



Life MiCliFeed (LIFE20 CCM/ GR/001703)  
is co-financed by the European Commission  
through the Life Programme



**LIFE**  
**miCliFEED**

# news LETTER vol.1

**March 2022**

✉ [info@lifemiclifed.eu](mailto:info@lifemiclifed.eu)

🌐 [www.lifemiclifed.eu](http://www.lifemiclifed.eu)





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**LIFE MiCliFeed, will run for 5 years aiming to develop circular, bioactive feed additives for sheep and goats to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from livestock production, while at the same time improving animal health and welfare.**

Today we are happy to announce our logo and website (<https://www.lifemiclifeed.eu>) as well as the launching of our social-media accounts under the name “LIFE MiCliFEED”. Stay tuned for our activities and results.

The project involves public and private partners from Greece, Italy, France, and Belgium. Field work will take place in Greece, Italy and France and will involve sheep and goat farmers.

## **THEREFORE, our first Action is getting to know what the farmers' need!**

One of LIFE MiCliFeed preparatory Actions involve the in-depth interviews with the farmers of every partner country to collect information regarding the common practices per country/ region to assess the farmers attitude towards reduction of GHG emissions and sustainable helminth control and their potential adoption of novel concepts of parasite control.

The data of the questionnaires will be used to select the external factors involved in the project and to establish a solid cooperation framework between project partners and the stakeholders.

**1|2: Partners from UNINA, filling the questionnaire, with farmers in Southern Italy.**

**3|4: Partners from HAO-VRI filling the questionnaire, with farmers in West Macedonia, Greece.**



## WHO WE ARE

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### PRESENTING

#### **The Veterinary Research Institute, Hellenic Agricultural Organization**

Veterinary Research Institute (VRI) is a part of the Hellenic Agricultural Organization DEMETER is the national body for Agricultural Research and Technology in Greece ([www.elgo.gr](http://www.elgo.gr); [www.vri.gr](http://www.vri.gr)). VRI is the principal organisation for animal health and welfare R&D and advice in Greece and aims to reduce environmental impacts and improve food quality. LIFE MiCliFeed involves mainly the Team of Parasitology which focus on the epidemiology of parasitic infections and the support of sustainable disease management schemes in livestock (including antiparasitic treatments and alternatives solutions) aiming to improve product quality/safety, addressing EU Policy priorities.



## THE PARASITOLOGY GROUP

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### TEAM LEADER

#### **Dr Smaragda Sotiraki** **(Research Director) – Project Coordinator**

She holds a Degree in Veterinary Medicine and a Doctorate in Veterinary Parasitology, both from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece and conducted post-doctoral research at the Veterinary School in Denmark between 2002 and 2004. She is also a de facto member of the European College for Veterinary Parasitology and since 2018 and elected Member in the Board of EVPC serving as a Secretary up to 2021 and as Vice President from 2021 onwards.

Dr Sotiraki has over 20 years R&D and teaching experience in veterinary parasitology and health management, and he has produced over 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications in well recognized journals with a noteworthy number of citations (h index 26). She has significant managerial experience in research projects.



## Team Members

### THE PARASITOLOGY GROUP



#### **Dr. Rania Baka** **(Post-Doctoral Researcher)**

She graduated as a veterinarian, from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in 2012. She completed an internship program in the Diagnostic Laboratory of the Animal Clinics Veterinary School from where she obtained her Master (2016) and PhD degree (2021). She has significant clinical experience, and her research so far has focused on proteomics and neurology. She has only recently joined the VRI Team (2022) as a post-doctoral researcher.

#### **Dr. Vaia Kantzoura** **(Assistant Researcher)**

She has studied Animal Science at the Agricultural University of Athens, Greece and holds a master's and doctoral degree from the same university on the field of Veterinary Parasitology. She joined VRI in 2016, when she was appointed as a Researcher, and she has been participating in several National and European Research Projects. Her research focuses on the effects of parasitic diseases on animal health and the sustainable management of parasitic diseases in livestock animals with emphasis on modern approaches.



**Dr. Panagiota Ligda**  
**(Post-Doctoral Researcher)**

She graduated in Greece as a Molecular Biologist and Geneticist (Democritus University of Thrace) and obtained a PhD degree in Veterinary Medicine from Ghent University, Belgium in 2020. She is a member of VRI since 2013 participating in several National and European Research Projects, overseeing all molecular parasitology approaches employed. Her research focus is on waterborne and foodborne parasites, as well as vector-borne diseases.



**George Pantsios**  
**(PhD student)**

He is a Medical Laboratory Technologist graduated from the Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki (2016) and he holds a Master on Biomedical and Molecular Sciences in Diagnosis and Therapy of Diseases from the Medical School, Democritus University of Thrace (2021). He is a member of VRI since 2017 participating in various Research Projects and recently conducting a PhD in collaboration with the Veterinary School of AUTH.

**Katerina Saratsi**  
**(Post-Doctoral Researcher)**

She holds a degree as Forester-Environmental-ist and a Master in Forestry and Natural Environment both from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. In 2021 she was awarded her a PhD degree in Animal Science from Agricultural University of Athens. She is a member of VRI since 2013 participating in several National and European Research Projects focusing her research on alternatives to anthelmintics, anthelmintic Resistance and Epidemiology of gastrointestinal nematodes in small ruminants.





