



MEDSNAIL

“Sustainable Networks for Agro-food
Innovation Leading in the Mediterranean”

ENI CBC Med programme

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIANCE FOR A FAIR,
SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND COMPETITIVE
AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM
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MEDITERRANEAN ALLIANCE FOR A FAIR, SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND COMPETITIVE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM

Through the **ENI CBC MedSNAIL project** “Sustainable Networks for Agro-food Innovation Leading in the Mediterranean”, **seven Mediterranean areas have re-evaluated and tested tools for the transformation and economic and ecological sustainability of the agri-food sector** to respond to **the following challenges:**

1. Vulnerability of agricultural ecosystems to climate change, especially soil desertification and decreasing precipitation levels.
2. Loss of indigenous products and traditional channels due to pressure from large food industries and therefore difficulties in ensuring the competitiveness of small and medium-sized agri-food enterprises.
3. Decline of rural areas—in a process of demographic emptying—that affects the generational renewal of the main economic activities associated with food production and commercialisation.
4. Lack of spaces of governance in agri-food matters to bring together the different agents that make up the chain and therefore promote agreements, exchanges, and pacts.

MedSNAIL also means an opportunity to work on the optimisation of the following scenarios:

1. Paradigm shift after the Covid 19 pandemic makes evident the interdependence between rural and urban areas and therefore the need to maintain the balance of food ecosystems.
2. Existence of multiple initiatives and local companies resistant to market pressure that condense a large amount of accumulated knowledge linked to the resilience and nature of the Mediterranean agri-food system.
3. Recognition by international reference bodies such as the FAO of the environmental footprint of diets and food production on ecosystems, which has been reflected in EU programme instruments for the 2021-2027 period such as “From Farm to Fork”.

The development of the different activities within the framework of MedSNAIL has strengthened awareness among the partnership and its associated local communities about the challenges outlined above, by designing local solutions adapted to the idiosyncrasies of each territory and sharing tools, learning and strategies that allow testing and undertaking a profound transformation of local food systems towards more sustainable, resilient, and competitive models.



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With the aim of bringing together and consolidating the strategic purposes of the actors involved in MedSNAIL, and extensively other actors in the territory, through the definition of a shared framework that allows to face the main challenges while strengthening the agri-food sector and Mediterranean ecosystems, **this alliance, composed of 4 GOALS, expresses the agreement and commitment of the undersigned entities to a fair, sustainable, resilient and competitive agri-food transformation at a local level. These goals, including a number of action lines, are the following:**

1

ARTICULATION OF THE DIFFERENT ACTORS IN THE FOOD SYSTEM.

- Contribute to the development of agri-food planning instruments (management plans, strategies, protocols) that enable the coordination of actors and resources at local level as well as the definition of strategic roadmaps.
- Promote the development of public policies working towards food sovereignty and the reduction of the impact of the food system in our territories.
- Weave alliances with supra-local structures in the food sector to enable the exchange of knowledge, tools, and know-how applicable to the territory.
- Encourage the link between citizenship and the food system, especially among young people, by creating educational spaces for their participation, learning and experimentation, such as urban gardens, eco-kitchens, etc.
- Encourage the impelling of any kind of initiative focused on food governance.
- Contribute to the mapping, identification, and monitoring of unique food experiences along the food chain.
- Recognise and value the crucial role of rural communities, especially women, in the sustainability of the food system and the preservation of traditional food knowledge.

2

STRENGTHENING MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED FOOD ENTERPRISES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

- Support direct sales and processing of products at the point of origin to increase the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and reduce the environmental impact of the sector.
- Encourage generational renewal in the agri-food sector by strengthening the role of non-urban areas in their capacity to generate employment in this field.
- Contribute to the implementation of collective processing systems that allow



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the optimisation of investment and costs for small and medium-sized agri-food enterprises.

- Strengthen local markets as strategic sales outlets for small and medium-sized producers.
- Facilitate the implementation of innovative technologies, tools and systems that allow a maximised use of agri-food resources and their by-products.

3

SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION OF CONSUMPTION

- Support the dissemination and communication of local and seasonal products as tools capable of transforming citizens' consumption habits.
- Strengthen the link between the culinary and production sectors to bring local diets closer to local products and reduce the consumption of non-local food.
- Guarantee access to sustainable and healthy food and especially to vulnerable groups by supporting the establishment of public food procurement systems.

4

REDUCTION OF THE IMPACT, PRESERVATION AND REGENERATION OF MEDITERRANEAN FOOD SYSTEMS.

- Get to know, and analyse indigenous food ecosystems and/or those adapted to the environmental needs of the territory and promote them so as to preserve the balance of biodiversity in the territory.
- Contribute to preserving traditional knowledge linked to the productive and culinary sector.
- Promote and support the development of systems for monitoring and measure the impact of the food industry on the territory.
- Promote the development of collective logistics and distribution systems, in favour of the decarbonisation of the agri-food chain.
- Promote the reduction of agricultural inputs in the productive sectors in favour of the reinforcement of biodiversity, soil quality and agro-ecological management.
- Encourage research into the adaptative capacity of traditional varieties and increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change.



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