



## **M19.3 – Preparation and Implementation of Cooperation Activities of the Local Action**

### Information sheet

#### **Project Title: L’Olio di oliva nel Mediterraneo**

Trans-national cooperation: Cooperation with Local Action Group/s in other Member State/s

Project Duration: 24 months

GXF’s eligible cost: €124, 582.36

Grant amount: 99,000

#### Partners:

GAL XLOKK Foundation has partnered with GAL Valle Umbra e Sibellini, an Italian LAG from the region of Umbria. The Institute of Earth System forming part of the University of Malta will collaborate with the chosen Italian research institute in relation to the technical aspect of the project.

#### Project description:

The project will involve an exchange of good practices in the field of olive cultivation. These will particularly focus on the (i) exploitation and recovery of the variety of excellent traditional extra virgin oil, both cultivated and not (ii) exploitation and recovery of the traditional Maltese table olive, with a variety of white fruit.

The research is aimed at carrying DNA and molecular testing on the Maltese autochthonous varieties of olives dating back centuries. In collaboration with the Italian institute specialising in this field of research, the recovery of these autochthonous varieties of olives would eventually help regenerate olive oil production derived from these varieties. The project also envisages a publication relating to the project as well as related academic papers.

#### How the project will target the focus areas and cross-cutting objectives:

The cooperation between two local action groups and research institutes from different countries within the European Union makes the project an exciting learning experience for both. The project has an innovation element, since there is transfer of ideas and experiences in order to improve the olive oil product.

The experts will be completing a detailed research. Moreover, the project will involve various animation activities which involve the gathering of information, exchange of experiences, discussions amongst various stakeholders including field experts and local producers themselves.



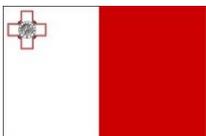
The detailed analysis should lead local producers to enhance their product and create the Maltese brand of agri-tourism through the production of quality produce. In addition, the results will be presented for future policies and processes to improve the quality produce, since, it envisages a publication relating to the project as well as related academic papers.

How the project will be contributing towards the needs identified in the Malta RDP:

- **Maltese Quality Produce** - The project aims to strengthen one of the main Malta needs within the Rural Development Programme. The project is focusing on the development and specialisation of a particular agricultural niche quality product (olive oil), that is becoming a more popular choice amongst the local families.
- **Wider Rural Economy** - The project will be an opportunity for producers already producing good quality olive oil to renew their product. The research to be conducted aims to improve the competitiveness of local producers by better integrating them into quality schemes. The involvement of students in the project should encourage future farmers/producers to get more involved in the sector. Therefore, targeting to reduce some of the weaknesses identified in the Malta RDP, which include ageing farming population, low level of education and the skills gaps in the sector.



### **Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020**



Part financed by the European Union  
Co-financing Rate:  
75% European Union; 25% Government of Malta



***The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas***