



What do you think?

ENGAGING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN NATURE CONSERVATION DEVELOPING A TOOLBOX

10·11·12·13 OTTOBRE 2012 / FONTE CERRETO - L'AQUILA



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DEVELOPING A TOOLBOX
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G. Ladisa (CIHEAM-IAMB)





Participatory approaches in conservation and enhancement of biodiversity: the case of Ancient Olive Orchards in Apulia (Italy) and Crete (Greece)

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Fonte Cerreto – L'Aquila
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LIFE+ CENT.OLI.MED. project

LIFE+ CENT.OLI.MED. (LIFE07 NAT/IT/000450)



LIFE 07 NAT/IT/000450

Identification and conservation of the high nature value
of ancient olive groves in the Mediterranean region

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LIFE+ CENT.OLI.MED. project

Project title and acronym:

Identification and conservation of the high nature value of ancient olive groves in the Mediterranean region « CENT.OLI.MED »

PROJECT LOCATION: Italy, Crete

BUDGET INFO:

Total amount: 1,506,435.00 €

% EC Co-funding: 703,135.00 € (48.39 % of eligible budget)

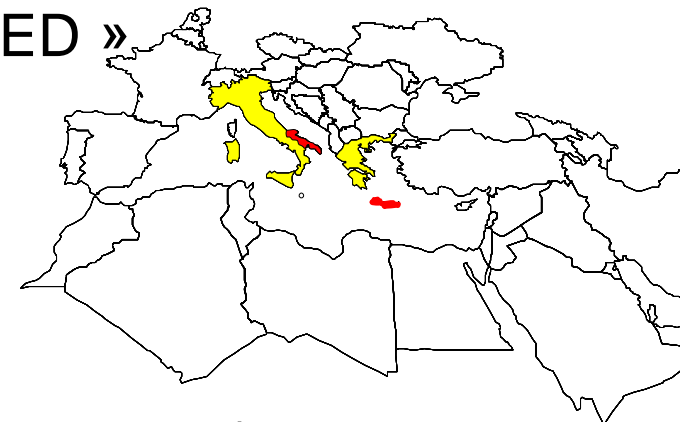
DURATION: Start: 01/02/2009 - End: 30/10/2012

PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTORS:

Coordinating Beneficiary: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute Bari (Italy)

Associated Beneficiaries:

- Ministry of Environment (Italy)
- Apulia Region – Councillorship for Ecology (Italy)
- Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (Greece)





LIFE+ CENT.OLI.MED. project

The **Apulian target areas** fall inside of Protected Areas (regional and national) whereas the **Greek area** is a private property.





LIFE+ CENT.OLI.MED. project

National Park of Gargano (Apulia, Italy)





LIFE+ CENT.OLI.MED. project

Regional Park of “Dune Costiere tra Torre Canne e Torre San Leonardo” (Apulia, Italy)





LIFE+ CENT.OLI.MED. project

Natural State Reserve of “Torre Guaceto” (Apulia, Italy)





LIFE+ CENT.OLI.MED. project

Natural State Reserve of “le Cesine” (Apulia, Italy)





LIFE+ CENT.OLI.MED. project

Municipality of Voukolies – Bugiukliana
(Crete, Greece)





LIFE+ CENT.OLI.MED. project

Background and Aims:

Lack of protection policies for High Nature Value Farmlands (HNVF)

Threats:

1. Loss of biodiversity due to intensive agricultural activities.
2. Uprooting of ancient olive trees for ornamental purposes due to the scarce cost-effectiveness of their growing
3. Limited knowledge of the environmental value and cultural heritage of ancient olive groves.
4. Poor information and lack of awareness of stakeholders

General Objective:

Designation of ancient olive groves as High Nature Value Farmlands (HNVF), and actions aimed to halt the loss of biodiversity

Specific Objectives:

1. Identification and assessment of elements characterizing the Mediterranean ancient olive groves as High Nature Value Farmland
2. Enhancement and protection of the biodiversity in the ancient olive groves (re-naturalization, definition and implementation of Guidelines)
3. Development and application of an innovative model of Governance
4. Definition of concerted formulation of common policies for the protection and the enhancement of ancient olive groves in the Mediterranean region
5. Dissemination





LIFE+ CENT.OLI.MED. project

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

- Preliminary study on **morpho-genetic and environmental characterization** of the biodiversity.
- **Enhancing biodiversity** (floristic, micro-habitats of shrubs, grassland, tree shelter sites and dry stone walls).
- Development and implementation of **guidelines** for the enhancement of biodiversity.
- Development of an **economic enhancement plan** of the ancient olive grove.
- Elaboration and implementation of an innovatory **governance model**.
- Elaboration of a **Euro-Mediterranean action plan** for the protection of ancient olive groves.

OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:

- A better knowledge of structure and relationships in olive grove agro-ecosystem.
- Best practices for biodiversity enhancement and conservation.
- Increased level of fauna and flora biodiversity in ancient olive groves.
- Fit olive groves management practices in a frame of global sustainability.
- Care and valorize the ancient olive grove heritage through a better share of costs and benefits.
- Achieve a Mediterranean shared policy frame and harmonization.
- Educate and disseminate the environmental and cultural value of the ancient olive groves of the Mediterranean area.





The participatory approach



To achieve the objective of a management really sustainable in the Mediterranean landscape of ancient olive orchards, it is necessary to put the protection and **conservation of biodiversity** (genetic, vegetal, animal) together with the **valorization of territory** through its productive, social and cultural aspects.





The participatory approach

- **Involvement of local communities** and of the so-called stakeholders represents a not-negotiable component in the management of a territory and even more for a protected area
- An objective for the achievement of sustainable management of protected areas should include the empowerment of local communities in recognizing their **rights** and their **responsibilities** in the management of these natural resources.
- If the people that are living in and around the protected area are **not prepared** to contribute to the implementation of the political measures for biodiversity conservation, regulations, policies and plan will have **little chance** to achieve their objectives

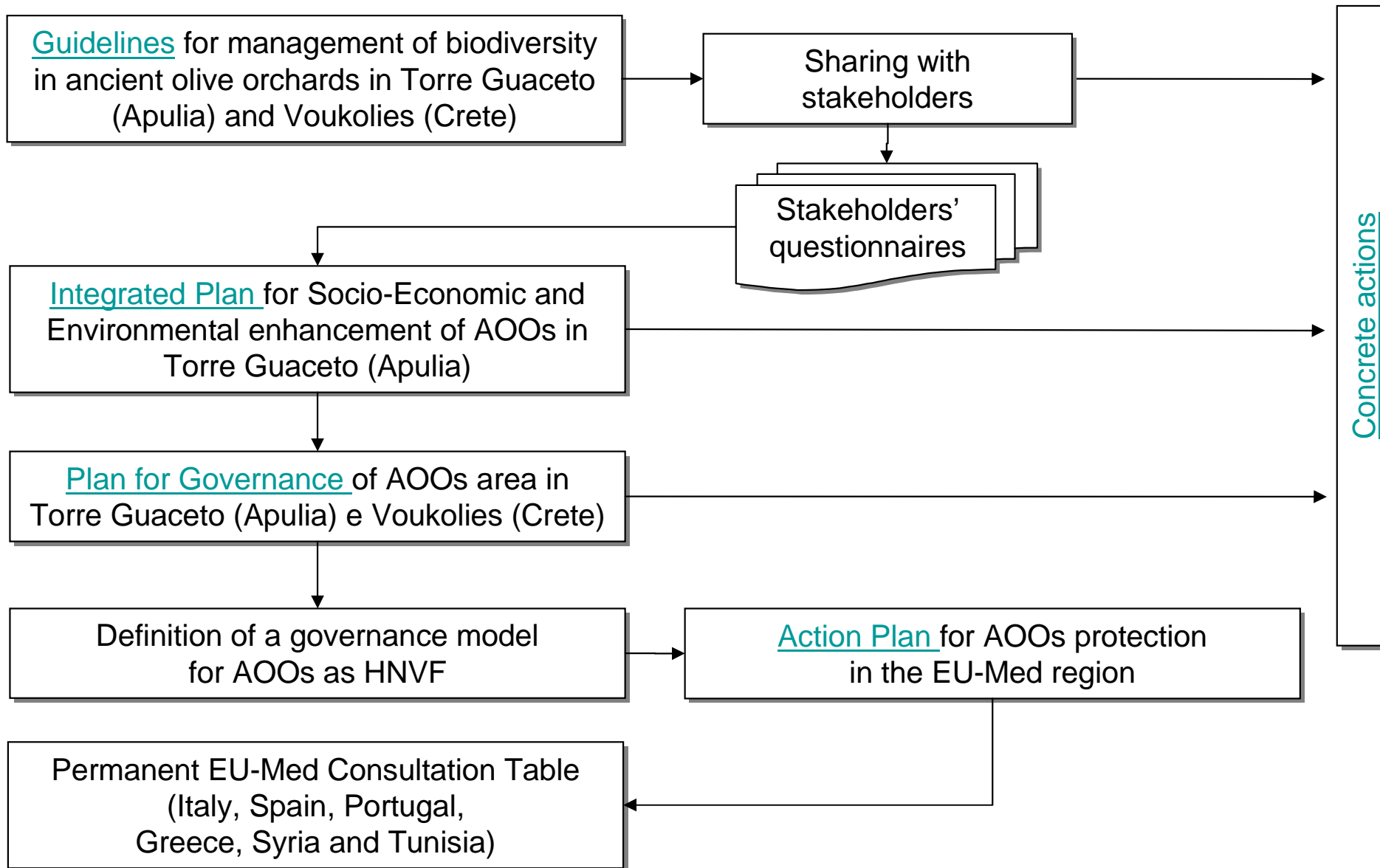


The participatory approach

Starting from these assumptions the **LIFE+ Cent.Oli.Med. Project** has pursued throughout the course of its implementation, the involvement of stakeholders at different **spatial levels** (from local to regional and over-national) and in different **planning domain** (from concrete actions to the wide-area planning to the definition of EU-Med strategies).



From Guidelines to the EU-Med consultation table





The participatory approach

Local scale

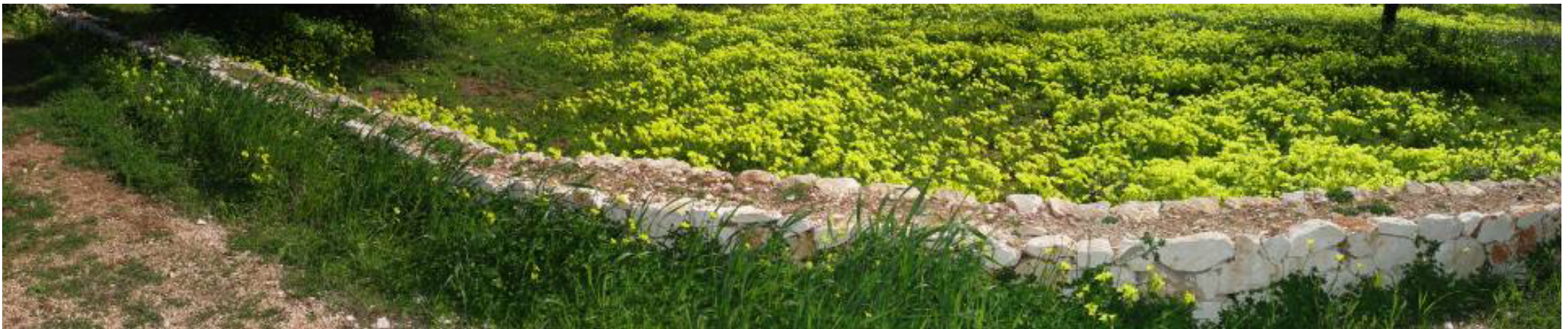
In the target areas (Apulia and Crete) the LIFE+ project has implemented a number of **concrete action** to preserve and enhance biodiversity in ancient olive orchards.

Such actions were shared and agreed with smallholders and land owners in the target areas.

Their collaboration is still needed in order to ensure maintenance and continuity to what the project has realized.



