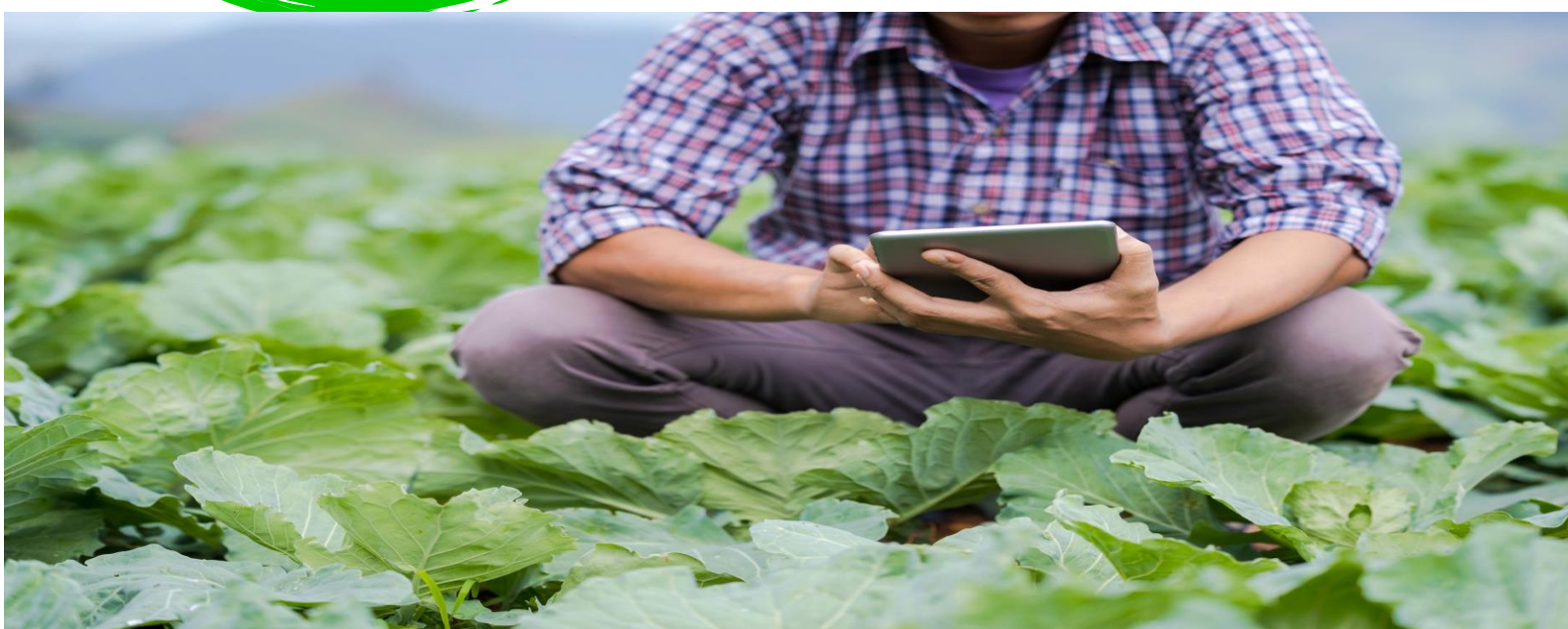




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# NEWSLETTER



## SUMMARY

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| <b>SMALLDERS partners at the International Food Operations and Processing Simulation Workshop (FOODOPS 2025) in Fes, Morocco from September 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2025</b> | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>The 8th IEEE CiSt 2025 Congress, Marrakech, Morocco from October 04<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2025</b>                                                                         | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>The 10th International Conference on Operational Excellence (ICOPEX 2025) Porto, Portugal from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>                                  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>IAOM 13th International conference of the Iberoamerican Academy of Management from 22<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, Madrid, Spain</b>                                   | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>The 34th International Conference of ACEDE from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Pamplona, Spain</b>                                                                    | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Progress of the Italian Testbed</b>                                                                                                                                                  | <b>10</b> |
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## **SMALLDERS 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025, at 2:00 PM in Fes, Morocco**

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The SMALLDERS Project held its 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025, from 2:00 to 3:30 PM, in Fes, Morocco, in hybrid format (with both on-site and online participation). The meeting brought together principal researchers from all partner institutions: the University of Calabria, the University of Parma (Italy), IMT Mines Alès (France), and the University of Extremadura (Spain), while the University of Tunis El Manar (Tunisia) participated online.

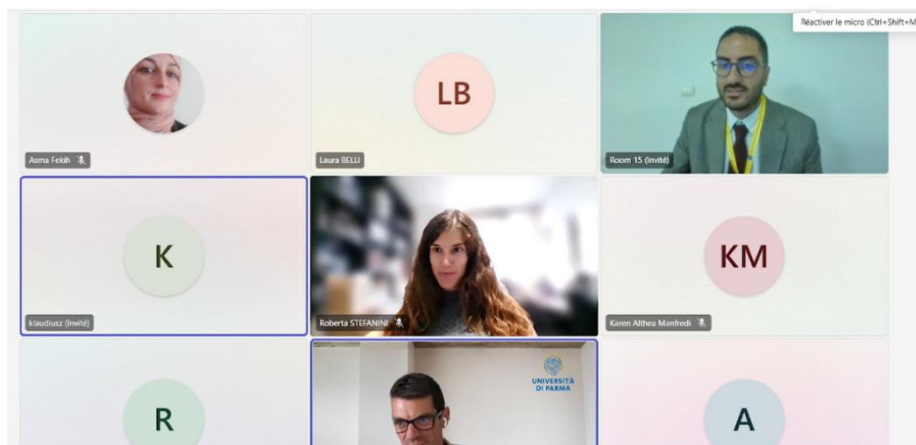


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This final General Assembly marked a pivotal moment to reflect on the achievements accomplished throughout the project, exchange the latest updates from all partners, and assess the overall trajectory leading to its conclusion. Discussions highlighted the successful delivery of key milestones, the advancement of the platform, and the outcomes of integration and testing activities. Particular emphasis was placed on the final coordination steps, dissemination efforts, and practical measures to ensure long-term sustainability of the results.



Partners also took this opportunity to look ahead at potential challenges beyond the project's lifetime, collaboratively explore innovative solutions, and emphasize the crucial importance of stakeholder engagement across all testbeds to maximize impact and ensure long-term benefits. The session was also attended by two members of our Advisory Board, Prof. Emilio Jimenez (University of La Rioja, Spain) and Prof. Adriano Solis (York University, Canada) who provided valuable feedback on the SMALLDERS Platform.

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## **SMALLDERS partners at the International Food Operations and Processing Simulation Workshop (FOODOPS 2025) in Fes, Morocco from September 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2025**

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From 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025, SMALLDERS partners were present at the International Food Operations and Processing Simulation Workshop (FOODOPS 2025) in Fes, Morocco.

Throughout the three days, the team actively engaged in sessions that brought together leading researchers and professionals in the agri-food sector. The participation of SMALLDERS included presentations of the project's latest progress, demonstrations of the platform's features, and exchanges on the results emerging from the experimental testbeds in different countries.

Beyond showcasing technological advancements, the event provided a valuable opportunity to connect with stakeholders, strengthen collaborations, and position SMALLDERS at the heart of international discussions on digital transformation and sustainability in agri-food value chains.

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## The 8th IEEE CiSt 2025 Congress, Marrakech, Morocco from October 04<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2025

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At the 8th IEEE Conference on Information Science and Technology CiSt'25 held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025, Dr. Ayla Amamou presented the paper *"Comparison of Smart Models for Soil Moisture Indicator Estimating: Accuracy & Compute Trade-offs."* Her presentation highlighted the superior performance of the Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) model, which combines high prediction accuracy with low computational cost, offering promising applications for sustainable water management in agriculture.



