

**G-01-2024**

**Date of award: 28 November 2024**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Beneficiary(ies)</b>	<b>Description of the project</b>	<b>Duration</b>
EduCyprus	Periopsis Ltd., Cyprus	<p>Climate change is a major challenge for European forests, particularly in the South Mediterranean region, where frequent heat waves, prolonged droughts have been observed, followed by large wildfires in Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey. IPCC projections indicate a high risk of desertification in the region. Climate change is likely to lead to disturbances to Mediterranean forests, thus the urgency of adopting adaptation measures. Climate-Smart Forestry (CSF) offers a comprehensive approach to address these challenges by integrating sustainable forest management practices. EduCyprus-CSF aims to build awareness and share knowledge of CSF in Cyprus through a range of activities for local stakeholders. The highly novel GAEA geospatial tool that offers forestry analytics via geoinformatics and remote sensing, will be used to engage stakeholders and raise awareness about CSF-based restoration actions and the importance of Mediterranean forests. This will happen by means of data stories, geo-visualizations, online learning modules and geo-analytics, empowered by the rich geospatial services provided by GAEA. The project will mainly target citizens, NGOs and policymakers, engaging them through a series of educational activities to increase awareness on CSF, educate on its importance, and co-design relevant initiatives applying CSF locally. These initiatives will empower local communities and stakeholders to actively contribute to CSF decision-making and policy development. Key activities include using GAEA for creating educational material on forestry and local biodiversity based on environmental geo-analytics, organising field visits to the Troodos mountain and afforestation actions with NGOs and local authorities, as well as workshops tailored to train NGOs and policymakers on CSF practices and use of emerging technologies for environmental conservation. A final event will take place to share knowledge, exchange experiences, and articulate a policy recommendations paper for CSF stakeholders.</p>	Start: 12/2024 12 Months

Green Galicia	Gallanova Norte, S.L.U., Spain	<p>Project Summary: Galicia, a European forestry powerhouse, faces significant challenges due to high wildfire incidence, dispersed rural population, and fragmented forest management by Comunidades de Montes Vecinales en Mano Común (CMVMC). These issues hinder sustainable forest management and increase vulnerability to climate change. The "Green Galicia" project aims to enhance forest resilience and promote sustainable management through active community participation and Climate-Smart Forestry (CSF) practices. Objectives: The project seeks to (1) improve wildfire prevention by creating natural firebreaks and diversifying forest species, (2) train local communities and CMVMCs in sustainable forest management and CSF practices, (3) foster citizen participation in decision-making processes, and (4) develop technological tools for fire risk monitoring and management. Target Audience: The project primarily targets CMVMC members, local communities living near forests, and other stakeholders involved in forest management. Specific efforts will ensure the inclusion of underrepresented groups, such as women and youth, to foster broader engagement and knowledge sharing. Activities: Key activities include implementing a pilot plan for natural firebreaks, organizing training workshops on CSF practices, establishing advisory committees for citizen participation, and developing a mobile app for fire risk monitoring. The app will be designed to allow continued use and maintenance by CMVMCs beyond the project period. These activities will be carried out in collaboration with local communities, leveraging their knowledge and engagement. Implementation: The project will be executed over 18 months, with regular community workshops, pilot projects for firebreak creation, and the development of digital tools. Continuous feedback from participants will be integrated to ensure the project's relevance and effectiveness. Additional resources will be allocated for documenting and disseminating the project's results, including creating best practices guides and distributing them through digital platforms and regional events. The outcomes will be documented and shared for broader replication across Galicia and other regions.</p>	Start: 12/2024 18 Months
MIMONTE	Fundación Desert Leaves, Spain	Roughly one third of eastern Spain is tree-covered forestland; 70% of these forests are owned by families, typically by inheritance, and very often on abandoned agricultural land. Most of these generate no economic income	Start: 11/2024 18 Months

