

Project 1: Bioresources For Oliviculture (BeFOre)

Objective

The project aims at establishing a multi-lateral network of research and innovation staff active in olive germplasm access, conservation, evaluation and exploitation, strengthening research capacities through the exchange of knowledge and expertise on a shared research programme focused on developing integrated common protocols to phenotype and characterize plants at molecular, morphological and physiological level, and evaluating the olive oil quality related to varieties. The scientific results of the project will contribute at improving the potential of the olive germplasm collections, repositories and banks as main sources of variability and of the evaluation tools to be used to increase oliviculture sustainability. Particular attention will be paid to issues concerned to international intellectual property rights for conserving, exchanging and using the olive genetic resources. Another aim is to create a long lasting network among partners also promoting new common projects in the frame of Horizon2020 and other international funding sources. The joint exchange programme will involve 9 beneficiaries and 6 partners belonging to AC and NAC sectors and will be performed through a series of short and long term staff exchanges and workshops among European (Italy, Spain, Greece and France) and third countries (Lebanon, Morocco, Jordan, Argentina, Chile and Mexico). The International Olive Council (IOC), represented by IOC Executive Director, Jean-Louis Barjol, expressed its strong support to “BeFOre” planning to play an important role in dissemination activities. Experienced and early stage researchers, technicians and managers, are expected to be exchanged between EU and TC to ensure a good scientific transfer of knowledge and training. Enhancement of careers for the staff involved is expected. The project coordination and management will be ensured by the contribution of a well established coordination group and a Steering Committee.

Involved countries: Italy, Spain, France, Greece, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Argentina, Mexico and Chili.

Funding: European Union (EU) - MSCA-RISE - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE).

Budget: € 1 296 000.

Duration: 2015–2019.

Project 2: Cross Border Living laboratories for Agroforestry **(LIVINGAGRO)**

Summary

The project aims at experimenting two cross-border Living Laboratories based on Open Innovation approaches, to sustain education, R&D and TT in agroforestry reinforcing the co-operation between research, Institution, SME's, farmers and their Organizations, industries and in general users. A specific focus will be on Agroforestry, considering olive multifunctional system (Living Laboratory 1) and grazed woodlands (Living Laboratory 2). Olive cultivation is representative of many Mediterranean rural areas, and traditionally olive orchards were managed as agroforestry systems, in combination with cereals, fodder legumes and/or pasture. Grazed woodlands are major agroforestry systems in the Mediterranean that highly contribute to sustaining Mediterranean local economies supplying both vegetal and animal products. The technology fields potentially interested in the project are many. Innovations, such as IT, agricultural machinery, new food products, new varieties, new omics techniques, new/optimized uses of agricultural, Forestry and breeding by-products and residues will be interested, extending the influence of the project in many sectors of the economy and related policies. The production and marketing sectors and, finally, the policy areas for the definition of regulatory instruments will be progressively involved with deeper analysis and a more numerous audience. These issues will be pursued using an Open Innovation approach implying the setting-up of two Living Laboratories making possible the co-creation of the economic and social values and the interactions between supply and demand for innovation and between stakeholders, eliminating geographical and cultural barriers. The project addresses the joint challenges of the Mediterranean area referring to farms, livestock, research centers, university, researchers, public or private companies for environmental protection, SMEs, Policymaker, Artisans and, in general, users.

Involved countries: Italy, Lebanon, Jordan, Greece.

Funding: European Union (EU) - ENI CBC MED Programme.

Budget: € 3 333 164 , 22.

Duration: 2019–2022.