

Interreg



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the European Union

Italy – Croatia

ITHR0400341

VERA

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A - Project identification

A.1 Project identification

Project id (automatically created)	ITHR0400341
Name of the lead partner organisation	Comune di Larino
Name of the lead partner organisation in English	Municipality of Larino
Project title	Sustainable agricultural models for biodiversity preservation
Project acronym	VERA
Programme priority	Green and resilient shared environment
Specific objective	2.2: Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution
Project duration in months	16

A.2 Project summary

Please give a short overview of the project and describe:

- the common challenge of the programme area you are jointly tackling in your project;
- the overall objective of the project and the expected change your project will make to the current situation;
- the main outputs you will produce and those who will benefit from them;
- the approach you plan to take and why a cross-border/transnational/inter-regional approach is needed;
- what is new/original about the project.

The agricultural biodiversity of Italy and Croatia is critical to the cultural and economic fabric of both countries, but it is facing a common challenge of insufficient research and protection. Monocultures, intensive agriculture, and urbanization are causing traditional fruit tree varieties to disappear, contributing to the loss of valuable genetic resources, and reducing the resilience of local agriculture. Moreover, the local population's alienation from nature is exacerbating this problem, as there is a lack of familiarity with forest fruit cultivars and their benefits, particularly among younger generations. The VERA project addresses these issues with the aim to preserve agricultural species from extinction while promoting the importance of ancient fruit tree varieties. The project involves a wide range of activities, including joint itinerant training for Italian and Croatian students, research and transplant of domestic agricultural varieties, digitalization of ancient fruits' genetic material, educational workshops, and local events. Actions will be mainly addressed to local farmers, high-school students, pupils, and the wider community to effect positive change. By bringing together diverse stakeholders and building networks, the project will increase awareness and understanding of the importance of biodiversity and traditional agriculture and will promote sustainable and responsible land use practices. VERA adopts a cross-border approach aimed at exchanging and transferring good practices in terms of sustainable farming models and techniques between different regions, contributing to the development of more eco-friendly and responsible agricultural systems in both Italy and Croatia. The key innovation of VERA is recognizing the importance of connecting traditional agriculture with the modern world and youth. For this reason, it will use cutting-edge communication to engage young people and connect them with traditional agricultural practices.

A.4 Project outputs and result overview

Programme Output Indicator	Aggregated value per Programme output indicator	Measurement Unit	Output	Output Title	Output target value	Programme result indicator	Baseline	Result indicator target value	Measurement unit
Public events across borders jointly organised	1.00	events	Output 1.1	Final cross-border conference jointly organized	1.00				
Participations in joint training schemes	16.00	participations	Output 1.2	"Grow together" joint cross-border training scheme on agricultural biodiversity	16.00				
Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	5.00	pilot actions	Output 1.3	Cross-border pilot exchange and transplant of figs samplings	1.00				
			Output 2.1	Pilot actions to engage the local community and raise awareness on biodiversity	4.00				
						Completion of joint training schemes	0.00	16.00	participations

B - Project partners

Partners overview

Number	Status	Name of the organisation in english	Country	Organisation abbreviation	Partner role	Partner total eligible budget
1	Active	Municipality of Larino	Italia (IT)	Larino	LP	67,804.00
2	Active	Permaculture Dalmatia	Hrvatska (HR)	PKD	PP	58,925.28
3	Active	Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development Sunce	Hrvatska (HR)	Sunce	PP	59,997.94
4	Active	Demonstrative Farm Company "I Giardini di Pomona" of Paolo Belloni	Italia (IT)	Pomona	PP	59,960.00

B.1 Lead partner	
Partner number	1
Partner role	LP
Name of the organisation in original language	Comune di Larino
Name of the organisation in english	Municipality of Larino
Organisation abbreviation	Larino
Department / unit / division	N/A
Partner main address	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Molise (ITF2)
NUTS 3	Campobasso (ITF22)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Piazza Duomo 44 86035 Larino
Homepage	https://www.comune.larino.cb.it/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Molise (ITF2)
NUTS 3	Campobasso (ITF22)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Piazza Duomo 44 86035 Larino
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Local public authority
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	00225220706
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	81001110709
PEC address	comune.larinocb@legalmail.it
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	941038323
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr. Giuseppe Puchetti
Contact person	Ms. Iolanda Giusti
Email	iolandagiusti@yahoo.it
Telephone no.	+39 3493268017
Motivation	
Which of the organisation's thematic competences and experiences are relevant for the project?	
<p>Larino is an Italian municipality with a population of 6,366 residents, located in the province of Campobasso in Molise. The town serves as the location for various institutions and public services, including the courthouse and a maximum-security prison. Additionally, Larino hosts a range of productive activities, primarily within the agricultural and small-scale industrial sectors. Through the "Dear" project funded by the Europeaid Programme, the city of Larino, in collaboration with the Magliano Institute, has established a permaculture-based community garden. Notably, this initiative involves a section of inmates from the Larino prison, thus engaging them in a meaningful and purposeful endeavor of social inclusion. From the project, the Larino community and the Frentano region can experience the following benefits: strengthening of ties with Croatian communities, considering that within the Frentano area, there are three municipalities with a Croatian ethnic minority; exchange of experiences between students from the Larino and young local producers, both within Italy and Croatia.</p>	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	
<p>The Municipality of Larino will act as Lead Partner in the VERA project. Larino's role will mainly consist in programming activities of training and cooperation at a cross-border level. The LP means in the project to enhance the possibilities to increase values in local agricultural practices and share past experiences, assessing new opportunities to preserve extinction or increase production and strengthen resistance to climate change at local level. Once of the shared methodologies will be promoting local and traditional varieties and practices organizing at the same time educational workshops and events to transfer knowledge and good practices to students and to cross-border communities. Leading the VERA project will bring many benefits to the school and the territory, such as: improving cooperation in the agricultural field with Croatian partners and stakeholders; sharing different experiences and genetic varieties of traditional value in biodiversity; focusing on the value and risk of agricultural biodiversity loss; improving the knowledge and skills of tomorrow's farmers.</p>	
If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.	
<p>The Municipality of Larino has participated as Lead Partner of the Innovaplus Local Action Group in the MedPaths project "The Snapshot of Mediterranean Hinterlands Richness", funded by IPA Adriatic CBC</p>	

Motivation			
Programme 2007-2013. Moreover, it hosted the final meeting of the Tesla Europe for Citizens project. Finally, it has promoted permaculture-based community gardens and the preservation of biodiversity through the aforementioned Dear project funded by the Europeaid Programme.			
Co-financing			
Source		Amount	Percentage
ERDF		54,243.20	80.00 %
FdR		13,560.80	20.00 %
Partner contribution		0.00	0.00 %
Partner total eligible budget		67,804.00	100.00 %
Origin of partner contribution			
Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
Larino	Public	0.00	0.00 %
Total			
Sub-total public contribution		0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total automatic public contribution		0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total private contribution		0.00	0.00 %
Total		0.00	0.00 %
State Aid			
State aid criteria self-check			
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?			
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	No, the applicant will not implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists.	
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	No, there are not.	
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?			
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to	No	No, it does not.	

Criterion II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No No, it will not.
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 2	
Partner number	2
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Permakultura Dalmacija
Name of the organisation in english	Permaculture Dalmatia
Organisation abbreviation	PKD
Department / unit / division	N/A
Partner main address	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Splitsko-dalmatinska županija (HR035)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Culica dvori 21 21100 Split
Homepage	https://permakultura-dalmacija.hr/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Splitsko-dalmatinska županija (HR035)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Culica dvori 21 2100 Split
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Interest groups including NGOs
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Private non-profit
Sector of activity at NACE group level	S.94.99
VAT number (if applicable)	83309621460
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	83309621460
PEC address	N/A
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	907679441
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Marko Ban
Contact person	Mr Marko Ban
Email	permakultura.dalmacija@gmail.com
Telephone no.	+38 5977661201
Motivation	
Which of the organisation's thematic competences and experiences are relevant for the project?	
<p>In its nine years of operation, the association Permakultura Dalmacija has provided numerous lectures, workshops, and activities in the fields of permaculture, sustainable agriculture, agricultural biodiversity preservation, and other related topics, providing solutions to various social and ecological problems confronting the local community. It includes a wide number of experts of various profiles (agronomy, sustainable development, landscape architecture, green building, etc.) who are engaged in the association professionally and voluntarily. Through its work, Permakultura Dalmacija has created a wide network of partners that includes environmental associations, institutes, local self-government units, educational institutions, ecological farmers, companies, and institutions dealing with nature conservation. A large number of participants in the activities, lectures and events that the association organizes is an indicator of trust and interest in the local communities in which they operate.</p>	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	
<p>Permakultura Dalmacija association will act as PP2 in the VERA project. The activities of PKD in the project will be focused on the research of old varieties of fruit trees in Dalmatia to produce seedlings to be distributed in Puglia. Also, the NGO will educate the public through practical workshops (vegetative propagation, pruning, and planting fruit trees) to protect agricultural biodiversity and varieties from extinction and increase food sovereignty. With further field workshops, they want to educate the public about the diversity of forest fruit trees and their benefits. Through an example of good practice, they will promote spending time in nature and working with plants for human health and well-being. Finally, through lectures, will introduce students, farmers, and the local community to sustainable agricultural practices (agroforestry, permaculture, the establishment of forest gardens, etc.). PKD will participate in the study visit in Puglia and will carry out together with partners the cross-border training scheme.</p>	
If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.	
<p>Permakultura Dalmacija participates in the "Agile community resilience" project on establishment of transition initiatives in local communities, co-financed by the European Union from the European Social Fund. Also, has been participating in Erasmus+ KA2 - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices on KA202 - Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training on the project</p>	

Motivation			
"Introduction to Urban Permaculture – An Initial VET Course". In general, the association has participated in more than 10 different Erasmus+ KA1 projects in the last four years.			
Co-financing			
Source		Amount	Percentage
ERDF		47,140.22	80.00 %
Partner contribution		11,785.06	20.00 %
Partner total eligible budget		58,925.28	100.00 %
Origin of partner contribution			
Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
PKD	Private	11,785.06	20.00 %
Total			
Sub-total public contribution		0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total automatic public contribution		0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total private contribution		11,785.06	20.00 %
Total		11,785.06	20.00 %
State Aid			
State aid criteria self-check			
Criterion I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?			
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	No, the applicant will not implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists.	
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	No, there are not.	
Criterion II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?			
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No	No, it does not.	

Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No No, it will not.
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 3	
Partner number	3
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Udruga za prirodu, okoliš i održivi razvoj Sunce
Name of the organisation in english	Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development Sunce
Organisation abbreviation	Sunce
Department / unit / division	Department of Education and Information
Partner main address	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Splitsko-dalmatinska županija (HR035)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Obala hrvatskog narodnog preporoda 7/III 21000 Split
Homepage	www.sunce-st.org
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Splitsko-dalmatinska županija (HR035)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Obala hrvatskog narodnog preporoda 7/III 71100 Split
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Interest groups including NGOs
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Private non-profit
Sector of activity at NACE group level	S.94.99
VAT number (if applicable)	17644269011
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	17644269011
PEC address	info@sunce-st.org
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	999810526
Contact	
Legal representative	Mrs Zrinka Jakl
Contact person	Mrs Margita Radman
Email	margita.radman@sunce-st.org
Telephone no.	+38 5955978003
Motivation	
Which of the organisation's thematic competences and experiences are relevant for the project?	
<p>Sunce has worked in the field of education for nature and environment for 25 years – it designed, prepared, and organized different kinds of activities such as lectures, workshops, educational programs and educational materials. From 2006, they have organized over 660 educational activities for slightly less than 14,000 participants, over 12,000 participants took part in various public events and altogether and reached a total of over 26,000 people through educational activities. Sunce has experience in preparing educational programs for all ages. All their educational activities are designed in a way that the participants are active in the process of acquiring knowledge and skills, using participative methods. Their educators continuously improve their skills to adapt teaching methods to modern knowledge. Through many years of educational work, they have established a solid partnership with educational institutions, of which we would include in this project Secondary School Braća Radić and Primary School Ostrog because of their school gardens and specific subjects within the school curriculum. Additionally, they designed and conducted many study trips in different EU countries, including Italy, as part of the education of the participants involved in different projects, with interesting contents for students as well as for educational workers. Furthermore, they were responsible for organization and implementation of conferences on different topics with international participation. The Swap Fair is Sunce's project that is a monthly activity in Split for all citizens. Although these kinds of fairs are popular in Europe, for now it is the only one in Split. The aim of this public event is to encourage repurposing, recycling and reusing by free exchange of items. This well-established activity is the basis for the organization of Green Swap fair where we would exchange: flowers, seedlings, nursery plants, seeds, fertilizers, humus, garden tools or related knowledge.</p>	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	
<p>Sunce will act as PP3 in the VERA project. The partner will participate in a study trip to Italy to broaden our knowledge on the topics of agricultural biodiversity and organic farming; will participate in and organization of joint cross-border training scheme for secondary school students; will implement an educational program for elementary school pupils (Primary School Ostrog, known for its School Botanical Garden, the only protected monument of park horticulture in Croatia, with the aim to improve nearly 50-year-old school garden and encourage successful future maintenance) and will mentor high school students who participated in the cross-border training in designing a workshop for their peers</p>	

Motivation

where they will present their experience and newly acquired skills that can be used in the school garden; will organize the Green Swap Fair with the aim of encouraging agricultural practices at the local level and connecting individuals engaged in sustainable agriculture; will participate on a study trip in Croatia and on the final meeting; finally, will prepare and organize the Final conference in Croatia (accommodation, space, catering, registration, promotion, etc.).

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

Sunce participated in the following educational projects: 2020 – 2022 Sustainable Student Companies in Croatian High Schools; in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Umwelterziehung (DGU), financed by The Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU); 2021 – 2022 Raising Awareness of the Role of Composting; funded by the SENSE Foundation Brussels; 2021 – 2022 School Botanical Garden of Mediterranean Plants, funded by the Agency for Mobility and EU Programs within the EU program of the European Solidarity Corps; 2018 – 2020 Service-learning programs for the environment and sustainable development, funded under the Operational Program “Effective Human Resources” 2014 – 2020 by the European Social Fund, co-financed by the European Union from the European Social Fund; 2016 – 2018 Students Learn About Civic Engagement; in partnership with DGU, financed by the DBU; 2017 – 2019 Volunteer for Nature, Volunteer for Yourself funded under the Operational Program “Effective Human Resources” 2014 – 2020 by the European Social Fund, co-financed by the European Union from the European Social Fund.

Also, participated in the following Interreg projects as partner: 2019 – 2021 SASPAS – Safe Anchoring and Seagrass Protection in the Adriatic Sea; 2019 – 2021 SUSHI DROP - SUstainable fiSHeries with DRones data Processing; 2019 – 2021 FAIRSEA – Fisheries in the Adriatic Region – a Shared Ecosystem Approach; 2018 – 2021 ADRIREEF – Innovative exploitation of Adriatic Reefs in order to strengthen blue economy; 2018 – 2020 ML-REPAIR project - REducing and Preventing, an Integrated Approach to Marine Litter Management in the Adriatic Sea; 2016 – 2018 Confish - Connectivity among Mediterranean fishery stakeholders and scientists resolves connectivity of fishery populations.

Finally, Sunce manager the 2014 – 2016 Cross Border Marine Nature 2000 Mapping, Monitoring and Management – 4M, funded within the Cross – Border Programme Croatia – Montenegro under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	47,998.35	80.00 %
Partner contribution	11,999.59	20.00 %
Partner total eligible budget	59,997.94	100.00 %

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
Sunce	Private	11,999.59	20.00 %

Total		
Sub-total public contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total private contribution	11,999.59	20.00 %
Total	11,999.59	20.00 %
State Aid		
State aid criteria self-check		
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?		
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	No, the applicant will not implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists.
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	No, there are not.
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?		
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No	No, it does not.
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No	No, it will not.
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid	
State aid relevant activities		
GBER scheme / de minimis		

B.1 Project Partner 4	
Partner number	4
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Azienda Agricola Dimostrativa "I Giardini di Pomona" di Paolo Belloni
Name of the organisation in english	Demonstrative Farm Company "I Giardini di Pomona" of Paolo Belloni
Organisation abbreviation	Pomona
Department / unit / division	N/A
Partner main address	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Puglia (ITF4)
NUTS 3	Brindisi (ITF44)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Contrada Figazzano 114 72014 Cisternino
Homepage	https://www.igiardinidipomona.it/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Puglia (ITF4)
NUTS 3	Brindisi (ITF44)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Contrada Figazzano 114 72014 Cisternino
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	SME
Subtype of partner	Micro enterprise
Legal status	Private for-profit
Sector of activity at NACE group level	A.01.61
VAT number (if applicable)	04795410960
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities	Yes

Legal and financial information	
implemented in the project?	
Tax number	BLLPVT48E02F205J
PEC address	pomona@pec.it
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Paolo Vittorio Maria Belloni
Contact person	Mr Paolo Vittorio Maria Belloni
Email	info@igiardinidipomona.it
Telephone no.	+39 0804317806
Motivation	
Which of the organisation's thematic competences and experiences are relevant for the project?	
<p>The Botanical Conservatory "I Giardini di Pomona" is a demonstrative agricultural company founded in 1994 and located in Cisternino, Puglia (Italy). Its mission is to transmit biodiversity to future generations and enhance it through research, experimentation, and training on the themes of eco-sustainability, dry farming, and ecosystem. The Conservatory is dedicated to Pomona, the Latin goddess of fruit trees, and hosts a biodiversity composed of more than one thousand varieties of ancient fruit plants from all over the world, many of which have been saved from extinction. The main collection is dedicated to the Ficus Carica species: 600 Afghan, Bosnian, French, Portuguese, Albanian, Israeli and naturally Italian and Apulian figs, one of the most important collections in Europe and the Mediterranean basin in terms of quality and variety. The ten hectares of the Conservatory, conducted with organic methods, combine the sustainable conservation of nature with low-impact tourism, in a landscape of great charm. Among the activities carried out by I Giardini di Pomona there are agriculture, permaculture and dry farming activities, Apulian fruit germplasm recovery activities, training activities on the themes of eco-sustainability, dry farming, and biodiversity, visits and demonstrative farming experiences with experts in the conservation and transformation of fruit from the Pomona Gardens, hospitality services provided through three traditional Apulian trulli and a hostel thought for lovers of slow mobility and included in the Albergabici circuit. The whole vision and philosophy behind I Giardini di Pomona well matches the VERA project and its objectives.</p>	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	
<p>The Botanical Conservatory "I Giardini di Pomona" will act as PP4 in the VERA project. Pomona will be responsible for the organization of study visit and KOM where partners and their stakeholders will take part. The visit will be a very important occasion to share the project "I Giardini di Pomona": the sustainable philosophy behind the botanical conservatory, the collection of over a thousand varieties of fruit-bearing trees and rare plants, the biodiversity conservation and agricultural practices used (permaculture, dry farming activities, fruit germplasm recovery, etc). Also, the partner will collaborate with PKD for the cross-border transplant of "Ficus carica" species, contributing to planting new biodiversity varieties in Puglia. Also, will carry out a digitalization of part of this precious fruit trees heritage in order to make contents about each species more accessible to visitors. About 125 fig</p>	