Local Concrete Actions



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Local Concrete Actions





Local Concrete Actions



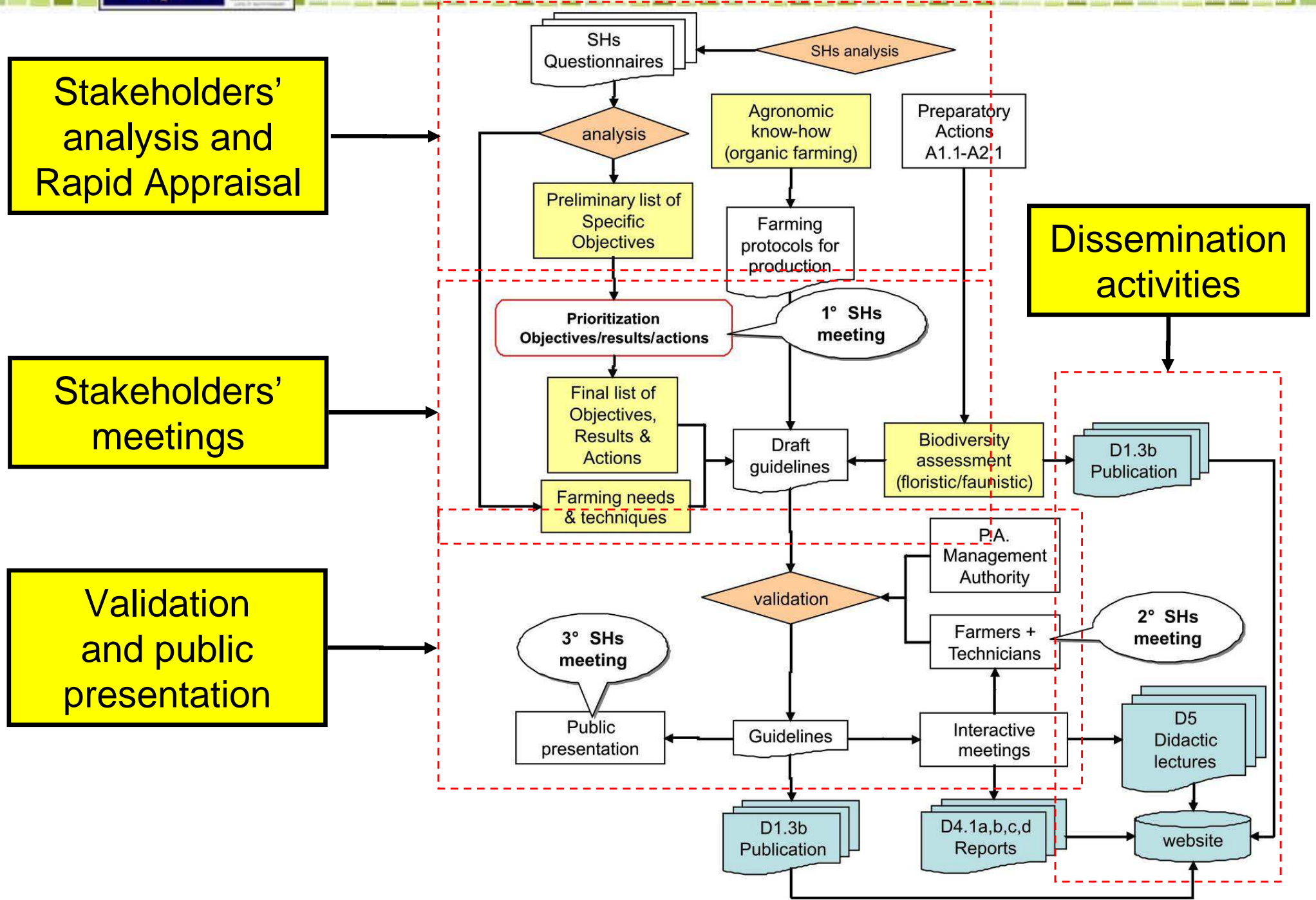


Local Concrete Actions





Guidelines development process





Tools applied

- **Stakeholders' analysis** (40 local actors were selected based on the assumption that they should represent all sustainability dimensions)
- **Personal interviews** on the basis of a semi-structured questionnaire (Stakeholders' Rapid Appraisal of Sustainable Management for COGs) in order to define: level of awareness, perceived values and threats affecting COGs and main objectives for the biodiversity conservation of the habitats for each Sustainability Dimension
- **Stakeholders' meetings** (3 per target area) aimed to prioritize specific objectives, results and actions; these represents the management criteria on the basis of which the Integrated Socio-Economic and Environmental Plan was set-up
- **Step-by-step validation** through meetings with technicians, fauna and flora experts were performed all along the process.





