Youth Participatory Proposals

This is a set of participatory proposals created within JOIN - Transnational Network of Young Women for an Ecological Just and Social Transition.
This project is financed by the Erasmus + programme and emerges from the European Green Deal and the resolve of the partners: Municipality of Murcia (Spain), GAIA (Portugal), Tou-Play (Italy) and Filoxenia (Grecia) to address the Gender, Digital and Territorial (urban-rural) gap.

We have engaged youth from 4 different countries, with whom we have worked for over a year, in all the phases of the co-creation of this document. Firstly, we held an international week-long learning exchange in Portugal (São Luís), for 24 youngsters, in which we designed together with them activities to implement in their local communities. Since then we have implemented multiple activities with youth in the four different countries and now we have engaged them in imagining the proposals described in this document.

With this proposal document we are articulating the different outputs from the activities implemented with youth during the JOIN project and possible interventions to enhance the resilience and sustainability of their communities and Europe. We want to share these results with decision makers, local authorities and responsible administrators, aiming to support the design of policies that promote more just, equitable and inclusive futures.

During the whole project, as well as in this document we address 4 main topics:

A) Biodiversity and environment
B) Water and agriculture
C) Depopulation
D) Circular economy

In this document the following proposals are detailed:

1. Orchestrating Change: Youth Awareness and Training in Orchard Conservation in Mediterranean Europe
2. Nurturing Tomorrow's Guardians for Wetland Conservation Awareness and Youth Ambassadorship
3. ‘Reviving the Bee Repopulation in the Segura River, Murcia’
4. Local Food System - LFS
5. Educational programme for sustainability, with young people aged 13 to 18
6. Municipal composting
7. Local food festival
8. Empowering Rural Women in Kryoneri through Carpooling

The methodology used to structure the different proposals is inspired by the model of Sociocracy 3.0, ensuring that all the different proposals, adapted to the different places and circumstances, are clear and understandable for everyone and co-created and consented by all involved.

BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Municipality of Murcia - Spain

1. Orchestrating Change: Youth Awareness and Training in Orchard Conservation in Mediterranean Europe

Purpose of the proposal
Introduction

The Mediterranean region, with its sun-drenched landscapes and rich cultural traditions, has long been celebrated for its lush orchards bearing a bountiful array of fruits. These orchards, characterized by olive groves, citrus trees, vineyards, and countless other fruit-bearing varieties, are not only vital for the region's agricultural diversity but also emblematic of its cultural heritage. However, the orchards of Mediterranean Europe now face formidable challenges, from urbanization and habitat loss to changing agricultural practices and the mounting impact of climate change.

In response to these pressing concerns, this project proposal aims to raise awareness and provide training for young people in the conservation and rejuvenation of orchard ecosystems in Mediterranean Europe.

Mediterranean Orchards: A Cultural and Ecological Treasure

Mediterranean orchards, spanning regions from Spain to France, Greece, Italy, to Cyprus, have played an integral role in shaping the cultural, culinary, and ecological landscapes of this diverse region. These orchards are more than just sources of sustenance; they are vibrant ecosystems that support biodiversity, provide shade and respite, and serve as living testaments to centuries-old agricultural traditions. Olives, figs, grapes, and citrus fruits thrive here, offering flavors that embody the essence of the Mediterranean.

Challenges Threatening Mediterranean Orchards

Despite their cultural and ecological significance, Mediterranean orchards face a multitude of challenges:

• Habitat Degradation: The expansion of urban areas and monoculture farming practices have led to the degradation and fragmentation of orchard habitats.
• Biodiversity Loss: The loss of orchards results in the decline of biodiversity, affecting pollinators, birds, and other wildlife that depend on these ecosystems.
• Cultural Erosion: Traditional agricultural knowledge is at risk of disappearing as younger generations move away from rural areas, leading to a loss of heritage and practices.
• Climate Vulnerability: Mediterranean orchards are increasingly vulnerable to climate change, with rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and unpredictable weather patterns affecting crop yields and health.

The Vision of the European Project in Mediterranean Orchards

In response to the mounting threats facing Mediterranean orchards, the European project for youth awareness raising and training in orchard conservation has been conceived as a comprehensive and forward-thinking initiative. The project's primary aim is to rejuvenate and safeguard the ecological and cultural balance of Mediterranean orchards by engaging and empowering young people.

This visionary endeavor seeks to address the challenges outlined above through the following objectives:

1. Awareness and Appreciation: The project seeks to raise awareness among young people about the ecological, cultural, and culinary significance of Mediterranean orchards, fostering a sense of pride and responsibility for their conservation.
2. Skills Development: Young participants will receive training in orchard management, traditional agricultural practices, sustainable farming, and biodiversity conservation, equipping them with the skills needed to restore and maintain orchard ecosystems.
3. Community Engagement: The initiative will actively engage local communities, stakeholders, and educational institutions to ensure long-term support for orchard conservation and sustainable management.
4. Promoting Sustainable Practices: The project will encourage the adoption of sustainable orchard management practices, including organic farming, water conservation, and integrated pest management.
5. Youth Empowerment: Young participants will be empowered to take leadership roles in orchard conservation efforts, becoming stewards and advocates for these vital landscapes.

In conclusion, the project represents an opportunity to rekindle our connection with these remarkable orchards and ensure their preservation for generations to come. This visionary initiative aspires to cultivate a vibrant network of young advocates and custodians of our orchard heritage, nurturing both our cultural identity and the biodiversity that thrives within these timeless landscapes. The following pages will delve into the specific methodologies and expected outcomes of this transformative project.

Description and context of the proposal
Specific methodology

The successful execution of the European Project for Youth Awareness and Training in Orchard Conservation in Mediterranean Europe requires a well-structured and dynamic methodology. This methodology is designed to empower young participants with the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to become effective stewards of Mediterranean orchards. Here is a detailed overview of the specific methodology:

1. Needs Assessment: Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to understand the specific challenges and opportunities related to orchard conservation in different regions within Mediterranean Europe.

2. Curriculum Development:
Develop a tailored curriculum that covers topics such as orchard management, traditional agricultural practices, biodiversity conservation, sustainable farming, and climate resilience.

3. Recruitment and Selection:
Identify and select young participants from diverse backgrounds, including rural communities, schools, and youth organizations, ensuring inclusivity and representation.

4. Training Workshops:
Organize hands-on training workshops led by experts in orchard conservation, where participants acquire practical skills in orchard management, including pruning, grafting, pest control, and irrigation.

5. Field Visits:
Arrange field visits to working orchards, allowing participants to observe and engage with experienced orchardists, farmers, and local communities.

6. Interactive Learning:
Foster interactive learning through group discussions, problem-solving activities, and storytelling sessions, connecting the cultural and historical aspects of orchards to conservation efforts.

7. Biodiversity Assessment:
Encourage participants to conduct biodiversity assessments within orchards, identifying plant and animal species and understanding their roles in ecosystem health.

8. Community Engagement:
Facilitate engagement with local communities to build support for orchard conservation and gain insights into traditional practices and knowledge.

9. Advocacy Training:
Provide training in advocacy skills, enabling participants to communicate effectively and influence policy decisions at local and regional levels.

10. Sustainability Practices:
Promote sustainable orchard management practices, emphasizing organic farming, water conservation, and integrated pest management.

11. Mentorship and Peer Networks:
Establish mentorship programs connecting experienced orchardists with young participants, creating a supportive network for ongoing learning and guidance.

12. Awareness Campaigns:
Task participants with designing and implementing awareness campaigns within their communities, schools, and online platforms to share their knowledge and passion for orchard conservation.

13. Project Implementation:
Encourage participants to initiate small-scale orchard conservation projects in their communities, applying the skills and knowledge gained during the training.

14. Monitoring and Evaluation:
Continuously monitor the progress of participants, assessing their knowledge acquisition, engagement levels, and the impact of their conservation efforts.

15. Knowledge Sharing:
Establish an online platform for participants to share experiences, best practices, and success stories, fostering collaboration and peer learning.

16. Culminating Event:
Organize a culminating event or conference where participants showcase their achievements and share their insights with a wider audience.

17. Long-Term Engagement:
Implement strategies for long-term engagement, such as alumni networks and ongoing support for participants' conservation projects.

18. Evaluation and Adaptation:
Regularly evaluate the project's impact and effectiveness, using feedback from participants and stakeholders to adapt and refine the methodology.

By following this comprehensive and participatory methodology, the European Project for Youth Awareness and Training in Orchard Conservation in Mediterranean Europe aims to empower young participants to become effective advocates and custodians of Mediterranean orchards, ensuring the sustainability of these invaluable landscapes for generations to come.

Expected outcomes

The "Orchestrating Change: Youth Awareness and Training in Orchard Conservation in Mediterranean Europe" project aims to achieve a range of outcomes that will contribute to the preservation and revitalization of Mediterranean orchards. These outcomes encompass environmental, cultural, educational, and community-based objectives:

Increased Youth Awareness:
Young participants will have a heightened understanding of the ecological importance of Mediterranean orchards, recognizing them as vital habitats for biodiversity and pollinators.
Awareness of the cultural and culinary significance of orchards will grow among young people, fostering a sense of pride in their heritage.

Enhanced Knowledge and Skills:
Young participants will acquire practical knowledge in orchard management, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and traditional farming practices.
Participants will develop the skills needed to effectively contribute to the preservation and restoration of orchard ecosystems.