Motivation

varieties will be linked through a QR code to a digital catalogue (database) containing sheets with all their characteristics. Finally, I Giardini di Pomona will take part to the Study Visit and Final Conference in Croatia and will be responsible for the project communication activities. Among the communication outputs, will produce an educational album of the figs varieties and a social media campaign to raise awareness on the local biodiversity, with particular reference to its "Ficus Carica" species collection. Pomona Staff (n. 1 Project and Communication Manager, n. 2 Technical Experts) will be directly and actively involved in Activity 1.1, Activity 1.3 and Activity 2.3.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

I Giardini di Pomona collaborated in a horticulture project Erasmus+ 2019/2020, by hosting several students from the institute L' Envol from Flémalle, Belgium. Pupils were trained on the olive harvest, the planting of pomegranate trees, fig trees and vegetables as well as their maintenance, watering, mulching, pruning, and cutting. In addition, I Giardini di Pomona was involved as partners in the Frutti Antichi Puglia project funded by the EAFRD - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development 2007 /2013. The project was focused on the safeguard, management, and enhancement of the biodiversity of the Apulian fruit, olive and wine heritage through the study and analysis of a genetic, pomological, health, technological, historical and socio-economic nature with the aim of identifying, characterizing, collecting, cataloging and conserve endangered plant material.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	47,968.00	80.00 %
FdR	11,992.00	20.00 %
Partner contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Partner total eligible budget	59,960.00	100.00 %

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
Pomona	Public	0.00	0.00 %

Total

Sub-total public contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total private contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Total	0.00	0.00 %

State Aid

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterion I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No No, the applicant will not implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists.
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No No, there are not.
Criterion II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No No, it does not.
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No No, it will not.
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

C - Project description

C.1 Project overall objective

Below, you can see the Programme priority specific objective your project will contribute to (chosen in section A.1.).

2.2: Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

Project overall objective

Now think about your main objective – what do you aim to achieve by the end of your project? Remember your project needs to contribute to the programme's objective.

Your objective should:

- be realistic and achievable by the end of the project, or shortly after;
- specify who needs project results and in which territory;
- be measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

The project's overall objective is to enhance the protection of agricultural biodiversity in the Programme area by promoting sustainable agricultural practices among local farmers and increasing awareness and education about the benefits of biodiversity conservation among youth and community. VERA also aims to digitally preserve the genetic material of the most ancient local biodiversity, protecting it from the threat of extinction and passing it on to future generation thanks to the technology.

C.2 Project relevance and context

C.2.1 What are the common territorial challenge(s) that will be tackled by the project?

Please describe why your project is needed in the programme area and the relevance of your project for the programme area, in terms of common challenges and opportunities addressed.

The project VERA, which is focused on preserving biodiversity by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, will tackle several common territorial challenges. One of the primary challenges is the loss of biodiversity in the Programme area due to habitat destruction, climate change, and the use of synthetic inputs in agriculture. This has far-reaching ecological and economic consequences and threatens the long-term sustainability of agricultural production systems. This challenge is closely linked to the degradation of natural resources such as soil, water, and forests due to unsustainable practices. This degradation leads to reduced agricultural productivity, soil erosion, and water scarcity, which negatively affect the livelihoods of local communities. The project VERA will also address the issue of improving the knowledge base of organic farming systems and agricultural biodiversity among stakeholders and citizens themselves. By providing training, education, and a more digital access to information, the project aims to empower local communities to adopt sustainable practices and build at the same time a new generation of farmers attentive to the environment, which will play a critical role in implementing those methods and conserving biodiversity in the future. Finally, the project will address the challenge of inadequate institutional frameworks for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation. This includes weak policy and regulatory frameworks, limited funding, and inadequate coordination among stakeholders. The project will work with relevant institutions to strengthen institutional frameworks for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation and to ensure their effective implementation.

C.2.2 How does the project tackle identified common challenges and/or opportunities and what is new about the approach the project takes?

Please describe new solutions that will be developed during the project and/or existing solutions that will be adopted and implemented during the project lifetime. Describe also in what way the approach goes beyond existing practice in the sector/programme area/participating countries.

The project VERA takes a comprehensive approach to tackle the common territorial challenges previously identified. In terms of biodiversity conservation and improvement of soil and water management, the project will promote the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices such as organic farming, agroforestry and permaculture. This will be achieved through study visits, by exchanging good practices adopted by partners themselves or used at local level, but also in the frame of local workshops, lectures and fairs, which will directly involve farmers and other stakeholders. These practices, if more spread, can help to reduce soil erosion, increase soil fertility, and conserve water resources. The improvement of knowledge about organic farming systems and agricultural biodiversity will be addressed through the same activities. Special attention will be paid to young people: VERA will collaborate with local schools and develop training programs able to build a new generation of environmentally conscious and sustainable farmers. Also, the project will engage youth and citizens through social media campaigns with the goal to raise awareness about conserving the endangered local species. Finally, it is important to underline that the project will use digital technologies to preserve genetic material of endangered and ancient species and allow easier and more digital access to information. What is new about the approach the project takes is that it focuses on the use of digital technologies for biodiversity conservation, such as digital preservation of genetic material. The project also emphasizes the importance of empowering local communities through capacity building, access to information and technology, and strengthening institutional frameworks for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation. This approach is expected to lead to more sustainable and long-term solutions to the common territorial challenges the Programme area is facing.

C.2.3 Why is cross-border/transnational/inter-regional cooperation needed to achieve the project's objectives and result?

Please explain why the project objectives cannot be efficiently reached acting only on a national/regional /local level and/or describe what benefits the project partners/target groups/ project area/programme area gain in taking a cross-border/transnational/inter-regional approach.

Cross-border cooperation is essential for achieving the project VERA's objectives and results for several reasons. In the first place, shared ecosystems. The project VERA focuses on preserving biodiversity by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, which is an issue that transcends national borders. Many ecosystems are shared across borders, and agricultural species do not recognize political boundaries. Therefore, transnational cooperation is needed to manage and conserve biodiversity in these shared ecosystems. Also, the project aims to promote the adoption of practices, which can require significant investment in research, development, and implementation. Cross-border cooperation will facilitate the sharing of resources, including knowledge and expertise to promote the adoption of these practices. Additionally, capacity building is a critical component of VERA, and cooperation can provide opportunities for farmers and other stakeholders to learn from each other and exchange best practices. Finally, a cross-border approach is needed to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation through a joint effort. This can involve sharing success stories, best practices, and case studies coming from other territories that highlight the positive impact of organic farming practices on the environment, local communities, and the economy. In summary, cross-border/transnational/inter-regional cooperation is essential for achieving the project VERA's objectives and results as it facilitates resource sharing, capacity building, and increased awareness of the importance of preserving biological diversity and implementing agriculture models that promote sustainability.

C.2.4 Who will benefit from your project outputs?

In the first column of each row, please select one of the pre-defined target groups from the drop-down list. In the second column explain in more detail exactly who will benefit from your project. For example, if you choose the category education, you need to explain which specific schools or groups of schools and in which territory.

Target Group	Specification
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Target Group	Specification
Local public authority	It includes municipalities and other local authorities in the field of biodiversity protection and agriculture, which will be involved in project activities such final conference, fair and workshops. The project plans to engage representatives from at least 4 institutions.
Higher education and research organisations	The project plans to engage representatives from 2 institutions such as universities, research institutions, and think tanks that conduct scientific research, provide education and training, and develop policies and technologies to promote sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation, to be included in workshops, research activities, final conference and the fair.
Interest groups including NGOs	The project plans to engage representatives from at least 7 interest groups /NGOs in the field of agriculture and biodiversity, in particular organizations that advocate for sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and environmental justice, through activities such as study visits, workshops and lectures, training, final conference and fair.
SME	The project plans to engage representatives from at least 20 small enterprises in the field of agriculture and biodiversity such as farmers, ranchers, aquaculture businesses, agroforestry practitioners, organic food producers, etc. These businesses will be involved in many activities such as study visits, workshops and lectures, training, final conference and fair (in some cases as experts and in other cases as addressees).
Education/training center and school	The project plans to engage representatives from at least 3 schools: Primary School Ostrog, known for its School Botanical Garden, which will be involved in the study visit in Croatia and in the educational program for elementary schools; representatives of the the Agricultural Technical Institute S. Pardo and the Secondary School Braća Radić will be involved in the cross-border training scheme for students.
General public	This group targets citizens and particularly the young generation (high-school students and pupils). Specifically, students and pupils represent the core addressees of the VERA activities (cross-border training activity, educational program, workshop and lectures). Also the local community will directly participate and undirectly benefit from the project activities. Estimated minimum number to be reached through project activities and communication is 5.000.
Other	Other professionals working in the field of agriculture and biodiversity (but not representing a SME) such as farmers, agronomists, conservation biologists, sustainable agriculture specialists, etc. will be involved in the study visits, workshops and lectures, training, final conference and fair (in some cases as experts and in other cases as addressees of the activities). The project plans to engage at least 25 of them.
Regional public authority	It includes bodies established by the regional authorities competent for the issues of biodiversity and agriculture. At least 2 of them will be involved in the project activities such as final conference and fair.

C.2.5 How does the project contribute to wider strategies and policies?

Please indicate to which strategies and policies your project will contribute. Then describe in what way you will contribute.

Strategy	Contribution
EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region Strategy	<p>The project VERA contributes to the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region in several ways, with specific reference to Pillar 3 Environmental quality - Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems. As a matter of fact, the project's focus on preserving biodiversity aligns with the EU Strategy's objective of protecting and conserving the region's natural heritage. The project's efforts to promote sustainable agricultural practices can also help to maintain ecosystem services, such as pollination and soil fertility, which are critical for sustaining biodiversity. It also addresses the challenge of climate change in the region. Thanks to spreading sustainable farming models, the project can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon, and increase the resilience of agricultural systems to climate change impacts. VERA can contribute also to the EUSAIR's goal of fostering sustainable economic growth in the region. Sustainable agriculture can create employment opportunities, increase productivity, and promote the development of new markets and value chains. In summary, the project VERA can contribute to the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region by promoting biodiversity conservation, climate action and sustainable economic growth.</p>
European Green Deal Strategy	<p>The project VERA contributes to the European Green Deal by promoting biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture practices and climate action. First, its focus aligns with the European Green Deal's goal of protecting and restoring biodiversity since the project's efforts can help to maintain healthy ecosystems, which provide essential services for supporting the resilience of agriculture to climate change impacts. Secondly, it contributes to the EC documents' goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. As a matter of fact, sustainable agriculture practices can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration, and improve the resilience of agriculture to the impacts of climate change. Finally, it also contributes to the European Green Deal's objective of creating a sustainable food system. The adoption of sustainable agriculture practices can increase the resilience and productivity of agriculture while reducing its environmental impact, leading to a more sustainable and secure food supply.</p>

Strategy	Contribution
Other Strategy	<p>VERA contributes to the EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030, which among its goals foresees the restoring of degraded ecosystems at land and sea across the EU by increasing organic farming, reducing the use of pesticides by 50% by 2030. The project perfectly matches this objectives and contributes to its achievement by sharing with its activities sustainable agricultural practices such as agroforestry (integrating trees into agricultural landscapes to provide multiple benefits such as improving soil health, providing shade and windbreaks, and sequestering carbon), integrated pest management (use of a combination of biological, cultural, and chemical control methods to manage pests and diseases in a sustainable manner), permaculture (creation of diverse, integrated systems that mimic natural ecosystems) and organic farming (using natural inputs and avoiding the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides to produce crops and livestock). These and more sustainable practices will be the topics of cross-border training, local workshops, lectures and schemes composing the VERA project activities.</p>
Other Strategy	<p>VERA activities contribute to the EU Farm to Fork Strategy in several ways. Firstly, the project can help to conserve and enhance biodiversity on farms, which is one of the key objectives of the Strategy. By promoting the use of sustainable agricultural practices that support diverse ecosystems and protect pollinators and other wildlife, the project can help to maintain a healthy and resilient food system. Secondly, the project can support the development of sustainable food production systems that reduce the environmental impact of farming. This is another important objective of the Farm to Fork Strategy, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, limit the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and promote resource-efficient farming practices. By adopting sustainable farming practices, such as agroforestry or organic farming, the project can help to reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture and promote a more sustainable food system. Finally, the project can contribute to the promotion of sustainable food consumption patterns, which is another key objective of the EU Strategy. By promoting the use of locally grown, seasonal, and diverse food products, the project can help to encourage consumers to make more conscious food choices that support local food systems and reduce food waste. Overall, the project can play an important role in supporting the goals of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy by promoting a more sustainable and resilient food system, also in line with the Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production outlined in the Communication from the EU commission n. 141 of 19/04/2021.</p>

C.2.6 Which synergies with past or current EU and other projects or initiatives will the project make use of?

Project or Initiative	Synergy
Interreg Greece-Italy Project TAGs "Technological and business innovation services to stimulate the local Agro-food ecosystems and to support a cross border collaboration among Local Action"	TAGs "Technological and business innovation services to stimulate the local Agro-food ecosystems and to support a cross border collaboration among Local Action" is a project funded by Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Programme 2014/2020 with the aim to strengthen the transfer of technical-scientific innovations from research and innovation centers to enterprises of agro-food sector in order to enhance their competitiveness through a set of services that will help them to increase productivity and improve efficiency in the use of resources. Among partners, three were from Puglia (Lead Partner CREA - Council for Agricultural Research and Economics, CETMA and GAL Terra dei Trulli). Therefore, VERA PP4 (Pomona) will make use of its existing relations with these partners in order to benefit from a transfer of good practices with special concern to the precision farming technologies solutions identified to increase farm productivity while using more environment-friendly processes and preserving biodiversity, in line with the vision of VERA.
EU Project "School Botanical Garden of Mediterranean Plants"	The EU project "School Botanical Garden of Mediterranean Plants" funded by the Agency for Mobility and EU Programs within the EU program of the European Solidarity Corps lasted from 2021 to 2022. Both Sunce and Permaculture Dalmatia participated in this project aimed to raise awareness of students and teachers about the issue of environmental pollution, the importance of solidarity and sustainable development through education and active participation in the construction of a garden. Particularly, elementary school kids were thought how to make their own school botanical garden arranged according to the principles of permaculture design. Both partners will capitalize the lessons learnt from this project to be used in VERA, with particular reference to the workshops and educational program for pupils.
Erasmus+ Project "Introduction to Urban Permaculture – An Initial VET Course"	The project "Introduction to Urban Permaculture – An Initial VET Course", financed in 2020 by Erasmus+ Programme under KA2- Capacity building in higher education, aims to develop and initiate an introductory course in urban permaculture as part of a wider initial vocational education for learners with fewer opportunities. The partners of the project coming from all over Europe, including Permaculture Dalmatia (PP2 of VERA project), have been working together over three years to develop an initial VET course in urban permaculture for learners with fewer educational opportunities (young people who face challenges in engaging in traditional educational routes). VERA project will make use of the knowledge and lessons learnt by the partner Permacultura Dalmacija in order to structure the training, workshops and lectures foreseen among the activities.

C.2.7 How does the project build on available knowledge?

Please describe the experiences/lessons learned that the project draws on, and other available knowledge the project capitalises on.

Project partners have extensive and long-term experience in implementing projects related to agricultural biodiversity. Specifically, the Municipality of Larino prioritizes projects protecting nature, and promoting sustainable agriculture models to increase production at local level while preserving sustainability and respect for the environment. Meanwhile, the Permakultura Dalmacija has provided lectures, workshops, and activities in permaculture, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity preservation for 9 years, creating a network of partners including environmental associations, institutes, and local government units. Sunce, on the other hand, has 25 years of experience in education for nature and environment, conducting various activities for different age groups and establishing partnerships with educational institutions. They also organize the Swap Fair, encouraging repurposing, recycling, and reusing by exchanging items and have designed and conducted many study trips in different EU countries, including Italy. Finally, "I Giardini di Pomona" is a Botanical Conservatory conducted with organic methods, hosting over a thousand varieties of ancient fruit plants from all over the world. They carry out research, experimentation, and training activities on the themes of biodiversity, eco-sustainability, dry farming, and ecosystem preservation. Overall, the VERA project activities have been designed jointly on the basis of experiences and lessons learnt by partners over the years, capitalizing on the importance of promoting sustainable agriculture, preserving biodiversity, and educating the community on environmental issues, being these their primary focus. The networks and partnerships established through the mentioned projects and initiatives also showcase the importance of collaboration between different organizations and institutions to achieve these goals, and will be capitalized to implement the VERA project activities.

C.3 Project partnership

Describe the structure of your partnership and explain why these partners are needed to implement the project and to achieve project objectives. What is the contribution of each partner to the project?

The partnership is composed of 4 organizations (3 of them are Programme's newcomers) that have a common goal of promoting biodiversity preservation and sustainable agriculture. The partners include a local authority, two NGOs, and a botanical conservatory. The Municipality of Larino is the WP1 Leader. It will bring in its students to peer with Croatian ones in the joint cross-border training scheme "Grow together" and will hold a pruning workshop for agricultural experts. The two NGOs PKD and Sunce are highly experienced in promoting biodiversity preservation, sustainable agriculture practices, and educating students and the public on these topics. In fact, the role of PKD will be focused on the research activities for the pilot transplant of old figs varieties between Dalmatia and Puglia, and on the practical and field workshops and lectures to introduce students, farmers and the community to sustainable farming practices. Sunce is WP2 leader as its role will be mainly focused on the educational program for pupils on horticulture and mentoring of high school students for peer education following the cross-border training with Italy. Both Sunce and PKD will be involved in designing and implementing "Grow together". Sunce will also organize the Green Swap Fair. I Giardini di Pomona will undertake a study visit focused on its botanical conservatory, conducted with organic methods, offering Croatian stakeholders guidance on best practices for planting, growing and preserving plants sustainably. Also, will carry out the exchange of local figs samplings with PKD and will digitalize part of its figs collection to conserve and pass this heritage on to future generations. Partners will contribute to the project in different ways but in a jointly manner. By working together, they will achieve the project objectives of protecting the agricultural biodiversity of the Programme area.

