



PRESS RELEASE

EIGHT MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES JOIN FORCES TO RETHINK THE FUTURE OF LIVESTOCK FARMING

Three million euros to develop innovative agroecological models for sheep and poultry farming. The ASPmed project promotes the sustainable transition of Mediterranean livestock systems through research, innovation and international cooperation.

How can livestock farming become more sustainable, resilient and integrated with the environment in one of the regions most exposed to the effects of climate change? This is the challenge addressed by **ASPmed – Agroforestry practices for Agroecological transition towards sustainable Sheep and Poultry farming in the Mediterranean region** (project ID: ANR-25-PRIM-0013), an international research and innovation project involving eight Mediterranean countries and a network of universities, research centres and organisations committed to the agroecological transition of livestock systems.

Funded by the European **PRIMA programme (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area)** with an overall budget of approximately **3 million euros**, ASPmed aims to develop and disseminate new agroecological models for sheep and poultry farming through the integration of livestock activities and agroforestry practices. The project promotes innovative solutions designed to improve environmental sustainability, climate resilience and farm profitability, while enhancing natural resources and territorial biodiversity.

Coordinated by the University of Turin, ASPmed brings together scientific and institutional partners from **Italy, Portugal, Spain, France, Croatia, Türkiye, Egypt and Algeria**, creating a collaborative network across the entire Mediterranean basin and fostering the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices.

Thanks to INRAE, a consortium partner in ASPmed, **Diversity & Development** actively contributes to the project by bringing its expertise in communication, territorial storytelling, and the visibility of local experiences throughout the Mediterranean region. Building on its experience in European cooperation initiatives such as the Erasmus+ project SUS-TER (Networking Knowledge, Skills and Competencies for an Inclusive and Sustainable Territorial Valorization of Cultural Heritage, Origin Products and Biodiversity), Diversity & Development will focus on amplifying the voices of rural communities, women, young people, and local actors who are shaping innovative

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pathways towards more sustainable food systems. Through its involvement in communication, participatory processes, knowledge-sharing, training, and innovation transfer activities, the organization plays a strategic role in supporting the project's objectives and promoting more sustainable, resilient, and territorially rooted livestock systems across the Mediterranean.

Special attention is given to the role of small-scale farmers in Mediterranean rural areas, who are considered key actors in the adoption and dissemination of more sustainable production practices. The project addresses the main challenges faced by small sheep and poultry farms in a context marked by climate change, pressure on natural resources and evolving agri-food markets.

ASPmed also promotes social inclusion and outreach initiatives targeting different audiences. These include “**ASPmed for Kids**”, dedicated to primary schools through educational activities on agroecology, biodiversity, animal welfare and food sustainability, and “**ASPmed & Diversability**”, an initiative exploring the potential of animal-assisted activities with animals raised in agroecological systems as a tool to support inclusion and the wellbeing of people with disabilities.

The project activities provide an interdisciplinary platform for dialogue on agroecology, addressed from scientific, technical, social and legal perspectives, and foster interaction among research, farming enterprises, institutions and civil society. Through a participatory and multi-actor approach, ASPmed aims to build concrete pathways for the ecological transition of Mediterranean agri-food systems.

Through ASPmed, the consortium partners strengthen their commitment to research and innovation for the sustainability of Mediterranean agri-food systems, contributing to the development of shared solutions to address the environmental, economic and social challenges affecting the livestock sector.

Further information

Project website: www.aspmmed.eu

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