Empowered Youth Advocates:
Young participants will be empowered to take on leadership roles in advocating for orchard conservation, both within their communities and on a broader scale. The project will cultivate a passionate group of youth ambassadors who can drive positive change in the sphere of orchard conservation.

Preservation of Biodiversity:
Through sustainable orchard management practices promoted by the project, biodiversity within orchard ecosystems will be preserved and potentially enhanced, benefiting pollinators and wildlife.
The project will contribute to the conservation of native and endangered species that rely on orchard habitats.

Revitalization of Traditional Practices:
The project will facilitate the revival and preservation of traditional agricultural practices specific to Mediterranean orchards, ensuring that these cultural traditions are passed down to younger generations.

Climate Resilience:

Orchards will become more resilient to the challenges posed by climate change through the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, benefiting both fruit production and environmental sustainability.

Community Engagement and Cultural Connection:
The project will foster stronger bonds between local communities and their orchard heritage, with communities actively engaged in orchard conservation efforts. Young participants will serve as bridges between generations, helping to transfer cultural knowledge and traditions related to orchard cultivation.

Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture:
The adoption of sustainable agricultural practices within Mediterranean orchards will promote overall sustainability in agriculture, contributing to healthier ecosystems and communities.

Awareness in Wider Society:
The project will generate broader awareness in society about the importance of Mediterranean orchards and the need for their conservation, reaching beyond the immediate participants.

Long-Term Impact:

The project aims to create a lasting legacy of orchard conservation, with young advocates continuing to champion these efforts long after the project's conclusion.

In summary, the "Orchestrating Change" project seeks to achieve a multi-faceted set of outcomes that encompass ecological, cultural, educational, and community-oriented objectives. These outcomes collectively aim to secure the future of Mediterranean orchards and ensure that they remain vital and cherished landscapes for generations to come.

Evaluation criteria
Data Collection Methods:
This can include surveys, interviews, observations, and document reviews.
Indicators:
A. Process Indicators (focus on the implementation of the project and its activities).
- Number of training sessions conducted.
- Attendance and participation rates in training sessions.
- Resources allocated to the project.
- Timeliness of project milestones.
B. Output Indicators (measure the immediate results of the project's activities).
- Number of participants trained.
- Number of orchards restored or conserved.
- Educational materials produced.
- Community events organized.
C. Outcome Indicators (assess the broader impacts of the project on participants and the community)
- Knowledge gain among youth participants.
- Skill development in orchard management.
- Increased community awareness of orchard conservation.
- Improved orchard biodiversity and health.
D. Impact Indicators (measure the long-term effects of the project on the environment, society, and economy)
- Increased sustainability of Mediterranean orchards.
- Reduced threats to local orchard biodiversity.
- Economic benefits for communities through sustainable orchard practices.
Data Sources:

This may include project records, participant surveys, interviews, field assessments, and external data sources.

2. Nurturing Tomorrow's Guardians for Wetland Conservation Awareness and Youth Ambassadorship

Purpose of the proposal
Introduction

Wetlands, often referred to as Earth's "kidneys," play a pivotal role in maintaining ecological balance, safeguarding biodiversity, and securing water resources. However, wetlands worldwide face mounting threats from habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and overexploitation. In response to these challenges, this proposal aims to embarked on an inspiring mission: to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands and to empower the younger generation to become ambassadors of conservation.

Wetlands: Nature's Unsung Heroes

Wetlands encompass an astonishing diversity of ecosystems, from marshes and swamps to lakes, rivers, and coastal lagoons. They serve as ecological powerhouses, offering an array of invaluable services:

• Biodiversity Hotspots: Wetlands host a rich tapestry of flora and fauna, providing breeding grounds for countless species, including migratory birds, fish, amphibians, and insects.
• Water Filtration: They act as natural water filters, removing pollutants, sediments, and excess nutrients, which is crucial for maintaining water quality and supporting aquatic life.
• Flood Control: Wetlands act as sponges during periods of heavy rainfall or storms, reducing the risk of flooding in adjacent areas.
• Carbon Sequestration: They play a role in mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, locking it away in their soils and vegetation.
• Cultural Significance: Many wetlands hold cultural and historical importance, often serving as sources of livelihood and spiritual connection for local communities.

The case of the Mar Menor: the jewel of Murcia

Among these vital ecosystems, the Mar Menor in the Murcia region of Spain stands as a shining example, teeming with life and cultural significance. The Mar Menor, nestled along the southeastern coast of Spain, is a unique and fragile ecosystem of immense ecological and economic importance. Known as the "Little Sea," this coastal lagoon is an invaluable haven for biodiversity, a cherished recreational destination, and a vital component of the Murcia region's economy.

However, in recent years, the Mar Menor has faced escalating environmental challenges, including eutrophication, habitat degradation, and water quality deterioration, threatening its delicate balance.

The Mar Menor is no ordinary coastal lagoon; it is an ecological jewel with exceptional characteristics. This saline lagoon, separated from the Mediterranean Sea by a narrow strip of land, boasts a wealth

of biodiversity, including rare and endemic species. Its shallow waters, warm climate, and salt-rich environment provide an ideal habitat for countless species of birds, fish, and aquatic organisms.

Beyond its ecological importance, the Mar Menor is a cherished destination for tourists and a vital economic asset for the surrounding communities. Its pristine beaches, crystal-clear waters, and vibrant marine life attract visitors from all over the world, contributing significantly to the region's tourism industry. Moreover, the lagoon supports local fisheries, providing livelihoods for countless residents.

Challenges Threatening the Mar Menor

Despite its ecological and economic significance, the Mar Menor faces a multitude of challenges that have escalated in recent years:

Eutrophication: Excessive nutrient input, primarily from agricultural runoff, has led to eutrophication—a phenomenon characterized by harmful algal blooms, oxygen depletion, and water quality deterioration. This threatens the health of the ecosystem and its inhabitants.
Habitat Degradation: Urban development, agricultural expansion, and infrastructure projects have encroached upon the natural habitats surrounding the Mar Menor, disrupting critical ecosystems and diminishing the lagoon's resilience.
Water Quality Decline: The lagoon's water quality has deteriorated due to the accumulation of pollutants, sediments, and nutrients, making it increasingly vulnerable to ecological imbalances and degradation.
Climate Change: Rising temperatures and changing weather patterns pose additional challenges to the lagoon's stability, impacting both its biodiversity and its value as a recreational and economic asset.

Description and context of the proposal
Project's General Objectives

The "Nurturing Tomorrow's Wetland Guardians" project proposal, is a visionary initiative aimed at raising awareness about the critical importance of wetland ecosystems and empowering young people from participating municipalities to become ambassadors of wetland conservation. This document outlines the project's overarching objectives, which are designed to guide our efforts and achieve lasting positive impacts on wetland preservation and youth engagement.

1. Raise Awareness about Wetland Significance:
Objective: To increase public awareness and understanding of the ecological, cultural, and economic importance of wetlands, with a primary focus on the Mar Menor and other similar ecosystems in Europe from participating countries.

Rationale: Enhancing awareness is the first step toward fostering a sense of responsibility and stewardship among communities and individuals. By highlighting the significance of wetlands, we aim to inspire action and support for their protection.

2. Empower Youth as Wetland Ambassadors:
Objective: To empower young people to become informed advocates and ambassadors for wetland conservation, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and tools to take proactive roles in safeguarding these ecosystems.

Rationale: Youth engagement is key to ensuring the long-term preservation of wetlands. By providing young individuals with the necessary training and resources, we aim to create a passionate and informed generation of conservation leaders.

3. Foster Collaboration among Stakeholders:
Objective: To promote collaboration and cooperation among local communities, educational institutions, governmental bodies, NGOs, and other stakeholders in the protection and sustainable management of wetlands.

Rationale: Effective wetland conservation requires collective effort and shared responsibility. By fostering collaboration, we seek to establish a united front dedicated to preserving these invaluable ecosystems.

4. Encourage Sustainable Practices in Wetland Areas:
Objective: To encourage the adoption of sustainable and responsible practices in wetland areas, both among local communities and through advocacy for policy changes at regional and national levels.

Rationale: Sustainable practices are crucial for mitigating the impacts of human activities on wetlands. By promoting sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and tourism, we aim to reduce the ecological footprint on these ecosystems.

5. Create Networks for Knowledge Exchange:
Objective: To establish networks among young ambassadors and institutions involved in wetland conservation, facilitating ongoing knowledge exchange, collaboration, and support.

Rationale: Networking allows for the sharing of experiences, best practices, and innovative solutions. By connecting young ambassadors and organizations, we create a dynamic and informed community of wetland conservationists.

6. Promote Inclusivity and Diversity:
Objective: To ensure that wetland conservation efforts and awareness-raising activities are inclusive and diverse, reaching a broad spectrum of society, including marginalized and underrepresented communities.

Rationale: Inclusivity and diversity are fundamental principles for successful conservation. By engaging a wide range of voices and perspectives, we enhance the effectiveness and relevance of our initiatives.

7. Monitor and Evaluate Impact:
Objective: To continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of the project on wetland conservation, youth empowerment, and community engagement, using data-driven insights to adapt and improve our strategies.

Rationale: Regular assessment is essential for ensuring that our efforts are achieving meaningful outcomes. By collecting and analyzing data, we can fine-tune our approaches and maximize our positive impact.

