



ContaminatEd land Remediation
through Energy crops for Soil Improvement
to liquid biofuel Strategies

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PRESS RELEASE

Final meeting and final event of the EU research project CERESiS at Thessaloniki, Greece

22-23 April 2024

CERESiS project is reaching its end after almost three and a half years of continued research and implementation. In the framework of its finalization, a final meeting and a final event were organized and took place in Thessaloniki, at CERTH facilities. Partners gathered together in the final meeting, to report on the latest achievements of their work, while they also presented findings and conclusions during the final event. The final meeting followed the same approach as all of the previous consortium meetings and it lasted a full day. The final event was a half day event that also hosted invited speakers from the field of biofuels and soil contamination, with a physical presence of a total of 55 participants, while approximately 13 additional participants attended online.

The aim of the final event was to present to the broader public the positioning of CERESiS within the broader context of the issue of exploiting biomass from contaminated soils for the production of sustainable biofuels and to also showcase the main CERESiS project outputs, including presentation of the developed technologies and demonstration of the Decision Support System.

In the first part, the event hosted invited speakers in the field of soil contamination and biofuels for transport, while the two sister projects (GOLD & Phy2Climate) that have been funded under the same Horizon 2020 Call were invited to present their key results. Further, other relevant peer projects were also invited (XTRACT and Waste4Soil) to discuss their perspective on phytoremediation, soil recovery, biofuel production, and resource recovery. Overall, the first part of the event promoted the discussion of how phytoremediation can be exploited both as a means of contaminated soil management, as well as a means to produce biomass appropriate for the production of sustainable biofuels.

The second part of the event was devoted to the presentation of the key CERESiS results. These includes results from the three project pillars, the phytoremediation pillar, the technological pillar, and the Decision Support pillar. Results included the main energy crops cultivated in the contamination sites in the four use cases Italy, Brazil, the UK, and Ukraine,



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the findings from the biomass to biofuel conversion technologies and cleaning technologies, and a live demonstration of the Decision Support System.

CERESiS outcomes and conclusions based on the discussions during the Final Event

- There is significant work ongoing on the mapping of the various land types at the EU level, however, due to data sensitivities, information on contaminated lands remain restricted
- Phytoremediation can constitute an effective technique not only for the management of contaminated lands, but also for providing an additional route of sustainable biomass exploitation for the production of biofuels
- New datasets from phytoremediation experiments worldwide are becoming available on the basis of the work of several EU-funded projects. Such data can be further used to provide the practical perspectives towards mainstreaming phytoremediation within the EU Soil and Sustainable Biofuels policy framework
- The CERESiS Decision Support System can provide a valuable analytical basis to decision makers to allow them to explore economically viable and technically feasible phytoremediation solutions for contaminated land management as well as to analyze sustainable biofuel value chains (from feedstock production to liquid biofuels production for transport production)

Highlights of the Final Event

Throughout the event, a posters exhibition took place in the area outside the Auditorium and participants had the opportunity to have a closer look at the CERESiS results and to discuss with project partners. At the end of the event, a guided tour of the interested participants to the CERTH facilities and laboratories was conducted; in the tour, the experimental set-ups and dedicated equipment that were used in the course of the project were presented, also providing insights on the work done. Photos of the Final Event are presented below.



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Photos



Snapshots of the poster installations



Project partners in the surrounding area of the conference building



Laboratories tour



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