (Artist: A. Momo)**

<b>2016</b>	<b>LEREPS seminar:</b> 9 September, Toulouse, France <i>Using Mixed Methods Research in Agricultural Economics: An Exemplar with Farm Investment in Ontario's Greenbelt, Canada</i>
<b>2015</b>	<b>Alimentation: les circuits courts, une mode fragile,</b> Comprendre pour entreprendre, 9 June, University of Toulouse 1, Toulouse, France <a href="http://magazine.ut-capitole.fr/alimentation-les-circuits-courts-une-mode-fragile-525585.kjsp?RH=1364486245078">http://magazine.ut-capitole.fr/alimentation-les-circuits-courts-une-mode-fragile-525585.kjsp?RH=1364486245078</a>
<b>2015</b>	<b>First anniversary of the MARSUPIA project,</b> Canadian Association for Food Studies, Issue 18: Spring 2015 Newsletter (with H. Cummings and K. Landman)
<b>2014</b>	SEDRD seminar: 25 September, Guelph, Canada <i>The MARSUPIA project in a nutshell</i>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Formation ESENER</b> 'Ingénierie de projets européens de recherche et de formation': 17/19 March, Poitiers, France (with G. Covo) Retour d'expérience sur le montage du projet MARSUPIA (FP7-PEOPLE-IOF)
<b>2014</b>	<b>infoday of the French Marie Curie National Contact Point</b> Presentation by G. Covo, on behalf of the PI, of the preparation phase of the MARSUPIA project.
<b>2014</b>	<b>Mikael Akimowicz received a European Marie Curie scholarship,</b> 19 February, University of Toulouse 1, Toulouse, France <a href="http://www.ut-capitole.fr/research/prizes-and-distinctions/mikael-akimowicz-received-a-european-marie-curie-scholarship--441198.kjsp">http://www.ut-capitole.fr/research/prizes-and-distinctions/mikael-akimowicz-received-a-european-marie-curie-scholarship--441198.kjsp</a>

## 6 - Project management

### - Project planning and status - from management point of view;

From a project management viewpoint the project seems to be implemented according to plan and initial expectations.

### - Problems which have occurred and how they were solved or envisaged solutions;

As allowed by the Marie Curie regulations, and to ease the PI's stay in Canada, the beneficiary (UNIVERSITE TOULOUSE 1 CAPITOLE) decided to transfer part of the budget (43%– amount of 34510€) to the international outgoing host (UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH, Canada). As recommended by the Marie Curie regulations this transfer was carefully planned in a detailed Partnership Agreement concluded in 2014 between UNIVERSITE TOULOUSE 1 CAPITOLE and the UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH (see Partnership Agreement in Appendix).

There the major difficulties were the following ones:

- There was at the time no established Marie Curie Partnership Agreement template and since MARSUPIA was our 1<sup>st</sup> grant of the kind we had to internally draft that document in cooperation with our Canadian Partner;

- Again since it was our 1<sup>st</sup> project of that type, we had to explain the Marie Curie rules and process to our accounting department, and to translate some parts of the Grant Agreement into French. It then took some time to transfer the agreed amount to the UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH. The actual transfer occurred only during the summer 2015 while the PI arrived in Canada on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

NOTE: at the end of the PI's stay in Canada, the UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH was committed through the Partnership Agreement to transfer back to the beneficiary any fund remaining from the initial transfer, which was done on November 2016 for an amount of 8930,38€.

**- Changes to the legal status of any of the beneficiaries, in particular, SME status;**

No change to the legal status of UNIVERSITE TOULOUSE 1 has occurred in the period concerned. However, university elections are undergoing now at the end of May 2016 and a new University President will soon be nominated (May 24<sup>th</sup> 2016). This will change the legal representative for the beneficiary and we will inform the REA as soon as we will have the new name and official paperwork related to the new university President.

**- Impact of possible deviations from the planned milestones and deliverables, if any;**

Slight differences in terms of planned milestones have occurred due to research contingencies, changes in the French national legislation to access farm census individual data, and opportunities that have emerged during the project:

- The research and publication of results for the French research stage are on-going due to a longer process to access data;
- The invitation at the Agricultural University of China had not been possible due to the timing of the 2016 ICRPS Summer School, which, in the end, appears to be a real asset for the PI's career;
- The PI has privileged the development of new research proposals that have emerged from his networking activity instead of organizing a conference/workshop on peri-urban farming, he nonetheless organized a workshop on neuroeconomics at LEREPS instead.

**- Development of the project website (if applicable);**

No project website was planned

**- Gender issues; Ethical issues;**

**\* Gender issues**

The purposive samples selected during the qualitative stage of the research were selected independently from gender considerations. The selection was based on farm types, farm size, farm location in or outside of the Greenbelt, as well as farmers' age and off-farm activity. As it occurs, women were underrepresented in these purposive samples as farm managers are mostly men. During the quantitative stage of the research, the use of census data implies that the sample is perfectly representative of gender distributions within the farm manager populations. In addition, the research methodology has been approved by the ethics committee of the University of Guelph, which pays particular attention to inclusiveness.

**\* Ethical Issues**

The PI has collected individual data. To ensure this sensitive data would not be accessible to another party than the PI and his supervisors, farmers' identifiers and farmers' data have been separated in two files. Data was stored in a secured office, which the PI could lock, within the SEDRD faculty and LEREPS research department. In addition, electronic files were stored on a computer secured by a password. In addition, the research design, including ethics, had been approved by the ethics committee of the University of Guelph, which pays particular attention to ethics issues.

**- Justification of subcontracting (if applicable);**

No subcontracting is involved in the project implementation.

*MARSUPIA project - Mikaël Akimowicz*  
*Report period 2*

The content of this report has been approved by the researcher and the scientist in charge assigned to this project. The electronic submission of this report shall replace their signatures.

This declaration was visaed (signed) electronically by S. Kojayan (ECAS user name ncovgael) on 30/06/2017.

## **Attachments / Appendix**