

Cooperation stories

from the MED PROGRAMME

Can one tree save another one?

Beyond the colours and the climate that gave its reputation to the Mediterranean summer, the latter is also known for a recurrent phenomenon which devastates its forests: fires.

When on the 1st of July 2012, a fire sparks off and wipes away 20.000 acres of vegetation in Valencia region in Spain, the news seem to be rather usual. However, among the ruins, something survived: a patch of 946 cypresses is still standing, hardly scratched by 5 days of fire. This is not an accident nor a miracle, but the confirmation of the incredibly resistant nature of this tree.

It is precisely this quality which in 2010 encourages the 12 partners (from 9 Mediterranean countries) of the CypFire project co-financed by the MED Programme to design a new strategy to counter forest fires in the Mediterranean. This strategy aims at planting rows of protective trees able to slow down and circumcise the most stubborn fires and thus forming 'barriers of cypresses'.

Can a simple row of trees protect the complex ecosystem of a forest? Yes, this is what the CypFire partners firmly believe in. They study the cypress in the minutest detail in order to reveal its mysteries and to fully exploit its qualities.





The unfortunate incident of Valencia brings a ray of hope in the endless fight against fires in the Mediterranean. The cypress patch, still standing, was planted for experimentation purposes on the occasion of a previous European project now completed.

This incident clearly legitimates the financial support provided by the MED Programme which within the framework of its objective 'prevention of and fight against natural risks', supports six other projects on forest management.



The photo of the miracle cypresses here on the left is the best testimony of an idea that should be taken into account and which born by territorial cooperation dynamism will maybe become someday common practice.



More information about the project?

Contact the Lead Partner Salvatore Marranca at smarranca.foreste@regione.sicilia.it

More about the MED Programme on www.programmamed.eu



Programme cofinancé par le Fonds Européen de Développement Régional

Programme cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund

