



# CASE STUDY N°27



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.



**Organisation:** Western Macedonia Model Forest, Cesefor

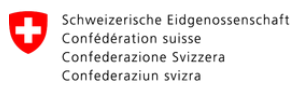
**Sector:** Forestry

**Location:** Kozani, Western Macedonia, Greece



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