



*What has ReNature been up to?*

**Project Kick-Off Meeting: „Public Project Launch, Executive Board & General Assembly Meetings“**

The EU H2020 funded ReNature project kick-off meeting took place between 25 - 26 October 2018 at the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), Malta.

Around 65 representatives, including scientists, experts, environmental managers and stakeholders of 18 partner organisations met for the start of the three years coordination and support action.



The meeting also provided the means of getting together as a team to discuss the project activities, research strategy and the networking initiatives of the team.

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### **GLOBAL and REGIONAL in ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION" Conference (GLOREP 2018)**

ReNature actively participated in the international scientific conference „Global and regional in environmental protection“ (GLOREP 2018) in Timisoara (Romania) through the oral presentation "Cultural ecosystem services as a bridge to future challenges for sustainable development“ and the poster presentation "The productive, ecological and environmental functions of grasslands in agricultural landscape“. The conference afforded a great opportunity to share the latest research with around 80 European scientists and academics from 10 countries.

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Past Issues  
Venue: Romania,  
Timisoara  
Date: 18-20 Nov 2018  
More information:  
<http://glorep.upt.ro>



Source: <http://glorep.upt.ro/#top>

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## **Implementation of Nature-based Solutions to tackle climate change Focus on the Mediterranean region**

From January 22 - 24, 2019, around 90 experts met in Marseille (France) to promote adaptation and mitigation to climate change based on ecosystems and to facilitate their integration into national climate change adaptation policies.

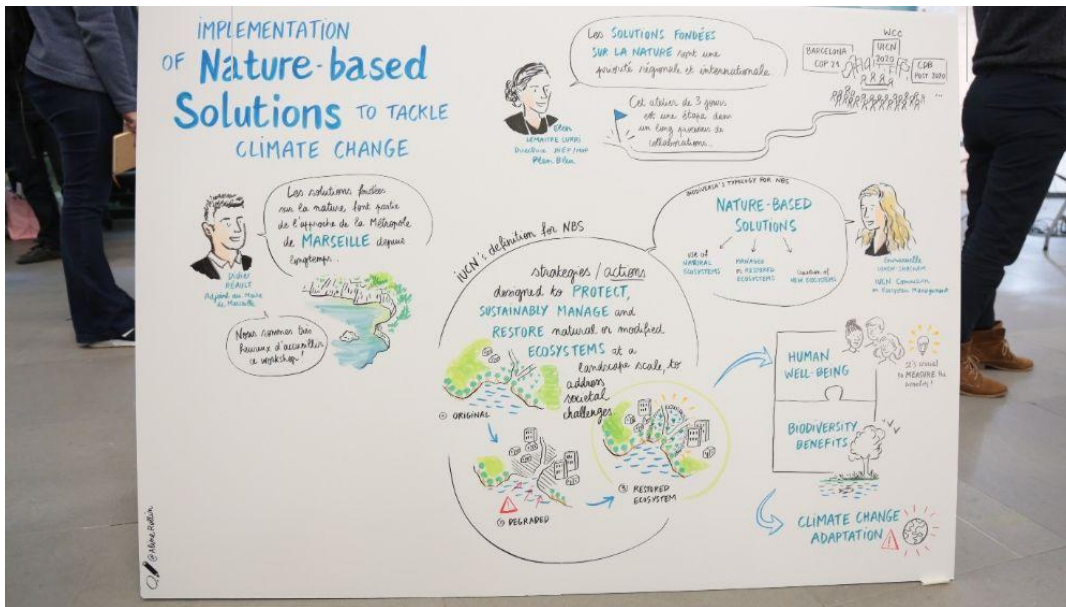
This workshop aimed to capitalize on the outcomes and “lessons learned” from projects that are being carried out in Europe and the Mediterranean by different partners across different ecosystems and develop and share knowledge about the role of ecosystems in climate change mitigation and adaptation in the context of nature-based solutions as an umbrella concept that covers a whole

climate change, water security, human health, disaster risk and social and economic development.



Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/163545291@N07/sets/72157706073505094/>

The workshop sessions were also focused on nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change effects through restoring and increasing the resilience of ecosystems such as green infrastructure (e.g. green roofs, walls or farms) which are highly efficient to face environmental, economic and societal challenges posed by climate change in natural and urban ecosystems. The ReNature team was presented through a poster presentation, and it was an ideal opportunity to exchange European and Mediterranean best practices and challenges in terms of Nature-based Solutions with other researchers and environmental managers, and to create new collaborations.



Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/163545291@N07/sets/72157706073505094/>



Credit: Judita Tomaskinova

## Blue Invest in the Mediterranean 2019

We have shared our work in ReNature with investors and researchers attending the Blue Invest match-making event that brought together innovators and the financial community to sustainably develop the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean Sea Basin whilst protecting its marine resources.

Venue: Malta/St Julians

Date: 24 Jan 2019

## Press Conference: Launch of the Horizon 2020 project ReNature

The Press Conference was attended by the Hon. Minister for Education and Employment Mr Evarist Bartolo and the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary for Youths, Sports and Voluntary Organisations within the Ministry for Education and Employment Dr. Clifton Grima. Also present were a number of ReNature collaborators and students and colleagues from MCAST.

Press



*Credit: MCAST*

*Venue: MCAST, Malta/Paola*

*Date: 8 Feb 2019*

### *ReNature in the news!*

The Malta Independent,  
21 Oct 2018

**"MCAST launches research on green spaces and nature-based solutions"**

availability and accessibility of green spaces has become more pressing. **Mario V Balzan reports** (the ReNature project coordinator)

ReNature team has mapped green spaces, assessed their actual use and highlighted some of the arising social, economic and environmental benefits. This study found a strong gradient in terms of green spaces availability from rural to urban areas and, consequently, lower capacity of urban centres to provide key benefits to the well-being of their inhabitants. Benefits provided by urban green spaces include the reduction of ambient temperatures, flood mitigation by limiting storm water runoff, and the removal of air pollutants and noise buffering by vegetation. Green spaces also provide physical and psychological benefits to city inhabitants and there is a rapidly growing evidence base of the rising health benefits. The accessibility of green spaces is also critical as these provide opportunities for recreation.

### **Research by academics and students from five countries on solutions to sustainable development**

ReNature, a project coordinated by the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology, will bring together academics and students from five countries to carry out research and find natural solutions for the strengthening of sustainable development and to address climate change.

Dr Mario Balzan, lecturer at the Institute for Applied Sciences, said that the project will offer infrastructural solutions which do not leave negative impacts on the environment.

“We are speaking about urban spaces; urban trees, green roofs and walls – a number of such solutions that bring along biodiversity in our cities and towns; and at the same time we are contributing to a better life for society”.

Dr Balzan added that between 1980 and 2010, Europe lost three hundred billion euro due to climate change and during the same period, some 75,000 persons died as a result of strong heat. He stated that environmental solutions lead to a reduction in floods and decrease the environmental impacts of urbanization.

Education Minister Evarist Bartolo said that solutions should be part of the drafting of the plan for sustainable development.

**<https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/research-by-academics-and-students-from-five-countries-on-solutions-to-sustainable-development/>**

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## **The ReNature Thematic workshop on knowledge needs for the use of nature-based solutions**

The “ReNature stakeholder thematic workshop” on using nature-based solutions for environmental engineering and management in Mediterranean islands will define a new research agenda, to support practitioners and decision-makers choosing nature-based solutions when planning coastal, urban or rural developments. The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) is the coordinator of the project, and is organising this workshop in collaboration with researchers at the University of East Anglia (UK).

*When:* 7 May 2019

*Where:* MCAST, Institute of Applied Sciences, Paola, Malta

## **The ReNature Training course 1**

From 8 to 9 May 2019, ReNature will hold the first of a series of five planned project training courses with the attendance of academics and relevant stakeholders in Malta. The training course 1 aims at presenting techniques relating to biodiversity and land monitoring. During the course, around 30 participants will have an opportunity to map and assess green infrastructure and ecosystem services in rural and urban environments.

*Where:* MCAST, Malta

*When:* 7 – 9 May 2019

*Where:* MCAST, Institute of Applied Sciences, Paola, Malta

## **The following forthcoming ReNature event „Training course 2“ in Dublin (organized by Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)**

ReNature project partners, academics, practitioners and stakeholders will meet for a 3-day training course 2 is organized by Trinity College Dublin. The second training course is focused on mainstreaming nature-based solutions in planning and policy-making (including urban planning & tourism) and will provide a space for open and inspiring discussion. This training will include a PPGIS hands-on training with Space Engagers.



## The ReNature First Summer School

The ReNature First Summer School is organised as short course of 1 full week for up to 20 – 40 international participants specifically targeted towards landscape management. All participants will have the possibility to interact and share experiences and activities with high-level experts.

*When:* 30 Sep - 4 Oct 2019

*Where:* MCAST, Institute of Applied Sciences, Paola, Malta

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