8. Create a Lasting Legacy:
Objective: To establish a sustainable framework for ongoing wetland conservation awareness and youth ambassadorship beyond the duration of the project.

Rationale: Long-term success requires sustainability. By creating a lasting legacy, we ensure that the momentum and commitment to wetland conservation continue to grow even after the project concludes.

In conclusion, these general objectives serve as the foundation for the "Nurturing Tomorrow's Guardians" project. Through these objectives, we aim to ignite a passion for wetland conservation, equip young people with the tools to effect positive change, and create a united front dedicated to the preservation of these vital ecosystems.

Specific objectives

In the "Nurturing Tomorrow's Guardians" project, we recognize the importance of defining specific objectives to ensure that our efforts are focused, measurable, and effective in achieving our overarching goals. These specific objectives are designed to guide our activities, ensuring that we make tangible progress in raising awareness about wetland conservation and empowering young people to become ambassadors of these vital ecosystems.

1. Develop Educational Programs:
Objective: To design and implement comprehensive educational programs that introduce students and young people to the concept of wetland ecosystems, their ecological importance, and the challenges they face.
Rationale: Education is the cornerstone of awareness and empowerment. By creating engaging educational materials and curricula, we aim to inspire a profound understanding of wetlands among young learners.

2. Engage Schools and Educational Institutions:
Objective: To establish partnerships with local schools, colleges, and universities to integrate wetland conservation topics into formal and informal education, fostering a culture of environmental stewardship.
Rationale: Educational institutions play a pivotal role in shaping young minds. By collaborating with schools and universities, we can reach a broad audience of future decision-makers and leaders.

3. Conduct Wetland Field Experiences:
Objective: To organize immersive field experiences and educational excursions to wetland sites, including the Mar Menor, allowing young people to witness the beauty and significance of these ecosystems firsthand.
Rationale: Direct experiences in wetlands provide a deep and lasting impact. By facilitating field trips, we aim to connect young individuals with the natural world, fostering a sense of wonder and responsibility.

4. Provide Training for Youth Ambassadors:
Objective: To offer specialized training programs for young ambassadors, equipping them with knowledge about wetland conservation, communication skills, and advocacy tools.
Rationale: Effective youth ambassadors require training and support. By providing comprehensive training, we empower young individuals to take on leadership roles in advocating for wetland conservation.

5. Organize Outreach and Awareness Campaigns:
Objective: To launch targeted outreach and awareness campaigns that leverage social media, workshops, seminars, and community events to disseminate information about wetland conservation and its importance.
Rationale: Outreach campaigns are essential for reaching wider audiences. By utilizing multiple channels, we aim to create a ripple effect of awareness and engagement.

6. Foster Youth Networks and Collaboration:
Objective: To establish online and offline networks among young ambassadors, enabling them to share experiences, collaborate on projects, and support one another in their advocacy efforts.

Rationale: Collaboration is a catalyst for change. By connecting young ambassadors, we create a supportive and dynamic community dedicated to wetland conservation.

7. Develop Advocacy Initiatives:
Objective: To encourage and support youth ambassadors in developing and implementing advocacy initiatives, such as local conservation projects, policy advocacy, and public awareness campaigns.
Rationale: Advocacy is a powerful tool for change. By enabling young individuals to take action, we empower them to drive tangible improvements in wetland conservation.

8. Monitor and Evaluate Youth Engagement:
Objective: To track and assess the level of youth engagement and participation in wetland conservation activities, using data to measure the project's impact on young ambassadors' involvement.
Rationale: Data-driven insights are essential for refining strategies. By monitoring and evaluating youth engagement, we can adapt our approaches for maximum effectiveness.

9. Facilitate Cross-Border Collaboration:
Objective: To encourage cross-border collaboration among young ambassadors from different countries, fostering international cooperation and the exchange of ideas and experiences.
Rationale: Cross-border collaboration enhances the diversity of perspectives and solutions. By facilitating international connections, we enrich the global wetland conservation community.

10. Create a Sustainable Platform:
Objective: To establish a sustainable online platform that serves as a resource hub for young ambassadors, offering educational materials, best practices, and opportunities for ongoing engagement.
Rationale: Sustainability is crucial for long-term impact. By creating a lasting platform, we ensure that young ambassadors have access to resources and support beyond the project's duration.

In conclusion, these specific objectives are designed to guide the "Nurturing Tomorrow's Guardians" project in its mission to raise awareness about wetland conservation and empower young people to become effective ambassadors of these vital ecosystems. Each objective serves as a critical component of our multifaceted approach to achieving our broader goals. The subsequent phases of the project will delve into the detailed methodologies and expected outcomes that will contribute to the fulfilment of these objectives.

Project Implementation and Expected Outcomes

The successful implementation of "Nurturing Tomorrow's Guardians: An Erasmus+ Initiative for Wetland Conservation Awareness and Youth Ambassadorship" hinges on a meticulously planned strategy that combines education, engagement, and empowerment. This section outlines the project's implementation framework and the expected outcomes that will result from our dedicated efforts to raise awareness about wetland conservation and inspire young people to become advocates and ambassadors of these critical ecosystems. The implementation framework proposed i:

Educational Programs and Curriculum Integration:

Implementation: Develop and distribute educational materials and curricula that introduce students and young people to wetland ecosystems, their significance, and the challenges they face. Collaborate with local schools and educational institutions to integrate wetland conservation topics into formal and informal education.
Expected Outcomes: Increased awareness and understanding of wetland ecosystems among young learners. Integration of wetland conservation topics into educational institutions' curricula.

Wetland Field Experiences:
Implementation: Organize immersive field trips and educational excursions to wetland sites, including the Mar Menor, to allow young people to witness wetland ecosystems firsthand.
Expected Outcomes: A sense of wonder and connection to wetlands among young participants. Increased appreciation for the beauty and ecological significance of wetlands.

Youth Ambassador Training:

Implementation: Conduct specialized training programs for young ambassadors, covering wetland conservation knowledge, communication skills, and advocacy techniques.
Expected Outcomes: Equipped and empowered young ambassadors ready to advocate for wetland conservation. Development of leadership and communication skills.

Outreach and Awareness Campaigns:

Implementation: Launch targeted outreach and awareness campaigns utilizing various channels, including social media, workshops, seminars, and community events, to disseminate information about wetland conservation.
Expected Outcomes: Increased public awareness about wetland significance and conservation challenges. Broader community engagement in wetland conservation efforts.

Youth Networks and Collaboration:

Implementation: Establish online and offline networks among young ambassadors to facilitate knowledge exchange, collaboration on projects, and mutual support.
Expected Outcomes: A dynamic and interconnected community of young ambassadors dedicated to wetland conservation. Increased collaboration and joint initiatives.

Advocacy Initiatives:

Implementation: Encourage and support young ambassadors in developing and implementing advocacy initiatives, such as local conservation projects, policy advocacy, and public awareness campaigns.
Expected Outcomes: Tangible improvements in wetland conservation driven by youth-led initiatives. Increased recognition of the importance of young voices in conservation.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Implementation: Regularly monitor and evaluate youth engagement and participation in wetland conservation activities, using data-driven insights to assess the project's impact on young ambassadors' involvement.
Expected Outcomes: Data-informed adaptation and improvement of project strategies. A clear understanding of the project's influence on youth engagement.

Cross-Border Collaboration:

Implementation: Encourage cross-border collaboration among young ambassadors from different countries, facilitating international cooperation, idea exchange, and experiences sharing.
Expected Outcomes: Enriched perspectives and solutions for wetland conservation. Strengthened international bonds among young ambassadors.

Sustainable Online Platform:

Implementation: Establish a sustainable online platform that serves as a resource hub for young ambassadors, offering educational materials, best practices, and opportunities for ongoing engagement.
Expected Outcomes: A lasting platform for young ambassadors to access resources and support beyond the project's duration. Continued engagement and advocacy in wetland conservation.

What is needed to implement this participatory proposal
Erasmus+ funding

Evaluation criteria
Data Collection Methods:
This may include surveys, interviews, observations, focus groups, and document reviews.
A. Process Indicators (focus on the implementation of the project and its activities)
- Number of wetland conservation workshops or events held.
- Attendance and participation rates in these events.
- Resources allocated to the project.
- Timeliness of project milestones.
B. Output Indicators (measure the immediate results of the project's activities)
- Number of youth participants engaged.
- Number of awareness-raising materials produced.
- Development of youth ambassadorship skills (e.g., leadership, communication).
- Youth involvement in wetland conservation projects or initiatives.
C. Outcome Indicators (assess the broader impacts of the project on participants and the community)
- Increased knowledge about wetland ecosystems and their importance.
- Enhanced leadership and advocacy skills among youth ambassadors.
- Greater community awareness and support for wetland conservation.
- Tangible improvements in wetland ecosystems (e.g., increased biodiversity, reduced pollution).
D. Impact Indicators (measure the long-term effects of the project on the environment, society, and the youth participants themselves).
- Sustainable wetland conservation practices adopted in the community.
- Increased youth participation in wetland conservation as ambassadors.
- Career and educational pathways influenced by project participation.
- Long-term conservation benefits for wetland ecosystems.
Data Sources:
This may include project records, participant surveys, interviews, field assessments, and external data sources.

