FARCLIMATE

Mediterranean Model Forest Network

cesefor
FORESTRY HEART, research spirit

Organisation: Western Macedonia Model Forest, Cesefor

Sector: Forestry

Location: Kozani, Western Macedonia, Greece

The Living Lab operates in Kozani, Western Macedonia (Greece), a forest territory in a Just Transition Area. The landscape is dominated by species such as Pinus nigra, Quercus spp. and Fagus sylvatica, with forests being mainly public and municipal and a smaller share in the hands of small private owners.

A key opportunity here is non-timber forest products, especially wild mushrooms, aromatic plants and forest fruits which are deeply rooted in local traditions. However, the activity is still partly informal and often translates into limited and unstable income, with few structured value chains or local processing. This is becoming harder under climate variability: dry summers can reduce mushroom productivity and make yields less predictable. The area is also seeing more human–wildlife interactions (e.g., wild boar and brown bears), which can affect rural activities.

The Living Lab is working to make this sector more reliable and professional: improving skills in mycology, supporting knowledge transfer between generations, promoting sustainable harvesting and better practices for traceability and food safety, and reducing the perceived economic risk of investing in the sector. A central aim is to create new jobs and attract young people to forest-based work and small businesses.

Funded by the European Union

This project has received funding under the European Union's HORIZON EUROPE Research and Innovation Actions under Grant Agreement No. 101112860 and its associated partner UICN is funded from the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

Project funded by

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI