

POLIEDRA E CREA-INEA

Project Idea “Womed.net” – MED programme

Context:

Interreg MED programme 2014-2020, call of July-October 2015.

Eligible Areas, in terms of countries represented within **Euromontana**: **France** (Regions of Languedoc-Roussillon, PACA, Corse, Rhône-Alpes, Midi-Pyrénées); **Spain** (Autonomous Communities of Catalonia, Comunidad Valenciana, Aragón, Andalucía, Illes Balears, Murcia, Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla); **Croatia** (whole country); **Slovenia** (whole country); **Greece** (whole country); **Portugal** (Central and Southern Portugal + Lisbon); **Italy** (the whole country except the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano/Southern Tyrol).

Summary of the project idea: Womed.net, a Network for Women in Agriculture in the Mediterranean Area (*provisional acronym and title*)

Focus: *Rural Areas.*

Priority Axis: *1 - Promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth.*

Specific objective: *1.1 – To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area.*

The general idea is to facilitate the creation of a Mediterranean network for women in agriculture.

The core topic of the *Womed.net* network would be the empowerment and support of the key role women play in maintaining Mediterranean rural populations and especially in fostering local businesses and safeguarding local knowledge from both a material and an immaterial point of view, and in creating and innovating within the specificities of Mediterranean agriculture.

The network would focus on the specific needs of Mediterranean agriculture, such as the need for an economically sound, viable and innovative agriculture, the contrast to depopulation, migration (both immigration and emigration) and the role of agriculture in countering climate and environmental change.

The network would operate in transferring knowledge and good business and agricultural practices, and in awareness raising and capitalization activities, aiming at better tailoring local policies and decisions to the needs of Mediterranean agriculture and aiming at fostering equal opportunities in rural Mediterranean areas.

Rural areas in the Mediterranean are, often, mountain areas. The challenges and assets of rural areas in the Mediterranean often go hand in hand with the challenges and assets of mountain areas in general, as clearly shown in the October 2014's European Mountain Convention. In particular, the role of local rural businesses and LAGs is and will remain fundamental for their bottom-up approach, local-based knowledge, the attention to local populations and production chains, the care of the territories and the promotion of local traditions and products.

A network encompassing Managing Authorities, public authorities, local rural businesses led by or tailored to women, and LAGs working on the role of women in Mediterranean agriculture, and possibly open to a future of strengthened understanding and cooperation also with the Mediterranean countries in Northern Africa and Western Asia, would be the main desired deliverable of the Womed.net project idea.

Partners sought:

Poliedra has been joined by **INEA**, the Italian National Institute for Agricultural Economics, in the drafting of the project idea. Ideally, Poliedra would seek partners from at least 3 other Mediterranean countries, for a total of about 5-7 partners.

Particularly welcome would be Management Authorities and public authorities with competencies on equal opportunities, rural development and agriculture. Key partners, considering the scope of Priority Axis 1, would be local rural businesses and farmer entrepreneurial associations especially if specifically led by or tailored to women. Secondly, research institutions focusing on the role of women in agriculture, LAGs, organizations and associations of farmers would also be welcome.

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