

Partnership



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Crete, Greece
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University of Cagliari

Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity
(UNICA - CCB)
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Saint Joseph University

Laboratory for Seed Germination and Conservation
(USJ)
Lebanon
www.usj.edu.lb



Regional Ministry of Infrastructures, Territory and Environment

Centre for Forest Applied Research
(CIEF)
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National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry

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www.ecoplantmed.eu

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The project ECOPLANTMED total budget is 1.050 million Euro and it is financed, for an amount of 0.945 million Euro (90%), by the European Union (ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme) through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

Disclaimer: This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union under the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of CIHEAM – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union or of the Programme's management structures.



www.ecoplantmed.eu

Ecological use of native plants for environmental restoration and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.



What is the objective of ECOPLANTMED?

ECOPLANTMED aims to contribute to halting the loss of biodiversity and to promote a sustainable development model in the Mediterranean region by enhancing the conservation of native plants and promoting their use in habitat restoration and the plant production sector.

Why do we promote the use of native plants?

The Mediterranean Basin is one of the most bio-diverse regions and the third most significant plant diversity hotspot worldwide with 25,000 plant species, over half of which are found nowhere else in the world. A mere 5% of the original extent of the hotspot remains with relatively intact vegetation and this is mainly due to human activities.

Using native plants for habitat restoration or as a substitute for exotic ornamental plants on both public and private land can contribute to long-term protection and enhancement of our natural and cultural heritage as well as landscape protection, management and planning. Furthermore, using native plants can increase ecosystem resilience to climate change and combat the proliferation of invasive alien plants.

Who does the project address?

- Public authorities & development agencies dealing with environmental management and plant genetic resources management
- Public & private plant production sectors
- Landscape architects & garden designers
 - Scientists & researchers
 - Environmental educators
 - Environmental organisations
 - Local communities, farmers & the wide public



What are the main outputs?

- *Ex situ* conservation of native plant species in seed banks
- Manual with protocols for the propagation of native plant species
- Guide of best restoration practices for Mediterranean habitats
- Management plans for the restoration of Mediterranean habitats using native plants for two pilot areas initiating to be restored in Lebanon and Tunisia
- Local workshops and dissemination events involving target groups and beneficiaries
- Collaborative actions in the Mediterranean region in relation to the conservation, sustainable use and valorisation of native plants

