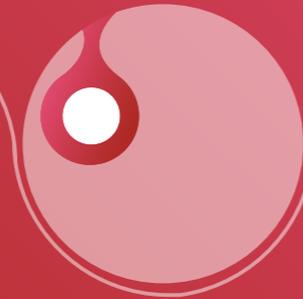


The benefits related to wild mushroom picking, a growing activity in European forests, can be broad and when maximized can involve a variety of actors playing at the recreational level (e.g. occasional pickers), the commercial level (e.g. mushroom traders), as well as activities proper of the tertiary sector (e.g. mycotourism and leisure activities, education initiatives). In addition, demand for truffles is expanding due to new consumer habits, pointing to a high potential of development. Adequate forest management techniques (Mycosilviculture) as well as cultivation techniques for optimizing the productivity and diversity of mushrooms and truffles, in addition to the development of innovative form of value chain agglomerations and the integration of this sector with the wider ecosystem services agenda are some of the key challenges of these NWFP.



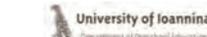
The most emblematic and valuable gourmet nut is the Mediterranean pine nut, but from Antiquity edible seed or fruits have had an important role in this area. Pine nuts harvesting has been mechanized considerably -reducing costs and labour risks- and that, along with the most innovative research on forest genetics is helping to modernize the value chain of this NWFP. In spite of this pests, diseases and fruit plagues are one of the main fronts to address, besides the adoption of new forms of forest management taking into account adaptation to climate change, with the focus on the fact that new business opportunities must guarantee traceability and product quality throughout the value chain.



Coordinator



Partners



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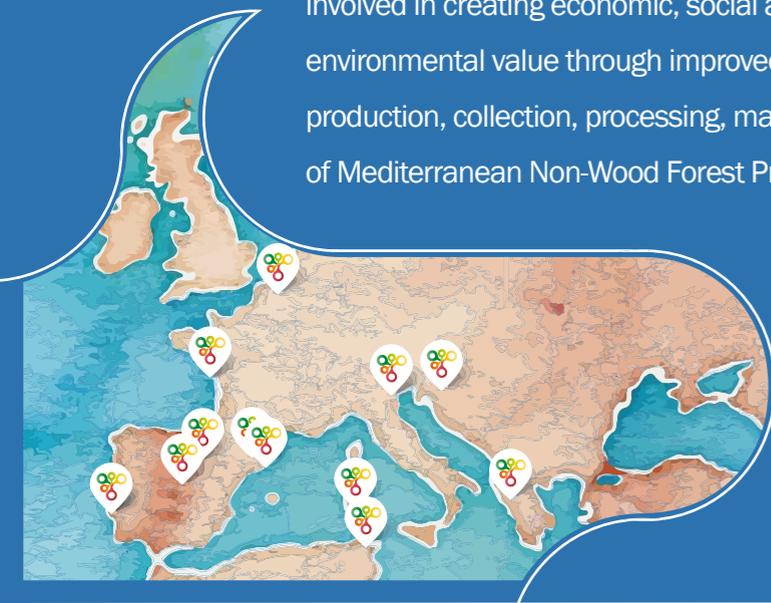


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Innovation Networks of Cork, Resins and Edibles in the Mediterranean basin (INCREDIBLE) is a project open to all those involved in creating economic, social and environmental value through improved production, collection, processing, marketing of Mediterranean Non-Wood Forest Products



In recent times is becoming evident the growth of a consumer more aware of recovering healthy lifestyle habits and closer to traditional knowledge. This has resulted in an increased interest worldwide about aromatic and medicinal plants (AMP) as natural medicinal remedies, which is reflected by a growing demand for AMP products in the European markets. The current outlook requires now innovative R&D in AMP to increase the productivity, quality and possibilities of valorisation, but as a previous step it's essential to listen and study consumers and their expectations about AMP, and therefore develop marketing strategies focused on issues such as productive processes (traceability, development of niche products); evolution of offered products; sector internationalization; substitution of essential oils; and distributors increased power, among others.



The forest stands and the cork production are the two factors that most influence the cork value chain, a NWFP which has its origin in a multifunctional ecosystem that provides many products and services, but environmental and social changes now threaten cork oak forests. To mitigate these threats, it is necessary to address incoming challenges through innovation, knowledge but also improved profitability to sustain management. There is an urgent need for new products, market segments and sources of revenue to take greater advantage of an NWFP whose market is now primarily focused on the manufacture of bottle stoppers, that accounts for almost 70% of the total value of the cork market.



Gum resin is a natural raw material that plays an important role in the bio-economy due to its multiple applications, but in the decade of the 1990s, European production almost stopped and the EU is highly dependent on imports of gum resin and its derivatives. Recently, a change in the global market situation allowed for a revival of resin production in the Iberian Peninsula but here is still much untapped potential in the Mediterranean. The focus of the iNET of Resins is to explore the existing research and innovation knowledge and the best practices across European gum resin value chain in order to deal with the main challenges that the sector is facing.