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## The 10th International Conference on Operational Excellence (ICOPEX 2025) Porto, Portugal from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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At the 10th International Conference on Operational Excellence (ICOPEX 2025), held in Porto, Portugal , from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Islem Kabadou presented the paper *“Mapping Key Performance Indicators to the Shingo Model Dimensions for Operational Excellence: A Systematic Literature Review.”* The study showed how KPIs can be aligned with the Shingo Model to support operational excellence in the context of Industry 4.0 and 5.0, emphasizing the balance between technological efficiency and strategic, human-centered values.

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## IAOM 13th International conference of the Iberoamerican Academy of Management from 22<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, Madrid, Spain

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As part of the dissemination activities of the SMALLDERS project, Dr. José Manuel García Gallego participated in the 13th International Conference of the Iberoamerican Academy of Management. During the event, he presented the main results of Work Package 4 (WP4) on New Business Models for Smallholders, emphasizing innovative approaches to strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of small farmers. His contribution highlighted how the project fosters sustainable practices and creates opportunities for smallholders by integrating digital tools and collaborative value chain models.



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## The 34th International Conference of ACEDE from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Pamplona, Spain

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Dr. Sergio Rubio presented the latest results of the SMALLDERS project at the 34th edition of the Spanish Academy of Management (ACEDE) Conference. His presentation showcased recent project achievements, with a particular focus on the development of innovative business models and digital solutions to support smallholders and promote sustainability within agri-food value chains.



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## Progress of the Italian Testbed

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Another testbed has been established in Italy at the Azienda Sperimentale Stuard in Parma, a renowned agricultural research center founded in 1983. With over four decades of expertise, Stuard plays a leading role in promoting sustainable farming practices, organic cultivation, and biodiversity conservation. The center conducts cutting-edge research, field trials, and training activities to support innovation in agriculture while preserving local heritage and ecosystems. Its involvement as a testbed provides a unique opportunity to integrate scientific knowledge with practical applications, strengthening the impact of sustainable solutions across Europe.



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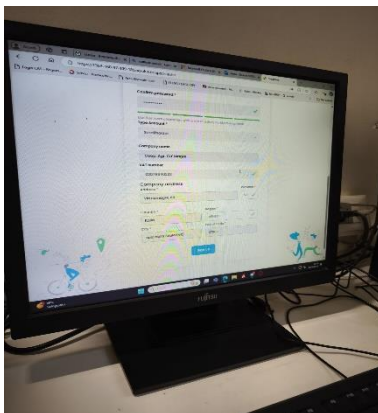
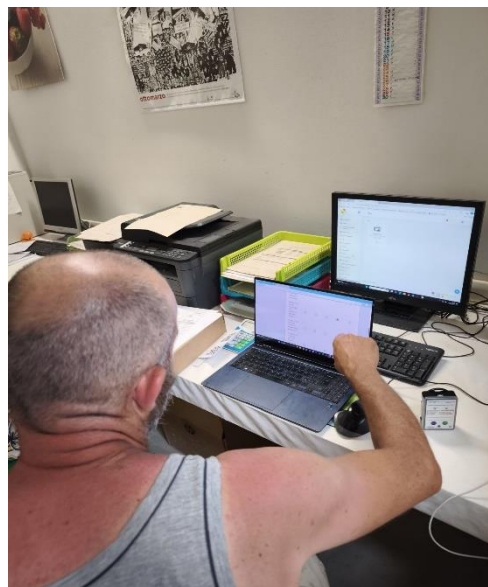


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## Italian Technical Workshop for farmers at Ca' Magre , June 13<sup>th</sup> 2025, Italy

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On June 13<sup>th</sup> 2025, the Italian team of the SMALLDERS project held a workshop with small farmers at Ca' Magre in Isola della Scala. The session focused on sensor installation, a hands-on platform demonstration, and the completion of a feedback questionnaire.



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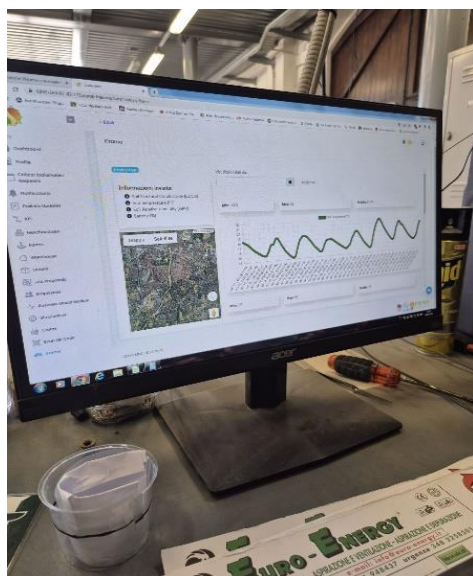


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## Italian Technical Workshop for farmers at Azienda Sperimentale Stuard , from March 26<sup>th</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup> 2025, Italy

12

As part of the Italian testbed, several workshops were held from March 26<sup>th</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with small farmers at Azienda Sperimentale Stuard. These workshops served as live tests of the platform's functionalities, including QR code usage and the different traceability phases.





## Italian Technical Workshop for the transport company, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2025, Italy

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On June 13th, 2025, the Italian team of the SMALLDERS project held a workshop with the transport company Zamboni Transervice to explore and test the use of the SMALLDERS digital platform.







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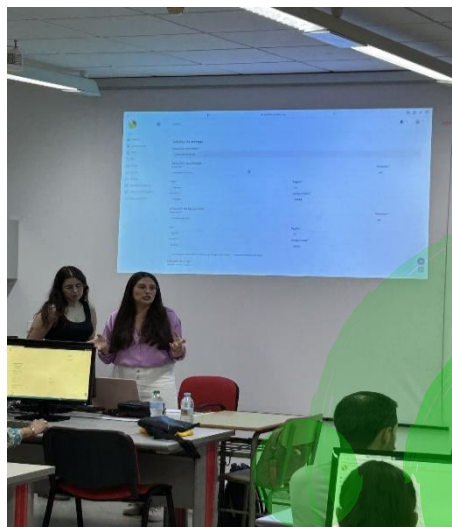
## Progress of the Spanish Testbed Technical Workshop for Citizens, July 3<sup>th</sup> 2025, Spain

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On July 3<sup>th</sup> 2025, the Spanish team of the SMALLDERS project had the pleasure of organizing a technical workshop dedicated to our colleagues and students at the University of Extremadura, to introduce them to the use of the SMALLDERS platform as citizens.

The session featured a presentation of the platform's overall and specific objectives, along with an overview of the experimental Testbeds established in each partner country.

Participants also attended a live demonstration showcasing key functionalities of the SMALLDERS platform, including profile creation, KPI evaluation, exploration of job opportunities, and access to the online store.



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## Feedback Driving Platform Improvement

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As part of the Spanish testbed, several meetings were organized with small farmers, transport companies, key stakeholders, and policy makers. These exchanges provided valuable feedback that is being used to refine the design and enhance the performance of the SMALLDERS platform, ensuring it better meets the needs of the agri-food sector.





## Progress of the Tunisian Testbed

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The Tunisian team continued to engage actively with the stakeholders who have been using the SMALLDERS platform. Through regular communication and follow-up sessions, the team provided guidance to help them better understand the platform's functionalities and adapt its use to their specific operational contexts. This ongoing interaction also aimed to encourage the integration of the platform into their daily workflows, fostering more efficient data use and decision-making in the field.

To assess the platform's usability and collect valuable feedback, the Tunisian partner distributed an evaluation form. The responses gathered will contribute to identifying areas for improvement and ensuring that the platform effectively meets the needs of its end-users.



## Progress of the French Testbed

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The French team engaged stakeholders through a series of online workshops aimed at presenting the SMALLDERS platform and demonstrating its practical applications. Participants, including farmers, researchers, and local partners, explored how the platform could support their operations and enhance data-driven decision-making in their specific contexts.

Following the workshops, the French partner sent out a feedback form to gather participants' impressions and experiences. The collected responses will provide valuable insights to refine the platform and ensure it remains aligned with users' needs and expectations.

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