	<p>Pego Viu, Spain</p> <p>Egenerastudio Sl, Spain</p>	<p>nowadays. While forests owned by public bodies still receive some maintenance, paid for with tax money, most private owners do not invest in their forests, hence allowing these to suffer from climate related problems such as drought, wildfires, plant diseases and reduced biodiversity. MIMONTE seeks to promote the Climate Smart restoration and management of Mediterranean forests in degraded areas of eastern Spain empowering local actors, and disseminating the knowledge gained. The Project leverages on 4 reforestation projects, in the municipalities of Pego, Fuente la Reina, Sant Joan de Labritja, and Sant Josep de Sa Talaia. The objectives of MIMONTE are: (1) Increase the knowledge about climate smart reforestation in drylands through sensibilisation campaigns at regional and provincial levels. (2) Engage local communities and facilitate public/private collaborations in climate smart forestry financing, developments and governance. The audience is local communities, private companies, municipalities and NGO's. The path is to follow a bottom-up approach to go from municipal to province and autonomous community levels.</p>	
<p>RESTART</p>	<p>Spiritus Mundi ODV, Italy</p> <p>Collettivo Pictor, Italy</p>	<p>The RESTART project has the objective to raise awareness, educate and engage local communities on the importance of lowland forest restoration for climate change mitigation in Padua Province, Italy. To reach this goal, the project will focus on 2 workstreams:(1) developing a fully fledged educational campaign, including guided tours, school lectures, planting events, printed material, videos and social media contents on the importance of forests in climate change mitigation, with a specific focus on nemoral flora; (2) promoting artistic expression, engaging the local population in a transformative journey to reflect and re-imagine its relationship with forests. These two streams will converge in the “Cammina, impara, disegna” events (“Walk, learn, draw”), a transformative moment for participants to learn, reflect and reimagine their relationship with forests. In-situ activities will take place in three forested areas in the municipalities of Albignasego, Rubano and Saonara. The initiative addresses the urgent need for climate mitigation and forest restoration in the Province of Padua, where anthropic activities led to the near disappearance of lowland forests. Soil consumption caused a massive fragmentation of natural areas into a constellation of tiny islands, which are usually excluded from</p>	<p>Start: 12/2024</p> <p>18 Months</p>

		wider-scale restoration projects because of their limited biodiversity relevance.	
Y-FOREST	Centar za mlade VG, Croatia	<p>Y-FOREST addresses the urgent need for climate-smart forestry (CSF) practices in Velika Gorica, where local forests face threats from climate change and unsustainable management. This project aims to empower youth and local communities by providing education, raising awareness, and fostering active participation in sustainable forest management. Objectives: (1) Educate and Raise Awareness: Enhance knowledge among youth workers, volunteers, and the community on CSF and its role in combating climate change (2) Engage and Empower: Involve local communities, especially youth, in CSF activities and decision-making processes related to forest management (3) Develop Collaborative Networks: Build partnerships with local stakeholders, including the Public Institution for Nature Protection, to ensure the sustainability of CSF initiatives. Target audience: The project targets youth workers, volunteers, local educators, and the broader community, with a particular focus on young people. Activities: (1.) Educational workshops and training (months 1-6): Interactive sessions led by experts on CSF and sustainable forestry practices, training participants to become CSF ambassadors (2.) Youth-led CSF campaign and art exhibition (months 7-10): A campaign involving the creation of educational content and an art exhibition to raise public awareness of the importance of forests in climate change mitigation (3.) Guided forest excursions and volunteer activities (months 11-13): Hands-on excursions and volunteer work in local forests, focusing on restoration and sustainable management practices. (4.) Final reporting and knowledge sharing (month 14): A comprehensive report and knowledge-sharing event to disseminate the project's outcomes. Y-FOREST aims to foster a community deeply engaged in and knowledgeable about sustainable forestry practices, ensuring long-term environmental resilience.</p>	<p>Start: 11/2024 14 Months</p>