Guidelines for Biodiversity conservation in AOOs

- Through a consultation with farmers and local technicians, **Guidelines for the Conservation of Biodiversity** in the olive groves were defined.
- In the guidelines, priorities and objectives come from the contribution of **different subjects**, collected through questionnaires and in the course of several meetings (in Italy and Greece).
- Guidelines are not a theoretical document but a practical handbook taking into consideration all farming practices (planting, tillage, soil fertility management, irrigation, weeds and pest management, pruning, harvesting), indicating a **low-environmental impact approach**.
- Guidelines were disseminated to local farmers through a **short training course** (April to May 2012)





Integrated Plan for Socio-Economic and Environmental Development of AOOs

- In order to improve consciousness and enhance the natural capital and socio-cultural heritage represented by Ancient Olive Orchards, in the frame of the project, Apulia Region defined an integrated **Plan for Socio-Economic and Environmental Development** for Ancient Olive Orchards.
- The identified development strategies takes into account the principles of sustainable development:
 - to put in value the **strengths** offered by natural resources, history and culture as well as the agricultural landscape and their tourist attractiveness, ensuring a development that take care both environmental and human resources;
 - to suggest development strategies that directly **involve local farming communities**;
 - to set up a virtuous circle between **different economic sectors**, especially tourism and agriculture.
- Key-words are: **environmental and economic sustainability, sharing, replicability**



The governance model for Torre Guaceto

- The integrated Plan for Socio-Economic and Environmental development as well as the Governance Model for the Ancient Olive Orchards in Torre Guaceto were validated by the Apulian “**Commissione Tecnica di Tutela degli Alberi Monumentali**” (4/2/2011 – 13/1/2012);
- Apulia Region approved the integrated Plan for Socio-Economic and Environmental development and the Governance Model for the Ancient Olive Orchards in the Natural State Reserve of Torre Guaceto with an official deliberation (**Delibera di Giunta Regionale n. 1331 del 03/07/2012**);
- Such important (and needed) “political” step allowed the full implementation for both the plan at local level, by ensuring, at the same time, replicability in areas having the same characteristics.

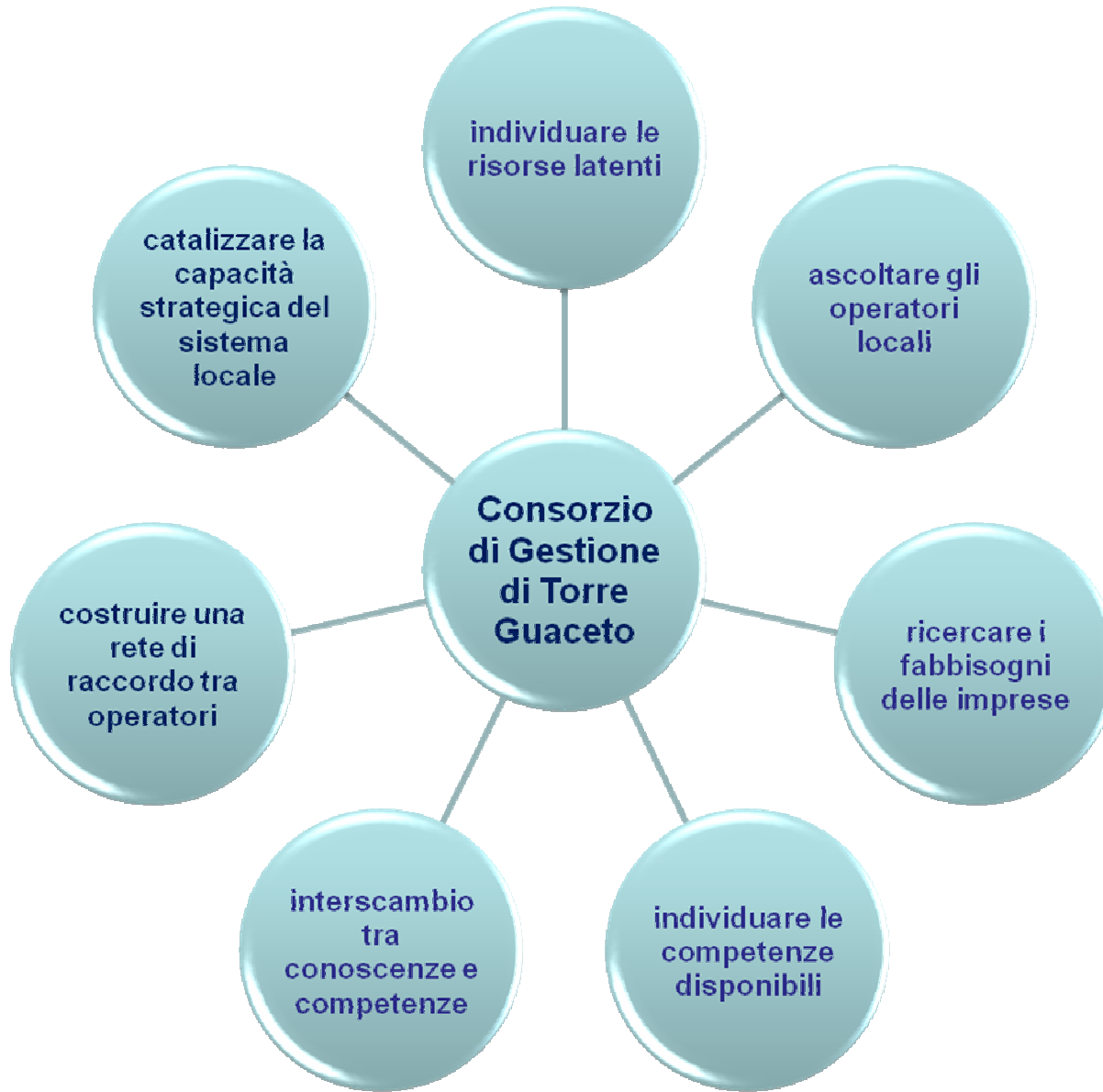


The governance model for Torre Guaceto





The governance model for Torre Guaceto



In the frame of the proposed *governance* model, to meet all the functions listed here, the role of network facilitator will be assumed by the Management Consortium of Torre Guaceto. This is fully in line with the role of protected areas where, the Management Authority, is considered as a player who have in charge all the functions/activities needed to promote sustainable development in the territory: in other words the management authority can assume the role of a “sustainable development agency”.



Implementation of the Governance Plan: the exhibition space





Implementation of the Governance Plan: the Services Area





Implementation of the Governance Plan: the Soap Lab



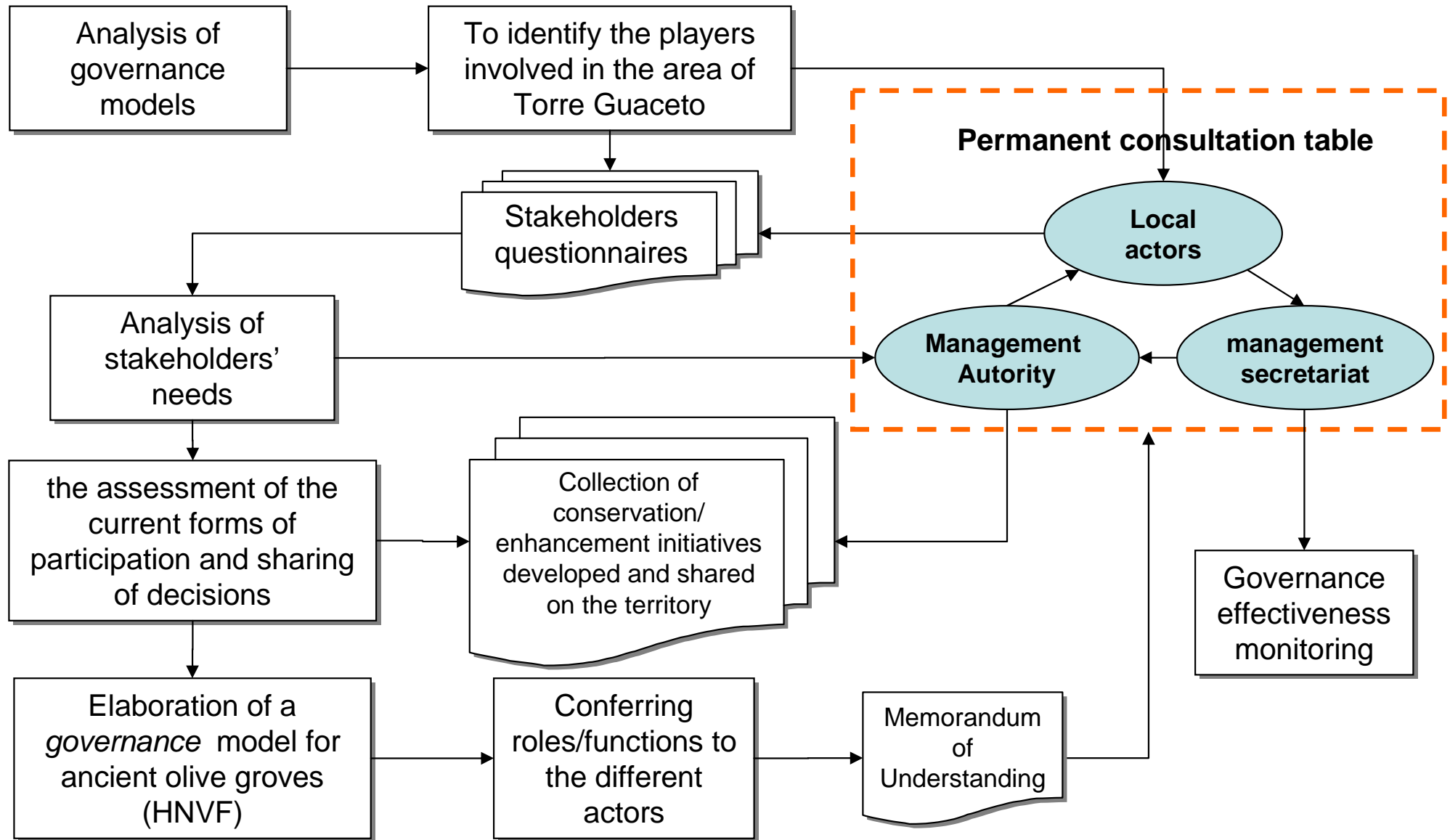


Implementation of the Governance Plan: the Ancient Olive Groves Walking path



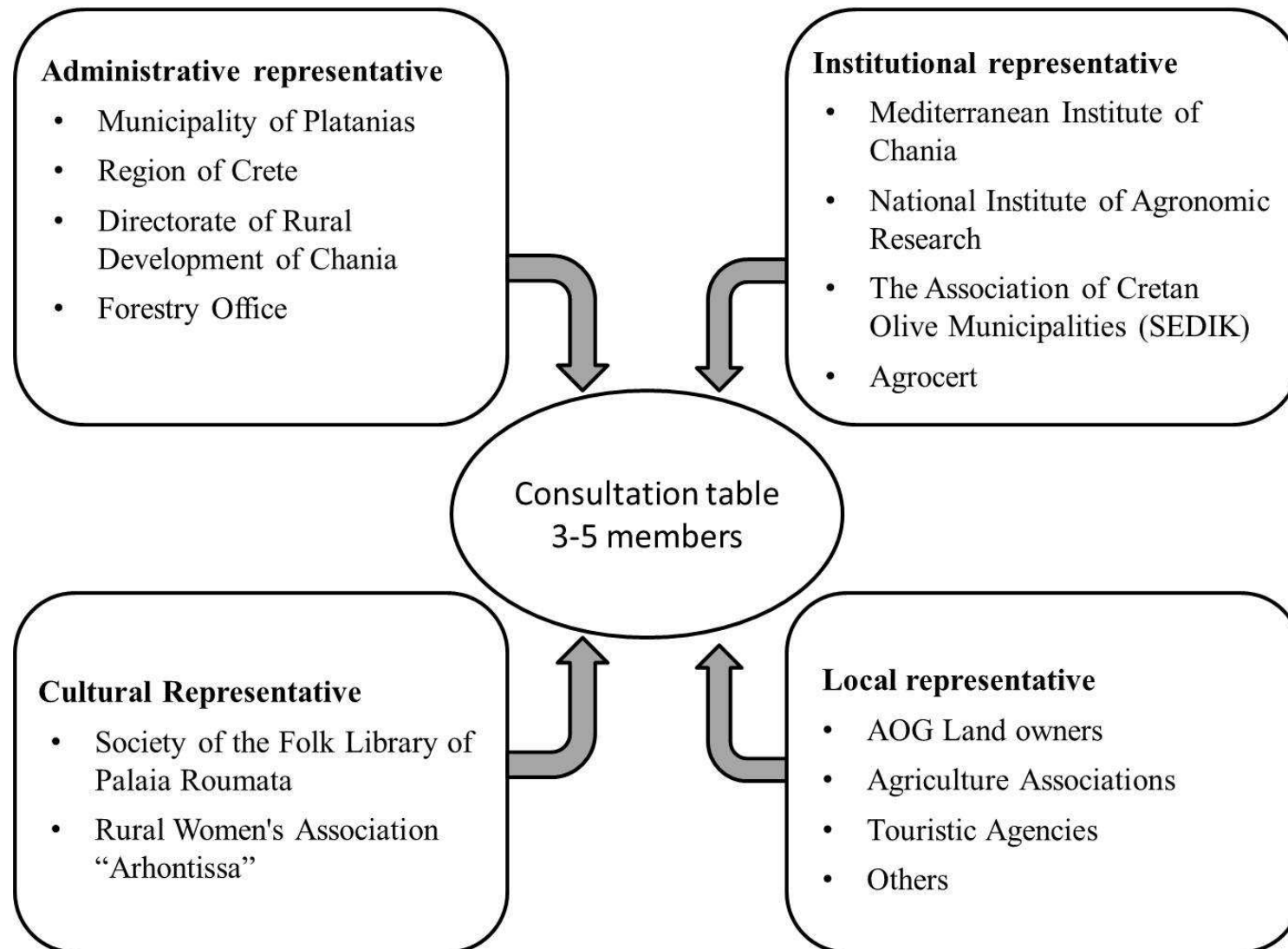


The governance model for Torre Guaceto





the governance model for Voukolies





Implementazione del Piano di Governance

Memorandum of Understanding

Promuovere la collaborazione lungo termine per la gestione sostenibile degli oliveti secolari a Torre Guaceto

Funzioni

- Favorire l'**identificazione degli attori** coinvolti nell'area degli oliveti secolari di Torre Guaceto.
- **Condividere gli impegni** definiti nel Piano di Governance, definendo i ruoli di ogni attore nella conservazione, gestione e potenziamento degli olivi secolari in Torre Guaceto.
- Stabilire un Tavolo di Consultazione permanente tra gli attori locali che possa **assicurare continuità agli impegni** oltre la durata del progetto LIFE+
- **Coordinare future iniziative ed attività.**
- **Facilitare l'integrazione ed il dialogo** tra i diversi soggetti.
- **Promuovere nuovi progetti** sul territorio.



The EU-Med Action Plan

MATTM coordinates elaboration of the **Action Plan for the protection of ancient olive groves in the Mediterranean region.**

This action will be pursued by mean of the establishment of a Consultation Table with policy maker of: **Italia, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Lebanon and Tunisia.**

A MULTI-SCALE and MULTI-LEVEL APPROACH FOR CONSERVATION OF ANCIENT OLIVE ORCHARDS IN EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION

“a shared and concerted approach to the formulation of an Action Plan aiming to protection and conservation of Ancient Olive Orchards in the Mediterranean Region”

The main contents characterizing the “plan” are the following:

- Characterization and common definition of AOOs as HNVF.
