





Launch of EU funded MONALISA Project to Combat Land Degradation and Desertification in Mediterranean Arid Areas



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BY [MONALISA PROJECT](#)

Overview of the MONALISA project, Consortium and Kick-off Meeting organised in Sassari, Italy

Sassari, October 1st, 2024 – The MONALISA project (MONitoring and Assessing prevention and restoration soLutlons to combat deSertificAtion), an Innovation Action Horizon project aimed at preventing and reversing Land Degradation and Desertification (LDD) across Mediterranean drylands, has started with the Kick-off Meeting hosted by Università degli Studi di Sassari (UNISS) in Sassari, Italy. The project is funded under the Horizon Europe program under the topic HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-04, with a total budget of € 7.325.993,75. The Granting Authority for this project is the European Research Executive Agency (REA), under the European Commission.

The Kick-off Meeting was held on October 1-3, 2024, in Sassari, Sardinia, Italy, hosted by the project coordinator, Università degli Studi di Sassari (UNISS). The event gathered the MONALISA Consortium to advance their mission of developing sustainable solutions for land degradation and desertification (LDD). The agenda featured presentations from work package leaders, highlighting the project's comprehensive approach, which includes multidisciplinary research, field implementations, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration with other research initiatives and campaigns.

The MONALISA project is coordinated by the UNISS and involves a diverse MONALISA Consortium of 20 partners, 2 associated partners and 1 affiliated entity, from 9 countries, including 13 research institutions from Italy, Spain, Denmark, Greece, Tunisia, Romania, and Switzerland, emphasizing strong academic and scientific expertise. The consortium also involves 2 public authorities from Italy and Tunisia, which contribute governmental insights and support. Additionally, 3 NGOs from Spain, Greece, and Palestine, along with 2 civil society organizations (CSOs) from Italy and France, bring valuable grassroots and community engagement perspectives. Lastly, 3 SMEs from Italy, Spain, and Serbia, provide innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to project topic.

The MONALISA project addresses the pressing issue of LDD through innovative, tailored solutions. These solutions will be assessed and scaled out across six Mediterranean case studies (CSs) Los Pedroches (Spain), Médenine (Tunisia), Alta Murgia Park (Italy), Berchidda-Monti (Italy), Asterousia (Greece) and Beit Dajan (Palestine). These CSs encompass various regions with different levels of aridity and socio-ecological conditions, aiming to combat land degradation and desertification through innovative and tailored solutions. The MONALISA project will integrate scientific and local knowledge through a transdisciplinary approach, engaging multi-sector stakeholders and interdisciplinary researchers in order to prevent and reduce LDD.



Files

1. MONALISA_press_release_1_KoM
application/pdf

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