

Framework and Pilot Area Partners



Innovation partners



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TERRASAFE

Cultivating resilience, restoring the earth.



Innovations for empowering communities in Europe and North Africa to combat desertification

TERRASAFE: TERrestrial Resilience and
RestorAtion Strategies for (semi) Arid and
Fragile Ecosystems through a multi-actor
approach

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Introducing TERRASAFE



Desertification refers to land degradation in dry areas of the world. It is caused by human activities and is exacerbated by climate change. When desertification occurs, the land's ability to grow plants, including food crops and trees, and provide other benefits is reduced. In some places, desertification can cause people to abandon land altogether. As a result, much of the world is vulnerable to desertification. Seeking ways of preventing and combatting desertification is, therefore, crucial.

TERRASAFE will empower local communities in southern Europe and North Africa to tackle desertification. The primary goal of the project is to co-create, test and enable the adoption of innovations that both prevent desertification and/or restore degraded land. The project includes 5 pilot areas, each of which are highly vulnerable to desertification.

Main planned outcomes

Desertification Innovations Partnerships in the 5 pilot areas that remain active beyond TERRASAFE;

Methodologies, tools and guidelines tailored to support local communities to evaluate the potential of nature-based, technological and/or social innovations to prevent and combat their specific desertification threats

Scientifically-sound and -robust certification of the tested innovative solutions, in terms of environmental effectiveness and economic viability

Policy recommendations that support local communities in adopting innovative solutions that they deem necessary for a desertification-resilient future

Business plans for sustainable exploitation strategies of the certified solutions provided by our innovation partners

Key objectives

1

Develop and implement a multi-actor approach to seek sustainable ways of preventing and combatting desertification

2

Produce and adopt an integrated desertification assessment framework

3

Create and implement a harmonised framework to evaluate and demonstrate potential innovations that seek to prevent and combat desertification

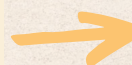
4

Carry out policy analysis and produce policy recommendations that could help prevent and combat desertification at local, regional, national, European, and international levels

5

Co-develop and co-implement an integrated communication-dissemination-collaboration strategy to raise awareness about preventing and combatting desertification

Project timeline



Pilot areas

TERRASAFE will work across 5 pilot areas in southern Europe and North Africa, as shown on the map below.

These pilot areas were each chosen to represent the full range of main types of desertification alongside a variety of land use types.



Italy:
Land abandonment and depopulation



Spain:
Water scarcity



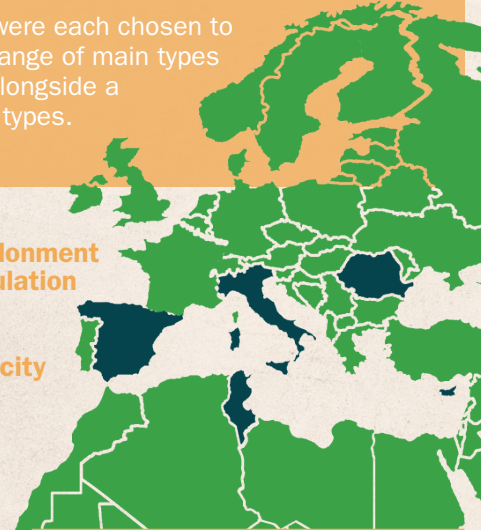
Romania:
Vegetation decline



Tunisia:
Soil salinisation



Cyprus:
Soil organic carbon decline



Desertification innovations

TERRASAFE plans to use a co-design approach in each pilot area to test up to five of the following innovations for combatting desertification:

ISOTECH: Symbiotic circular green waste management

AGRODIT: Crop guardian soil sensors and app

AGROBIOGEL: Lignin-based hydrogel

IMFLORESTAL: Biochar-compost mixture

EDAFOTEC: Artificial tailor-made soil

Each pilot area will also have the opportunity to test innovations developed by local SMEs.