3. Reviving the Bee Repopulation in the Segura River, Murcia

Purpose of the proposal
Introduction

In recent years, the global decline in bee populations has raised significant concerns among scientists, environmentalists, and policymakers. Bees play a crucial role in pollinating plants, which, in turn, sustain ecosystems and agricultural productivity. The decline in bee populations not only threatens biodiversity but also jeopardizes food security and economic stability. Recognizing the urgency of this issue, the European Erasmus+ program has embarked on an ambitious initiative aimed at repopulating bees in the Segura River area, a region that is emblematic of Europe's agricultural and environmental challenges.

The Segura River area, located in the southeastern part of the Iberian Peninsula, has witnessed rapid urbanization, intensive agriculture, and the encroachment of invasive species over the past decades. These factors, coupled with climate change, have resulted in the degradation of natural habitats and a decline in biodiversity, including bee populations. The Erasmus+ project, titled "Reviving Bee Populations in the Segura River Area," seeks to address this multifaceted problem through cross-border collaboration, innovative research, and community engagement.

General Objectives

The European Erasmus+ project proposal, "Reviving Bee Populations in the Segura River Area," has set forth a series of overarching objectives that encapsulate the project's broad mission to address the critical issue of declining bee populations in the Segura River area.

This multifaceted initiative is designed to foster cross-border collaboration and innovative approaches, ultimately aiming to restore and sustain bee populations for the betterment of the local environment, agriculture, and community well-being. The following are the general objectives that guide this significant endeavour:

1. Halt and Reverse Bee Population Decline: The primary and most urgent objective of this Erasmus+ project proposal is to halt and ultimately reverse the ongoing decline in bee populations within the Segura River area. This involves conducting comprehensive research to identify the factors contributing to bee decline and implementing strategies to counteract these negative trends.

2. Restore Biodiversity: A key goal of this project is to contribute to the restoration of biodiversity in the Segura River area. Bees are essential pollinators, and their decline has a cascading effect on ecosystems. By repopulating bee species, the project aims to support the recovery of native flora and fauna, creating a healthier and more balanced ecosystem.

3. Promote Sustainable Agriculture: Bees play a critical role in pollinating crops, including many essential food crops. One of the project's objectives is to promote sustainable agriculture practices that are bee-friendly. This includes reducing the use of pesticides harmful to pollinators and implementing agroecological techniques that benefit both agriculture and the environment.

4. Enhance Scientific Knowledge: The Erasmus+ initiative places a strong emphasis on advancing

scientific knowledge related to bees, their behavior, and their habitats. This objective involves conducting rigorous research, monitoring bee populations, and documenting the ecological impacts of bee recovery efforts.

5. Foster Cross-Border Collaboration: As an Erasmus+ project, it seeks to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among partner organizations and institutions from different European countries. By pooling resources, expertise, and perspectives, the project aims to create a robust and coordinated effort to address bee population decline.

6. Engage Communities: Another essential objective is community engagement. The project seeks to raise awareness and involve young local communities in bee conservation efforts. It includes educational programs, workshops, and public outreach campaigns to inform and mobilize residents, farmers, and stakeholders in the Segura River area.

7. Establish a Sustainable Model: The project aims to create a sustainable model for bee conservation and habitat restoration in the Segura River area. This model can serve as a blueprint for similar initiatives in other regions facing similar challenges, contributing to the broader goal of bee population recovery across Europe.

8. Empower Future Generations: By incorporating educational elements into the project, it aims to empower future generations with the knowledge and motivation to continue bee conservation efforts beyond the project's duration. This objective focuses on instilling a sense of responsibility for the environment and biodiversity among young people.

In conclusion, the Erasmus+ project, "Reviving Bee Populations in the Segura River Area," is a comprehensive and visionary initiative that addresses the urgent need to repopulate bee species in a region grappling with ecological and agricultural challenges. These general objectives provide the guiding framework for the project's specific activities and initiatives, with the ultimate aim of creating a sustainable and thriving environment for bees and the communities they sustain. Through collaboration, education, and innovative approaches, this project endeavors to make a lasting impact on the Segura River area and serve as an inspiring example for pollinator conservation across Europe.

Description and context of the proposal
Specific Objectives

The European Erasmus+ project, "Reviving Bee Populations in the Segura River Area," is a multifaceted initiative designed to address the critical issue of declining bee populations in the Segura River area. To achieve its overarching goal, the project has established a set of specific objectives that guide its activities and provide a clear roadmap for action.

These objectives are grounded in the need to halt the decline of bee populations, restore biodiversity, promote sustainable practices, and engage the local community in the conservation efforts. Below are the specific objectives of this important endeavor:

1. Conduct Comprehensive Bee Population Assessment:

• To conduct a thorough assessment of bee populations in the Segura River area, including identifying species, population sizes, and distribution.
• To analyze the key factors contributing to bee population decline, such as habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change, through scientific research and data collection.

2. Implement Habitat Restoration Initiatives:

• To restore and create suitable habitats for bees, focusing on native plant species that provide food sources and nesting sites.
• To reduce the use of harmful pesticides in collaboration with local farmers and promote bee-friendly agricultural practices that enhance pollinator-friendly landscapes.

3. Enhance Scientific Understanding of Bee Behavior:

• To conduct research on bee behavior, including foraging patterns, communication, and breeding habits, to better inform conservation efforts.
• To study the interactions between native bee species and the local flora to identify specific plant-pollinator relationships.

4. Develop Educational Programs and Workshops:

• To develop educational materials and curriculum modules that raise awareness about the importance of bees and pollinators among local schools and communities.
• To organize workshops and training sessions for farmers, landowners, and beekeepers on sustainable beekeeping and habitat management.

5. Engage in Cross-Border Knowledge Exchange:

• To facilitate cross-border collaboration among project partners, researchers, and students to share expertise and best practices in bee conservation.
• To establish a network for ongoing knowledge exchange and collaboration beyond the project's duration.

6. Monitor and Evaluate the Impact of Conservation Efforts:

• To continuously monitor bee populations and their health in the Segura River area using scientific methods and standardized metrics.
• To assess the ecological impact of bee recovery efforts, such as changes in plant diversity and agricultural productivity.

7. Involve Local Communities in Bee Conservation:

• To organize community outreach events, public lectures, and interactive exhibitions that engage residents in bee conservation and its benefits.
• To establish beekeeping cooperatives and community gardens that provide local communities with tangible involvement in bee recovery efforts.

8. Create a Sustainable Model for Bee Conservation:

• To develop a sustainable and replicable model for bee conservation in the Segura River area, which can serve as a template for future initiatives across Europe.
• To establish partnerships with local authorities and policymakers to integrate bee-friendly policies and practices into regional development plans.

9. Empower Future Generations:

• To inspire and educate young people about bee conservation through school programs, beekeeping clubs, and environmental education initiatives.
• To create opportunities for students and youth to actively participate in bee-related research and

conservation activities.

10. Disseminate Findings and Best Practices:

• To disseminate project findings, research outcomes, and best practices through publications, conferences, and an online platform accessible to the wider public and academic community.

In conclusion, these specific objectives provide a comprehensive framework for the Erasmus+ project, "Reviving Bee Populations in the Segura River Area." Each objective addresses a key aspect of bee conservation, from scientific research to community engagement, with the ultimate aim of revitalizing bee populations and fostering a more sustainable and ecologically balanced environment in the Segura River area. Through the pursuit of these objectives, the project seeks to make a tangible and lasting impact on both the local ecosystem and the broader effort to conserve pollinators in Europe.

Methodology

The successful implementation of the Erasmus+ project, "Reviving Bee Populations in the Segura River Area," requires a well-defined and comprehensive methodology that encompasses research, conservation, education, and community engagement. This methodology serves as a roadmap for project activities, ensuring that the specific objectives are achieved effectively and efficiently.

Below, we outline the key steps and strategies that will guide the project's approach:

1. Comprehensive Bee Population Assessment

a. Baseline Data Collection: Begin with a comprehensive survey of bee populations in the Segura River area, including the identification of native species and their current distribution.
b. Long-term Monitoring: Establish monitoring protocols to track bee populations over time, utilizing standardized methods such as transect surveys, flower visitation observations, and trapping techniques.
c. Data Analysis: Analyze collected data to identify trends, seasonal variations, and potential threats to bee populations, integrating both field and laboratory research.

2. Habitat Restoration Initiatives

a. Native Planting: Collaborate with local landowners and farmers to identify suitable areas for native wildflower planting, ensuring the availability of diverse food sources for bees.
b. Pesticide Reduction: Work with agricultural communities to reduce the use of harmful pesticides and promote integrated pest management practices that minimize bee exposure.
c. Habitat Creation: Create bee-friendly habitats, such as bee banks, nesting sites, and pollinator-friendly gardens, to provide suitable environments for bee reproduction and foraging.

3. Scientific Research and Understanding of Bee Behavior

a. Behavioral Studies: Conduct behavioral studies on bee species to better understand foraging behavior, communication, and breeding habits.
b. Floral Interaction Studies: Investigate the interactions between native bee species and local flora, identifying critical plant-pollinator relationships for conservation efforts.
c. Ecological Impact Assessment: Assess the ecological impact of bee recovery efforts, tracking changes in plant diversity, crop yields, and ecosystem resilience.

4. Educational Programs and Workshops

a. Curriculum Development: Create educational materials and curriculum modules tailored to different age groups, with a focus on raising awareness about bees' importance.
b. School Engagement: Implement bee-related educational programs in local schools, including interactive lessons, field trips to bee habitats, and the establishment of school beekeeping clubs.
c. Community Workshops: Organize workshops for local farmers, landowners, and beekeepers, providing training on sustainable beekeeping practices, habitat management, and pesticide reduction.

5. Cross-Border Knowledge Exchange

a. Collaborative Research: Facilitate collaborative research projects among project partners and institutions from different European countries, sharing findings and methodologies.
b. Student and Researcher Mobility: Promote student and researcher mobility to encourage knowledge transfer and cross-pollination of ideas.

6. Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation

a. Regular Monitoring: Continuously monitor bee populations and their health, adapting conservation strategies based on real-time data.
b. Impact Assessment: Evaluate the impact of conservation efforts on bee populations, biodiversity, and local agricultural productivity.

7. Community Engagement in Bee Conservation

a. Community Outreach: Organize community events, public lectures, and exhibitions to engage local residents and raise awareness about bee conservation.
b. Community Gardens and Beekeeping Cooperatives: Establish community gardens and cooperative beekeeping initiatives to involve residents directly in conservation activities.

8. Sustainable Model Development

a. Model Creation: Develop a sustainable model for bee conservation in the Segura River area that integrates conservation efforts into regional development plans.
b. Policy Advocacy: Collaborate with local authorities and policymakers to advocate for bee-friendly policies and practices.

9. Empowering Future Generations

a. Youth Engagement: Establish youth programs, mentorships, and internships to empower young people to actively participate in bee-related research and conservation.
b. Education Continuity: Ensure that educational efforts continue beyond the project's duration, creating a lasting impact on future generations.

10. Dissemination of Findings and Best Practices

a. Publication and Conferences: Share project findings, research outcomes, and best practices through scientific publications and conferences.
b. Online Platform: Develop an online platform to provide access to project resources, educational materials, and research outcomes for a wider audience.

In conclusion, this methodology outlines the systematic approach that the Erasmus+ project, "Reviving Bee Populations in the Segura River Area," will follow to achieve its specific objectives. By combining rigorous scientific research, habitat restoration, education, and community engagement,

the project aims to create a comprehensive and sustainable solution to the pressing issue of bee population decline in the region. Through cross-border collaboration and knowledge sharing, the project seeks to make a significant and lasting impact on bee conservation efforts in Europe.

Expected Outcomes

The success of the Erasmus+ project, "Reviving Bee Populations in the Segura River Area," will be measured by the tangible and lasting outcomes achieved in the areas of bee population recovery, biodiversity restoration, sustainable practices adoption, and community engagement. This comprehensive initiative is poised to make a significant impact on the local environment, agriculture, and the well-being of the Segura River area's communities.

Below, we detail the anticipated outcomes that will result from the project's dedicated efforts:
1. Bee Population Recovery

a. Increased Bee Populations: A key outcome will be the measurable increase in bee populations in the Segura River area. Through habitat restoration and conservation efforts, native bee species are expected to thrive, contributing to their overall recovery.
b. Diverse Bee Communities: The project aims to promote diversity among bee species. As a result, the Segura River area is likely to witness the resurgence of various native bee species, fostering a more robust and resilient ecosystem.
c. Pollination Enhancement: As bee populations rebound, there will be a noticeable improvement in pollination services for local flora and crops. This will directly benefit agriculture and the broader ecosystem.

2. Biodiversity Restoration

a. Floral Diversity: The project's habitat restoration initiatives will lead to an increase in the diversity of native wildflowers and plants. This will not only provide ample forage for bees but also support a wider range of wildlife.
b. Ecological Balance: With the resurgence of bee populations, the Segura River area's ecological balance is expected to improve, as various species that depend on pollinators for food and reproduction will also thrive.

3. Adoption of Sustainable Practices

a. Bee-Friendly Agriculture: Collaborative efforts with local farmers will result in the adoption of bee-friendly agricultural practices, including reduced pesticide use and the promotion of integrated pest management.
b. Habitat Management: Landowners and communities will actively engage in habitat management, creating and maintaining bee-friendly environments that benefit both wildlife and agriculture.

4. Scientific Knowledge Advancement

a. Research Publications: The project will yield valuable scientific research findings, leading to publications in academic journals, which will contribute to the global body of knowledge on bee behavior and conservation.
b. Research Collaborations: Collaboration among project partners from different European countries will stimulate ongoing research collaborations and knowledge exchange in the field of bee conservation.

5. Educational Impact

a. Increased Awareness: Educational programs and workshops will lead to increased public awareness about the importance of bees and pollinators. Communities, schools, and farmers will have a deeper understanding of the role bees play in ecosystem health.
b. Empowered Youth: Young people involved in bee-related educational activities will be empowered with knowledge and a sense of responsibility for environmental stewardship.

6. Cross-Border Collaboration

a. Collaborative Networks: The project will establish collaborative networks among partner institutions, researchers, and students, promoting ongoing cross-border cooperation in bee conservation efforts.
b. Knowledge Transfer: Cross-border knowledge transfer will facilitate the adaptation of successful strategies and practices in bee conservation across Europe.

7. Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation

a. Data-Driven Conservation: Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will ensure that conservation efforts remain data-driven and adaptable to changing conditions, guaranteeing the long-term success of bee populations.

8. Community Engagement in Bee Conservation

a. Informed Communities: Local communities will be actively engaged and informed about bee conservation efforts, creating a sense of ownership and responsibility for the project's outcomes.
b. Active Participation: Community members will actively participate in bee conservation through cooperative gardens, beekeeping clubs, and other initiatives, fostering a deeper connection to their local environment.

9. Sustainable Model Development

a. Replicable Model: The project will establish a sustainable model for bee conservation in the Segura River area, which can serve as a template for similar initiatives in other regions, contributing to broader European bee conservation efforts.
b. Policy Influence: Collaborations with local authorities and policymakers will lead to the integration of bee-friendly policies and practices into regional development plans.

10. Empowering Future Generations

a. Youth Advocacy: Empowered youth will advocate for bee conservation and sustainable practices, ensuring that the project's impact endures for generations to come.
b. Continued Education: The project's educational initiatives will continue to inspire and educate young people about bee conservation beyond the project's duration.

11. Dissemination of Findings and Best Practices

a. Knowledge Sharing: Project findings, research outcomes, and best practices will be widely disseminated through publications, conferences, and an accessible online platform, benefiting a broader audience of researchers, educators, and conservationists.

In conclusion, the anticipated outcomes of the Erasmus+ project, "Reviving Bee Populations in the Segura River Area," demonstrate the comprehensive and transformative nature of this initiative. Through these outcomes, the project will contribute significantly to the recovery of bee populations, the restoration of biodiversity, and the promotion of sustainable practices, fostering a healthier and

more sustainable future for both the environment and the communities of the Segura River area.

What is needed to implement this participatory proposal
Erasmus+ funding

Evaluation criteria

Data Collection Methods:
This may include surveys, field observations, hive monitoring, and scientific studies.
A. Process Indicators (focus on the implementation of the project and its activities)
- Number of bee-friendly habitats established.
- Quantity and quality of forage plants provided.
- Investment in beekeeper training and equipment.
- Progress toward project milestones.
B. Output Indicators (measure the immediate results of the project's activities)
- Bee population growth.
- Health and vitality of bee colonies.
- Number of new beekeepers trained and supported.
- Amount of honey and other hive products produced.
C. Outcome Indicators (assess the broader impacts of the project on bee populations, biodiversity, and the local environment)
- Increased pollination rates and agricultural yields.
- Enhanced biodiversity through increased plant and insect species.
- Positive changes in local ecosystems, such as improved water quality.
- Heightened community awareness and involvement in bee conservation.
D. Impact Indicators (measure the long-term effects of the project on bee populations, ecosystems, and the local community)
- Sustainable bee populations and healthier ecosystems.
- Enhanced economic opportunities for local beekeepers and farmers.
- Improved overall well-being of the Segura River region.
- Bee conservation as an integral part of regional environmental policies.
Data Sources:
This may include scientific research, hive monitoring, surveys, and expert assessments.

WATER AND AGRICULTURE

GAIA - Odemira - Portugal

4. Local Food Systems (LFS)

Purpose of the proposal
To supply public canteens (schools, universities, hospitals and other public canteens) and private social solidarity canteens with locally sourced and AgroEcologically produced products. The aim is to improve the quality of the products consumed in these canteens. In return, it will have positive effects on health, reducing the ecological footprint of the food consumed by reducing transport, promoting the dignity of food producers by creating predictability in demand and a stable income, stimulating the local and circular economy.

Description and context of the proposal
The proposal is developed in several steps:
1) Define overall objectives (type of products to be supplied, type and number of producers, production method, etc);
2) Define the entity responsible for managing the LFS (this could be a civil society organization, a canteen, an agricultural producer, a logistics operator or a local authority).
3) Define the LFS's territorial scope;
4) Invite the potential members of the SAL to the first joint meetings, where the objectives and information gathered so far are expressed;
5) Once you know who is producing and who is consuming, you need to map consumption (products consumed, quantities consumed, price paid for products);
6) At the same time, analyze production (who produces, what they produce, in what season, how much of each thing they produce, could they produce more?)
7) Analyze the legal framework for SAL (collaborate with specialist bodies);
8) Start a process of reformulating menus so that they adapt to local and seasonal production, and training cooks in how to cook meals with local and seasonal food;
9) Define the responsibilities of the various parties, conflict resolution agreements, production planning, specifications and terms of supply;
10) Start supply, either in full or just with a pilot project;
11) Monitoring, evaluating and incorporating innovations.

What is needed to implement this participatory proposal
Human Resources:
- Agricultural producers;
- Public canteen cooks;
- Technician who acts as a bridge between producers and canteens and manages the entire process;
- Legal advice;
- Food transport logistics;
- Trainer for seasonal nutrition;
- Driver of the food transport vehicle;

Financial resources:
- Salary of the person coordinating the process;
- Budget for legal advice;
- Budget for training cooks;

Material resources:

- Food system mapping tools;
- Vehicle for transporting food;
- Meeting space;
- Storage space

Who is responsible for what?

Agricultural producers - produce healthy food to supply canteens, have their economic activity legalized, have the capacity to organize their production according to needs;

Responsible entity - dealing with all logistics, transport, storage, organization of production and consumption, legal issues;

Canteens - prepare nutritious food with seasonal products;

Evaluation criteria

- Improvement of the quality of life of agricultural producers;
- Increasing of consumer food literacy;
- Improvements in consumer health;
- Increase in the quantity of locally produced products;
- Increase in the number of small local farmers;
- Degree of increase in adoption of agroecological practices agroecology;
- Diversity of canteen menus;
- Progressive increase in local products included on menus;

5. Educational program for ecological transition, with young people aged 13 to 18

Purpose of the proposal
The aim of this proposal is to work on different dimensions of sustainability with young people from public schools, in order not only to train conscious young people prepared for the future world, but also for these young people to be a multiplying vehicle of information for their homes and their parents/legal tutors.

Description and context of the proposal
This proposal consists of creating a plan, at multiple levels, for education for sustainability. Consisting of:
1) Promotion of AECs (Extra Curricular Activities) regularly within schools, an example could be an educational garden where different topics are addressed; As well, other recreational and outdoor activities with nature exploration.

2) Visit schools in articulation with the citizen classe that are happening in the schools already and organize participatory workshops on the various topics of sustainability (water, agriculture, climate change, youth in the rural world, circular economy, etc., using non-formal education methodologies, including activities and debate exercises, games, team building, reflections , among other group dynamics. The objective will be to understand what young people know about the topics and introduce concepts and new knowledge about regenerative practices and more sustainable behaviors.

3) Organize summer camps with young people, outside of the school context, where they have an immersive experience on the themes covered throughout the different initiatives. Bringing together the most interested young people through this long-term program in schools.

What is needed to implement this participatory proposal
Several resources are required:
1) Trainers/facilitators qualified to promote this type of activities with young people;
Funds will be needed to cover training, travel and other expenses;

2) It is necessary to have openness from schools, particularly teachers, to be able to “enter the school setting”, establish partnerships and strengthen the role of youth associations in their complementary work to the school curriculum.

3)For summer camps, several resources are needed, namely a space/venue capable of accommodating people, food, water, toilets for personal hygiene, budget for a monitor/facilitator and food logistics (catering), training material for indoor and outdoor activities (e.g. office material, sportive material). Take advantage of the possibility of partnering with organizations that work with young people outside the school context and that have the necessary infrastructure to hold this type of event (e.g. Centro Co.Re).

Who is responsible for what?
Schools: To be open and find time and space in the calendar to receive training;

Municipality: To provide financial, logistical and political support;

Environmental association: To provide training and organize workshops, as well as organize summer camps;

Young people: Attend and actively participate in the activities/workshops.

Evaluation criteria

-Openness of schools to receive this proposals and activities;
-Fair remuneration for the environmental association (hosting);
-Learning outcomes of young people;
-Changes the habits/behaviors of young people and families in the short, medium and long term;
-Young people's feedback about the activities;
-Number of participants in the summer camp;
-Economic sustainability of the summer camp.

6. Local food festival

Purpose of the proposal
Currently we are witnessing a disconnection between the population's diet and the surrounding territories. The food we prepare, including in many rural areas, is based on products produced around the world with practices that are destructive of local communities and biodiversity. We are witnessing the globalization of food. Globalization has negative impacts both on production sites and on the specialization and loss of food sovereignty in local importing territories.
Most of the problems related to globalization are dependent on national and international policies, but if we think that consumer choices have an impact on adjacent territories, and that by choosing local products and foods they are contributing positively to the landscape, then we conclude that consumer choices count.
This is why it is essential that more and more people are aware of the impacts of their choices, but change cannot be imposed, people have to touch, taste, think, listen, talk and smell the solution. Reconnecting people with traditional local dishes made from endogenous resources is an effective way of bringing food literacy, and in this way ensuring that citizens, when choosing, opt for products that will have a positive impact on the territories, local and global economies. At the same time a critical mass is formed that will contribute to changing public policies in the future.

Description and context of the proposal
The proposal consists of organizing festivals and/or regular informal meetings around regional food, based on local products. In which people from the local community are invited to share a meal together, using only local and seasonal products. In addition to sensory experiences, activities related to the theme of food are also promoted on the same days, such as: debates, conversations, workshops, visits; around environmental, territorial, cultural, historical themes, or food sustainability. At each event, a person from the local community is invited to prepare and present a traditional dish, made only with local and seasonal products. At the same time, other people are invited to bring something they have made, with the same criteria, to be shared by everyone. It is important that the initiatives are open to the entire local community, that the meeting place for the events is public and central, and that it is free.

What is needed to implement this participatory proposal
Human Resources
-Event organizing team (municipality or local NGO);
facilitator to lead workshops, debates, conversations, etc. within each theme (environment, territory and history, sustainability and agroecological practices);
-Artists (music and dance elements);
-Responsible for project communication;
-Local community;
-Local producers.

Financial resources
-Budget for event management and logistics;
-Budget to pay different human resources;
-Budget for buying meal ingredients.

Material resources
-Reception space;
-Technical structures (tents, stages, balconies, multimedia, sanitary facilities);

-Physical promotional materials;
-Prepared foods and raw ingredients;
-Various objects belonging to the local community;

Other strategic resources:
-Local partners: associations, schools, Private institutions of social solidarity, NGOs, cooperatives, etc.

Who is responsible for what?
-Municipality or local NGO (Promoters/producers) - partnership management, communication with local producers, event production; communication and dissemination.
-Local community elements/partners - Promotion and preparation of food products

Evaluation criteria
-Number of people participating in the event (general public);
-Number of local community elements involved;
-Partnerships developed;
-Number of activities carried out;
-Increase in consumption of local produce.

References
ODSlocal. (2023). À noite no mercado. https://odslocal.pt/boas-praticas/a-noite-no-mercado-154 (consulted 29/11/2023)
Mértola future lab. (2023). À noite no mercado. https://www.mertolafuturelab.com/blog/portfolio/a-noite-no-mercado/ (consulted 29/11/2023)

7. Municipal composting

Purpose of the proposal
Currently, many tons of organic waste are produced on the planet and dumped directly into landfills, constituting a high cost for cities, municipalities and parishes, and causing environmental pollution. Fortunately, valorizing this organic waste is relatively easy to achieve through composting. The implementation of municipal composting projects has the potential to reduce costs for municipalities, create sustainable jobs, reduce environmental pollution, contribute in various ways to organic agriculture, and increase citizens' environmental literacy.

Description and context of the proposal
A municipal composting program is divided into several strategies, depending on the specific characteristics of the territory. There are generally, however, 3 municipal composting strategies: domestic composting, community composting, and selective collection of biowaste.

Composting Strategy

Home composting
-Description: Free distribution of small domestic composters to households in the territory.
-Costs: Cheapest strategy.
-Applicability: Essentially in rural or suburban areas. Participants need to have an outdoor space to place the composter.

Community composting
-Description:Fixed composting locations in public spaces.
-Applicability: Intermediate strategy as it requires an investment in composting modules
-Cost: In urban areas with low to medium population density, with public spaces where community composting sites can be located. It allows people who live in apartments or houses without a yard to compost.

Selective collection of biowaste
-Description: Door-to-door collection of biowaste by a company. Transport by truck to a centralized composting location.
-Cost: Most expensive strategy of all. It involves the purchase of trucks and large composting machines, as well as the fuel cost of collection.
-Applicability: Urban areas with high population density without public spaces suitable for community composting.

Since the object of this project is rural and low-density urban areas located in rural areas, this proposal will only concern domestic and community composting. Ideally, a municipal composting plan for rural areas simultaneously includes the two composting strategies indicated above. For composting to happen in the best way possible, in addition to domestic organic waste, structuring material is also necessary. This material, also called “brown”, is essentially carbon-rich material, such as wood chips or dry tree leaves. This must be placed interspersed with the “green” material.

Home composting: consists of providing residents, who are able to do so, with: a domestic composter where composting will take place, plastic support buckets to transport organic waste from the kitchen to the composter, and a composting guide. The compost produced can be used in users' gardens. This approach requires the entity managing the composting program to provide them to interested parties

and collect the composters returned by users who have withdrawn.

Community composting: consists of installing community composting modules in public spaces, close to buildings or houses where people do not have the space or capacity to do home composting. This approach requires a larger investment in the modules and their maintenance, borne by the managing or responsible entity. It is extremely important that there are one or more people paid to carry out periodic inspections of the composters, in order to verify that they are in good condition and that composting is actually taking place, and to supply the composting sites with structuring material. In this approach, support buckets are also provided.
The compost resulting from this process can be given to farmers, people who have vegetable gardens, or used in public gardens.

Structuring material: There is an opportunity to create even more synergies through composting. Managing green waste (pruning of municipal gardens, pruning of private gardens and vegetable gardens that are left in the unsorted waste bin) is a challenge for all municipalities. Municipal composting necessarily requires carbonaceous material to function. Therefore, municipalities can invest in transforming this green waste (rich in carbon) into wood chips, which can then be used in composting modules. Alternatively, municipalities can purchase the carbon-rich material from external companies.

Municipal composting will be more successful if municipalities form partnerships with local associations or companies, specialized in the subject. These will create educational material, and train residents, in the case of domestic composting, and municipality employees, in the case of community composting. To further increase success, it is necessary to simultaneously carry out a publicity campaign, using both physical support and social networks, as well as a training campaign.

What is needed to implement this participatory proposal
Home composting
Material resources:
-Domestic composters from 200 to 300 liters;
-Small 10l plastic buckets to support composting;
-Composting manual for users;
-Information leaflet for dissemination on social media and in public places in the municipality;

Human Resources:
-Contact person at the management entity for delivering and receiving composters;
-Technical person from the partner entity or municipality who provides training and prepares leaflets for dissemination;
-Responsible person in the municipality who monitors the process and unblocks bureaucratic processes.

Financial resources:
-Purchase of domestic composters;
-Purchase of support buckets;
-Communication campaign;
-Training actions;

Community composting
Material resources:
-1m3 composting modules;
-Small 10l plastic buckets to support composting;
-Information panel at community composting sites;
-Composting manual for users;

-Compost aeration tool kit;
-Water point;

Human Resources:
-Technical person from the partner entity or municipality who provides training and prepares leaflets for dissemination;
-Municipal employee, or technician from the partner entity, who maintains domestic composters;
-Responsible person in the municipality who monitors the process and unblocks bureaucratic processes;

Financial resources:
-Installation of composting modules;
-Purchase of support buckets;
-Construction of pedagogical and dissemination material;
-Training actions;
-Maintenance of composting modules;
-Purchase of tools;

Structuring material
Material resources:
-Shatterer or chipper;
-Yard processing and storing the material;
-Vehicle to collect green material to be processed and distributed to composters;

Human Resources:
-Employee who operates the chipper;
-Employee responsible for transporting the material;
-Sporadic assistance from a mechanic.

Who is responsible for what?
Municipalities:
-Awarding funds for the program;
-Study on the feasibility of composting strategies in your particular context;
-Provision of public spaces for composting sites;
-Provision of meeting rooms for training activities;
-Publicizing the program on its social media channels and websites;
-Management of domestic composters and support buckets;
-Obtaining structuring material.

Partner entity (association/company):
-Creation of promotional materials;
-Trainings;
-Creation of pedagogical manuals;
-Search for suppliers of composting modules, domestic composters and tools.

Evaluation criteria
-Progressive increase in the percentage of participating citizens;
-Recovery of municipal investment in acquired equipment, through savings in the cost of delivering waste to landfill.
-Savings on the purchase of organic correctives, by municipalities;
-Partnerships with farmers to deliver compost;
-Recognition of the municipality as environmentally friendly;
-Gradual increase in tons of organic material diverted from landfill;

References of composting program examples in several municipalities of Portugal:
Silves: https:/www.cm-silves.pt/pt/menu/1435/compostagem.aspx,
Cascais: https://ambiente.cascais.pt/pt/noticias/cascais-ambiente-distribui-300-compostores-domesticos
Portimão: https://www.emarp.pt/home/servicos/residuos-urbanos-e-limpeza-urbana/compostagem/
S. Bartolomeu de Messines:
https://www.jf-messines.pt/atividades/ambiente/459-campanha-de-compostagem-domestica-arranca-em-sb-messines
Odemira: https://www.cm-odemira.pt/p/compostagem
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https://www.cm-castroverde.pt/pt/noticias/18043/castro-verde-tem-novo-compostor-comunitario.aspx

DEPOPULATION

Filoxenia - Kryoneri - Greece

8. Empowering Rural Women in Kryoneri through Carpooling

Purpose of the proposal
In the mountainous region of Kryoneri, limited transportation options pose a significant challenge for women, hindering their access to essential services and opportunities. To address this, we aim to launch a women-focused carpooling initiative, fostering community-driven solutions to improve mobility.

Description and context of the proposal
Our goal is to create a sustainable carpooling network that connects women, alleviating isolation and enhancing access to education, healthcare, and employment. Beyond transportation, this initiative contributes to environmental sustainability by promoting shared rides, reducing carbon footprints. By empowering women in Kryoneri through enhanced mobility, we envision a more connected, resilient, and vibrant community, where individuals can actively contribute to the region's socio-economic development.

What is needed to implement this participatory proposal
Implementing the participatory proposal to empower women in Kryoneri through carpooling requires individuals with a deep understanding of the local community who can engage with women, build trust, and facilitate the establishment of the carpooling network. What is also needed are professionals to develop a user-friendly mobile application or online platform for coordinating carpooling schedules and connecting participants, volunteers or staff members to promote the initiative, recruit participants, and ensure widespread community involvement. Printed materials and banners would be also good to promote the initiative within the community. The collaboration with local businesses, NGOs, and government agencies to garner support, resources, and potentially expand the initiative is also important.

Who is responsible for what?
-Filoxenia: for the coordination of the whole activity.
-Women's Association of Kryoneri: for spreading the idea and recruting members of the association to support the initiative.
-Local businesses and government agencies: for financial support.

Evaluation criteria
While the proposal has not been implemented yet, the success of the initiative can be measured through several key indicators once it is put into action. Monitoring the number of women actively engaging in the carpooling program will be a key indicator of success. Higher participation rates would signify the effectiveness of the initiative in addressing transportation challenges. The initiative's success can be measured by the extent to which it empowers women, fostering a sense of community, connection, and shared responsibility. Increased confidence and active involvement in community activities would be indicative of positive impact.

Evaluation date
The duration to test the proposed carpooling initiative in Kryoneri will depend on various factors, including the complexity of implementation, community engagement, and the scale of the project. However, a reasonable timeframe for testing and evaluating the proposal might be around 12 to 24

months

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Tou.Play - Bari - Italy

9. Ortobio: investing waste management taxes in keeping vegetable gardens alive through training initiatives

Purpose of the Proposal:
Southern Europe, renowned for its picturesque landscapes and rich agricultural heritage, boasts a longstanding tradition of vibrant and diverse home-grown vegetable gardens that significantly contribute to its cultural identity and ecological wealth. However, these vegetable gardens currently face substantial challenges, ranging from urban expansion and land use changes to the impacts of climate change.

In response to these critical issues, the **ORTOBIO** project proposal aims to initiate awareness and training initiatives among youth to conserve and rejuvenate vegetable garden ecosystems across Southern Europe.

Southern Europe Vegetable Gardens: A Blend of Tradition and Ecology
Southern Europe vegetable gardens, spread across various regions from the north to the south, have been integral in shaping Southern Europe's cultural and ecological diversity. These gardens go beyond mere agricultural spaces; they represent thriving ecosystems that support biodiversity, preserve traditional agricultural practices, and offer a taste of Southern Europe natural bounty.

Challenges Threatening Southern Europe Vegetable Gardens
Despite their significance, Southern Europe vegetable gardens confront numerous challenges:

- **Urbanization and Land Use Changes**: The expansion of urban areas and changing land use patterns have led to the decline and fragmentation of vegetable garden habitats.

- **Biodiversity Decline:** The loss of these gardens contributes to the decrease in biodiversity, impacting pollinators, wildlife, and unique plant species within these ecosystems.

• **Cultural Shift:** There's a risk of losing traditional agricultural knowledge as younger generations move away from rural areas, endangering cultural heritage and farming practices.

• **Climate Change Vulnerability:** Southern Europe vegetable gardens are increasingly susceptible to climate change effects, including extreme weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and rising temperatures, affecting crop health and productivity.

Vision of the ORTOBIO Project in Southern Europe Vegetable Gardens

In response to the threats faced by Southern Europe vegetable gardens, the ORTOBIO project aims to engage and empower youth through awareness and training programs focused on conserving and revitalizing these vital landscapes.

The project outlines the following objectives:

Awareness and Appreciation: Cultivating awareness among young Southern European about the ecological, cultural, and culinary significance of Southern Europe vegetable gardens to instill a sense of responsibility towards their preservation.
Skill Development: Equipping young participants with the necessary skills in vegetable garden management, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and traditional farming methods.
Community Engagement: Actively involving local communities, stakeholders, and educational institutions to ensure sustained support for vegetable garden conservation efforts.
Promotion of Sustainable Practices: Encouraging the adoption of sustainable vegetable garden management practices, including organic farming, water conservation, and integrated pest management.
Youth Empowerment: Empowering youth to take leadership roles in conserving vegetable garden ecosystems and advocating for their preservation.

The **ORTOBIO** project signifies an opportunity to reconnect with Southern Europe's remarkable vegetable gardens, ensuring their safeguarding for future generations. The initiative aspires to foster a passionate network of young advocates and keepers of Southern European vegetable garden cultural heritage, preserving both cultural identity and the thriving biodiversity within these landscapes.

The subsequent sections will elaborate on the specific methodologies and anticipated outcomes of this transformative endeavor.

Description and Context of the Proposal

ORTOBIO represents an innovative endeavor that blends youth engagement, non-formal education principles, and the GreenComp framework to spearhead sustainable change within Southern Europe's environmental landscape.

This pioneering initiative is poised to harness the power of youth work methodologies and experiential learning, aiming to nurture a generation of environmentally conscious individuals adept in green competencies.

At its core, ORTOBIO seeks to leverage the Municipality of Bari's Circular Economy Fund, funded by a minimum of 0.75% of waste tax revenue. This dedicated resource will catalyze a transformative shift by allocating significant funds to establish educational social vegetable gardens within schools across all levels. These gardens will serve as dynamic platforms for hands-on learning experiences, cultivating a deeper connection to sustainable agricultural practices and environmental stewardship among the younger generation.

The initiative's robust framework, intertwined with the principles of non-formal education and guided by the GreenComp reference, ensures a holistic approach. It aims not only to enhance ecological awareness but also to equip young participants with the practical skills needed for sustainable vegetable garden management, thereby fostering a sustainable legacy that extends far beyond the confines of the project.

ORTOBIO stands as a beacon of change, inspiring youth to take an active role in nurturing thriving, eco-conscious communities while embedding sustainability at the core of Southern Europe's educational fabric.

Specific Methodology

The methodology employed in the ORTOBIO project is grounded in youth work principles and non-formal education strategies. Drawing upon the GreenComp framework, the approach prioritizes the development of green competencies among young participants. Here's an elaboration on the specific methodology:

Needs Assessment: Conduct an in-depth assessment to understand the diverse challenges and opportunities pertaining to sustainable vegetable garden initiatives across varied regions in Southern Europe.

Curriculum Development: Design a flexible curriculum that integrates hands-on learning experiences, focusing on sustainable agricultural practices, biodiversity conservation, and circular economy principles.

Youth Engagement and Empowerment: Engage young participants in decision-making processes and project planning, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards sustainable practices.

Experiential Learning: Implement learning-by-doing approaches within the vegetable garden projects, allowing participants to actively engage in planting, cultivating, and managing these gardens.

Mentorship and Peer Learning: Facilitate mentorship programs connecting experienced environmentalists and gardeners with young participants to provide guidance and expertise.

Circular Economy Integration: Integrate circular economy principles within the project's framework, emphasizing resource efficiency, waste reduction, and the use of recycled materials in garden construction.

Advocacy and Awareness: Equip participants with advocacy skills to promote sustainable practices within their communities and raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation.

Collaboration and Partnerships: Foster collaborations with local stakeholders, businesses, and educational institutions to ensure the sustainability and longevity of the vegetable garden initiatives.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Continuously evaluate the impact of the project, collecting feedback from participants and stakeholders to adapt and refine methodologies for enhanced effectiveness.

Documentation and Knowledge Sharing: Develop comprehensive documentation of best practices and create platforms for sharing experiences, enabling wider dissemination of successful models and techniques.

By embedding youth work principles, non-formal education methodologies, and aligning with the GreenComp framework, the ORTOBIO project aims to cultivate a generation of environmentally conscious individuals adept in green competencies, ensuring the sustainability of vegetable garden initiatives across Southern Europe.

Expected Outcomes

The ORTOBIO initiative anticipates a spectrum of impactful outcomes that will significantly contribute to the transformation and preservation of sustainable vegetable garden initiatives:

Youth Empowerment and Skill Enhancement:

- Equipping young participants with practical skills in sustainable agriculture, fostering their abilities in garden management, composting, and ecological cultivation techniques.
- Empowering youth through experiential learning, enabling them to take proactive roles in environmental stewardship within their communities.

Environmental Resilience and Biodiversity Conservation:

- Cultivating healthier ecosystems within local communities by preserving and enhancing biodiversity through sustainable gardening practices.

- Contributing to the conservation of native species and pollinators, bolstering ecological resilience in these vital green spaces.

Circular Economy Integration and Resource Efficiency:

- Instilling circular economy principles, promoting resource efficiency and waste reduction strategies in garden construction and maintenance.
- Encouraging the use of recycled materials and innovative methods for a sustainable and efficient garden ecosystem.

Community Engagement and Advocacy:

- Fostering stronger community bonds through active participation and engagement in sustainable initiatives, sparking a collective commitment to environmental responsibility.
- Empowering participants to advocate for sustainable practices, amplifying their voices as catalysts for positive environmental change within their neighborhoods.

Educational Impact and Knowledge Dissemination:

- Enhancing educational experiences by transforming vegetable gardens into interactive learning hubs, imparting crucial lessons in environmental conservation to students and communities.
- Creating robust documentation of successful models and practices, establishing platforms for widespread knowledge sharing and replication of sustainable initiatives.

Long-term Sustainability and Legacy:

- Cultivating a lasting legacy of environmental consciousness among young participants, ensuring the continuation of sustainable practices beyond the project's duration.
- Establishing a network of committed environmental ambassadors, who will continue to champion sustainability in their communities for years to come.

These expected outcomes are poised to create a paradigm shift in how communities perceive, engage with, and sustainably manage vegetable gardens, fostering a legacy of environmental consciousness and responsibility among the youth of Southern Europe.

Evaluation Criteria

Vegetable Garden Activation:

- Number of vegetable gardens activated.
- Variety of vegetables cultivated.

Community Engagement:

- Number of individuals involved in the vegetable garden activation process.
- Participation rates in community events.

Knowledge and Skill Development:

- Increase in participants' knowledge regarding vegetable garden management.
- Skill enhancement in sustainable agricultural practices.

Biodiversity and Garden Health:

- Improvement in garden biodiversity.
- Health status of the activated vegetable gardens.

Sustainability Impact:

- Long-term sustainability of activated vegetable gardens.
- Economic benefits derived from sustainable gardening practices.

Who is responsible for what?

Tou.Play ETS : Monica Parisi, Erica Episcopo,Karin Caprioli, Linda Regina , Claudia Cassano

Evaluation date

36 month from the start

10. PHAROS - Vision for Change: safe space to work on competences to fill the gaps

Description and Context of the Proposal

In Southern Europe, numerous challenges threaten the well-being of communities. Urbanization, changing landscapes, cultural shifts, and vulnerability to climate change pose significant threats to the region's socio-economic fabric.

The creation of a safe space for vulnerable individuals is the core objective of the PHAROS project. This space aims to impart competencies related to the circular economy, fostering tangible outcomes within the community network.

It specifically provides concrete skills for individuals at risk of educational poverty. Additionally, it aims to equip cis and trans women with skills in fields where there's a predominant male workforce, intending to address the gender gap in employment.

Purpose of the Proposal

PHAROS aims to establish a safe haven for vulnerable individuals and provide competencies, referring to EU set of frameworks.

It intends to offer concrete skills to those at risk of educational poverty and equip cis and trans women with competencies in male-dominated job sectors to address the gender gap in employment.

Southern Europe's Context: Vulnerabilities and Challenges

PHAROS Vision for Change

PHAROS endeavors to engage and empower youth through targeted awareness and training programs. It aims to:

- Cultivate awareness among Southern European youth about the significance of circular economy principles and their impact on community well-being;
- Develop competencies among participants in fields predominantly occupied by males, enhancing gender diversity in employment;
- Foster an environment of learning and practical skill acquisition to combat educational poverty.

Proposal Context and Framework

PHAROS will rely on the proposal to aim for a Circular Economy Local Fund to be set by the Municipality of Bari, using a minimum of 0.75% of waste tax revenue.

This fund would drive the establishment of educational spaces distributed in the several neighborhoods dedicated to circular economy principles, specifically targeting schools.

These spaces will function as educational hubs, imparting practical knowledge and skills related to sustainable practices and employment opportunities.

Methodology: Youth Engagement and Green Competencies

The methodology for PHAROS is rooted in youth work principles and non-formal education strategies, aligning with the GreenComp framework and Youthpass on key competences.
The approach emphasizes:

Needs assessment to understand challenges related to circular economy initiatives across Southern Europe.
Curriculum development focused on practical circular economy skills and sustainable practices.
Youth engagement through decision-making and hands-on participation in project planning.
Integration of circular economy principles, emphasizing resource efficiency and waste reduction.
Advocacy and awareness campaigns to promote sustainable practices.

Expected Outcomes

PHAROS anticipates impactful outcomes, including:

- Empowered youth proficient in circular economy principles and equipped with employable skills;
- Enhanced environmental resilience through circular economy integration;
- Strengthened community engagement and advocacy for sustainable practices;
- Improved educational experiences by integrating circular economy principles into the learning curriculum;
- Cultivation of a legacy of environmental consciousness among Southern European youth.

Evaluation Criteria

- Number of individuals involved in training and skill-building sessions;
- Variety and success of circular economy initiatives proposed;
- Improvement in community awareness and engagement towards circular economy practice to be evaluated by surveys;
- Long-term sustainability and economic benefits derived from circular economy projects.

Requirements for Implementation

What human, financial, material, or other resources are needed to carry out your proposal?

- Provision of several spaces by the municipality to be repurposed as the operational center for the project;
- Human resources for training;
- Management of the space by designated individuals and users;
- Utilization of 0,75% of waste-derived taxes for initial phase funding and acquisition of necessary tools (furniture, study area creation tools, relaxation zones)

Assignment of Responsibilities

Who is responsible for what?
Tou.Play ETS : Monica Parisi, Erica Episcopo,Karin Caprioli, Linda Regina , Claudia Cassano

Evaluation date
36 month from the start