



# ECOLOGICAL use of native PLANTS for environmental restoration and sustainable development in the MEDITERRANEAN region

## ECOPLANTMED

EcoPlantMed

**Priority 2** Promotion of environmental sustainability at the basin level

**Measure 2.1** Prevention and reduction of risk factors for the environment and enhancement of natural common heritage



Project  
funded by the  
**EUROPEAN UNION**



**ENPI  
CBCMED**  
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

## Project in brief

Besides being one of the world's most bio-diverse regions, the Mediterranean Basin is also considered amongst the four most significantly altered biodiversity hotspots of the planet. Many valuable native plants are threatened with extinction due to the degradation of their habitats and related environmental risks, which mainly originate from human activities. This inestimable natural heritage should therefore be protected and enhanced through the improvement of local actors management capacity in order to implement preventive measures able to combine economic purposes with ecological restoration.

Combating the loss of biodiversity and promoting a sustainable development model in both sides of the Mediterranean is the challenge that **ECOPLANTMED** project intends to face. Local administrators will be encouraged to respect the commitments deriving from international conventions (such as the Convention on Biological Diversity) thanks to a common environmentally model significantly contributing to a joined development of the Mediterranean eco-region.

## Beneficiary

CIHEAM - Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (Greece, Kriti)

## Partnership

1. University of Cagliari, Department of Life and Environmental Sciences - Centre for the Conservation of Biodiversity (Italy, Sardegna)
2. Saint Joseph University (Lebanon)
3. Generalitat Valenciana, Regional Ministry of Infrastructure, Territory and Environment (Spain, Comunidad Valenciana)
4. National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water And Forestry (Tunisia, Ariana)

## Specific objective

To promote the conservation, enhancement and sustainable use of native plants of the Mediterranean for ecological restoration of degraded habitats and for the development of new economic sectors by improving the management capacity of local actors

## Expected results

- Natural heritage of the Mediterranean region preserved through *ex situ* conservation of threatened plant species
- Common standardized methodologies and tools for the management and sustainable use of native plant species and resources implemented
- Environmental management capacity and governance improved at local level
- New economic sector for native plants production promoted
- Public awareness on the importance of the use of native plants for restoration activities increased: 500 local actors informed through local events, 300 stakeholders trained during workshops and 1000 stakeholders provided with guidelines and protocols on restoration practices for Mediterranean habitats

## Main activities

- Elaboration of common guidelines and criteria on conservation and propagation of Mediterranean native plants
- Collection of genetic material from target plant species and *ex situ* conservation in local seed banks
- Definition of a common list including 50-75 target plant species for habitat restoration activities
- Drafting of a manual with practical protocols for the propagation of target native plant species
- Ecological restoration pilot actions carried out in Lebanon and Tunisia

## Target groups

- Public authorities and development agencies dealing with environmental management and plant genetic resources management
- Private plant production sector
- Landscape architects/garden designers
- Scientists, environmental educators, NGOs and land stewardship initiatives

## Final beneficiaries

- Local communities
- Public authorities and development agencies of the Mediterranean area
- Private and public plant production sector
- Tourism industry

## Duration

24 months (January 2014 - December 2015)

## Budget

- Total budget: € 1.050.363
- Programme contribution: € 945.327 (90%)
- Project co-financing: € 105.036 (10%)

## Website

[www.ecoplantmed.eu](http://www.ecoplantmed.eu)

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