- Strategies to protect and enhance AOOs in EU-Med region into a frame of sustainability.
- Policies and financial instruments able to guarantee economic sustainability for HNV in ancient olive orchards.
- Identification of models of governance that are likely to be applied at EU-Med scale.





The EU-Med Action Plan



Different **tools** were applied to achieve the strategies for the Action Plan:

- Ad-hoc **questionnaires** collecting infos in each Country
- Syntesis of results
- **Metaplan** for prioritization of specific objectives
- **Brainstorming** to suggest common actions for the valorization of AOOs
- Metaplan to define tools at EU-Med and Country level
- **Conceptual map** to collect elements to built a common definition of AOOs as HN VF



A shared definition for AOOs as HNMF

The agricultural systems identifiable as HNMF ancient olive orchards are agricultural landscapes characterized by a prevalence of ancient olive trees, managed with low impact practices able to support (maintain and enhance) soil and water quality, carbon sequestration and high level of biodiversity, contributing to preserve future cultural and natural heritages.

These systems include low intensive cropping system or high diversity of land cover or semi-natural vegetation with different ecological infrastructures.

(EU-Med Consultation Table, 10 maggio 2012)





Conclusion

Conclusion:

Even if this participatory process revealed to be more time-consuming than it was foreseen, the contribution coming from smallholders, technicians, administrators revealed to be precious to understand their perception and expectation and properly plan future actions and scenarios for the valorization of Ancient Olive Orchards in EU-Mediterranean region. Tools can help in facilitate communication and sharing of ideas but, finally, they are only tools: dialogue among people is the win-win strategy!



Thank you!

**All the document are available on:
www.lifecentolimed.iamb.it**



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