C.4 Project work plan

Number	Work package name
1	Cross-border exchange and training on sustainable agricultural models and practices
2	Pilot actions to involve the local community in the conservation of agricultural biodiversity

Work package 1

Work package title

Cross-border exchange and training on sustainable agricultural models and practices

Objectives

Your objectives should be:

- realistic and achievable by the end of the project;
- specific (who needs project outputs delivered in this work package, and in which territory);
- measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

Define one project specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in this work package are implemented and outputs delivered.

Increase the cooperation and exchange of good practices between participating regions in the field of agricultural biodiversity conservation and sustainable farming

Think about the communication objective that will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective. Communication objectives aim at changes in a target audience's behaviour, knowledge or belief.

Increase knowledge and understanding of the benefits of sustainable agriculture practices to preserve biodiversity among farmers, agronomists and other partners' stakeholders

Activities

Activity 1.1	
Title	Cross-border exchange on sustainable innovative farming methods
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 3, 13 - 16
Description	In the first place, this activity involves two study visits aimed at promoting cross-border cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience on sustainable farming methods between Italy and Croatia. The first study visit will be organized together with the KOM by Pomona and will see the participation of partners and stakeholders (professionals working in the field of agriculture and biodiversity, interest groups, SMEs, etc.). This visit will be focused on the botanical conservatory itself, conducted organically following good agricultural

Activity 1.1	<p>practices, and hosting over a thousand varieties of fruit-bearing trees, including historic varieties and rare plants. The study visit provides an opportunity for farmers and agricultural experts from Croatia and Molise to visit and observe sustainable innovative farming practices in action (fruit germplasm recovery, dry farming, permaculture, etc.). The study visit in Croatia will be organized by PKD (which may also provide external services such as room, catering, etc.) at the end of the project (will be focused on the good practice unique Ostrog Elementary School Botanical - a historical park created by the pupils and teachers by landscaping a neglected environment), concomitantly with the final project meeting, the final conference on the project results and the press conference, under the responsibility of Sunce. Final conference will involve /address all target groups specified in C.2.4. Thanks to A.1.1, partners and their stakeholders can exchange ideas and learn from each other's experiences and challenges. They can also gain insights into new and innovative farming techniques and technologies that can improve the sustainability and efficiency of their own farms. The activity also promotes networking and collaboration among farmers and agricultural experts from different countries, helping to build a more sustainable and resilient farming community in the cross-border region. Social media, project and partners' communication channels will be the main means to communicate this activity. In addition, a Press Conference will be organized at the end of the project in order to communicate project results.</p>
Partner(s) involved	Larino, PKD, Sunce, Pomona

Deliverables 1.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.1.1	1 Study visit to "I Giardini di Pomona" Botanical Conservatory (Puglia)	PP4 will organize a Study Visit in Puglia to "I Giardini di Pomona" Botanical Conservatory as good practice of biodiversity conservation and sustainable agricultural models. Partners will participate with stakeholders (at least 2 from Croatia).	Period 1 , 1 - 6
D.1.1.2	1 Study visit to	PP2 will organize a Study Visit in Dalmatia to Ostrog	Period 3

Deliverables 1.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
	Ostrog Elementary School Botanical Garden (Dalmatia)	Elementary School Botanical Garden as good practice of biodiversity conservation and sustainable agricultural models. Partners will participate with stakeholders (at least 2 from Italy).	, 13 - 16
D.1.1.3	1 Final conference report for the dissemination of project results	PP3 will organize a Final Conference to share and disseminate project results and recommendations, with participation of project partners and competent authorities.	Period 3 , 13 - 16
D.1.1.4	1 Press conference for the dissemination of project results	PP3 will organize a press conference in occasion of the Final Conference in order to disseminate project results with media.	Period 3 , 13 - 16

Activity 1.2	
Title	Joint cross-border training for youth on agricultural biodiversity and organic farming
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 3, 13 - 16
Description	LP, PP2 and PP3 will jointly organize a cross-border training scheme on agricultural biodiversity and organic farming for secondary school students. 16 students (8 from Secondary School Braća Radić - Dalmatia and 8 from Agricultural Technical Institute S. Pardo - Molise) will spend 5 days in Molise and 5 days in Dalmatia for a joint training on the topics linked to the agricultural biodiversity, including both theoretical and practical sessions. On the Croatian side, partners' roles will be the following: PP2 will design contents on given topics while PP3 will adapt the designed content to the age and abilities of the students in a way that these are as active and independent as possible in acquiring knowledge using various participatory methods. In any case, PP2 and PP3 will jointly oversee the implementation of the activities and at least 1 representative between them will participate in training scheme in

Activity 1.2	
	Italy to get an overlook on the complete educational package. Also at least 1 teacher per school will participate. PP2 may also provide external services such as room, catering, etc. It is important to underline that this activity will have a follow-up within A.2.2: as a matter of fact, once the training is completed, participants will be mentored through a workshop where they will present their experience and newly acquired skills to their peers. In order to proper communicate this activity, a specific deliverable is dedicated to short clip videos on highlights, "behind the scenes" moments and short interviews with participating students, under the responsibility of LP and PP3, which will be published on the project social media.
Partner(s) involved	Larino, PKD, Sunce

Deliverables 1.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.2.1	Grow together - 1 Cross-border training scheme for high school students on agricultural biodiversity	16 secondary-schools students (8 from Dalmatia and 8 from Molise) will spend 5 days in Molise and 5 days in Dalmatia for a cross-border training on agriculture and biodiversity led by LP, PP2 and PP3. At least 1 teacher per school and at least 1 representative of Croatian partners will participate.	Period 2 , 7 - 12
D.1.2.2	Grow together 10 video clips	Short video clips with highlights, "behind the scenes" moments and short interviews with participating students will be shot by LP and PP3 and will be published on project social media.	Period 2 , 7 - 12

Activity 1.3	
Title	Cross-border pilot transplant of fig samplings
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 3, 13 - 16
Description	The "Ficus carica" species is very rustic and extremely adaptable to climate change and any type of soil, for this reason very suitable for a cross-

Activity 1.3	<p>border transplant. PKD and Pomona will exchange 5 fig varieties traditionally grown in Croatia and 5 fig varieties traditionally grown in Puglia in order to introduce new biodiversity in the respective regions. The activity includes several implementation phases. The first is the research and identification of traditional fig varieties that are currently grown in each region, and the selection of 5 varieties for exchange. During this work several information will be collected from the growers (name, color of the skin, color of the pulp, size, use, characteristics, particular culinary uses, etc.). Then the exchange mechanisms will be organized in a way that ensures the safe transportation and delivery of the fig cuttings from one region to the other. Once the fig varieties are exchanged, they will be planted and cultivated in trial plots in the respective regions. This would allow farmers and experts to assess their adaptability to local conditions, productivity, and quality characteristics. The assessment will be conducted during and after the project lifetime to allow for a comprehensive evaluation. Partners will produce a joint report on data collected until that moment and the subsequent steps to take to analyze the plants' behavior in the two different geographical areas, committing to compare data also after the project end date for a more comprehensive evaluation. In any case, the foundations will have been laid for maintaining collaborative relationships even after the conclusion of the project itself and new biodiversity varieties will have been transplanted in the cross-border area. In order to communicate this activity, an educational album of the figs varieties involved in the transplant will be produced by PP4 with the objective to raise awareness on the local biodiversity of the territories.</p>
Partner(s) involved	PKD, Pomona

Deliverables 1.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.3.1	1 Report on identification of fig varieties and	PP2 and PP4 will conduct a research on old varieties of fig trees in Puglia and Dalmatia to transplant.	Period 1 , 1 - 6

Deliverables 1.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
	selection of varieties for exchange		
D.1.3.2	1 Report on Production, exchange and trial cultivation of figs saplings	PP2 and PP4 will produce and exchange n. 5 figs saplings between Puglia and Dalmatia to transplant new varieties of this fruit in the cross-border region.	Period 3 , 13 - 16
D.1.3.3	1 Joint assessment report	PP2 and PP4 will produce a joint report on data collected until that moment and the subsequent steps to take to analyze the plants' behavior in the two different geographical areas (even after the project end date).	Period 3 , 13 - 16
D.1.3.4	1 Educational album of the figs varieties	PP4 will produce an educational album of the figs varieties involved in the transplant, with their pictures and characteristics.	Period 3 , 13 - 16

Outputs

Output 1.1	
Output Title	Final cross-border conference jointly organized
Programme Output Indicator	RC0115_2.2: Public events across borders jointly organised
Measurement Unit	events
Target Value	1.00
Delivery period	Period 3, 13 - 16
Output Description	A Final Conference is a crucial event for any project, as it provides an opportunity to showcase the project's achievements and disseminate its results to a wider audience. The conference will be organized by PP3 at the end of the project, with the support and participation of the whole partnership and relevant stakeholders from both countries. During the event, the results achieved and practices learnt will be illustrated, contributing to the impact and sustainability of the project.

Output 1.2	
Output Title	"Grow together" joint cross-border training scheme on agricultural biodiversity
Programme Output Indicator	RCO85_2.2: Participations in joint training schemes
Measurement Unit	participations
Target Value	16.00
Delivery period	Period 3, 13 - 16
Output Description	16 high-school students (8 from Dalmatia and 8 Molise) will participate in a cross-border training scheme on agricultural biodiversity and organic farming organized by LP, PP2 and PP3, by spending 5 days in Italy and 5 in Croatia. This will be a highly enriching experience for the participating students, but also an excellent way to foster intercultural exchange and promote sustainable farming practices among young generations, that is tomorrow farmers.
Output 1.3	
Output Title	Cross-border pilot exchange and transplant of figs samplings
Programme Output Indicator	RCO84_2.2: Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
Measurement Unit	pilot actions
Target Value	1.00
Delivery period	Period 3, 13 - 16
Output Description	PP2 and PP4 will jointly develop and carry out a pilot actions consisting in exchanging and transplanting fig varieties traditionally grown in Croatia and Puglia as an excellent way to introduce new agricultural biodiversity in the respective regions, encourage their adoption by local farmers in the future, and facilitate networking and collaboration between farmers and experts from both regions.

Work package 2

Work package title

Pilot actions to involve the local community in the conservation of agricultural biodiversity

Objectives

Your objectives should be:

- realistic and achievable by the end of the project;
- specific (who needs project outputs delivered in this work package, and in which territory);
- measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

Define one project specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in this work package are implemented and outputs delivered.

Engage the local community of the involved regions, especially the younger generation, to preserve domestic agricultural biodiversity and adopt more sustainable practices in agriculture

Think about the communication objective that will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective. Communication objectives aim at changes in a target audience's behaviour, knowledge or belief.

Raise awareness among citizens and in particular among young people of the involved regions on the diversity and richness of local agricultural biodiversity and the importance of preserving it

Activities

Activity 2.1	
Title	Workshop to increase pruning skills of agricultural operators in Molise
Start period	Period 3, 13 - 16
End period	Period 3, 13 - 16
Description	The evolution of the olive trees cultivation and the technological growth in the oil sector increasingly oblige olive growers to make more and more qualified technical-agronomic choices in order to guarantee a profitable, constant and qualitative production, in order to be competitive on national and foreign markets. In the light of the dynamics of a sector, which like this one is rapidly evolving, it becomes important to think of training moments that keep both the olive grower and the technical-agricultural expert up-to-date on the adoption of

Activity 2.1	<p>more suitable training and pruning systems also relating to the characteristics of the different genetic types of plants that are the result of biodiversity and expression of the territory. From this point of view, pruning represents one of the interventions aimed at modifying the natural vegetative growth and fruiting of a plant, proposing the achievement of a series of modifying and improving objectives such as: give the plant an optimal shape so that the light can reach all the vegetative parts of the plant, favoring the vital processes and also making cultivation operations easier; speed up the growth of young trees to reach the definitive skeleton more quickly and therefore anticipate production; have a more rapid and copious production of fruit achieve a canopy/roots and vegetative/productive phase balance to ensure constant high-quality production; extend production as much as possible also for senescent plants; promote agronomic fertility. The purpose of the proposed workshop under the responsibility of LP will therefore not only be to prepare groups of operators capable of successfully tackling the typical problems of the olive and oil sector but also to be able to compare themselves on the different agro-cultural knowledge and skills and with the typical culture of the territories by developing shared skills and social values. The workshop will last at least 2 days and involve at least 20 operators (SMEs and professionals such as farmers, agronomists, etc.) with the participation of experts, higher education and research organizations, local authorities, etc.). A proper communication will be ensured.</p>
Partner(s) involved	Larino

Deliverables 2.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.1.1	1 Workshop on the pruning of “polyconic vase” olive trees	The workshop will be aimed to prepare groups of operators and to make them updated on new techniques and on the social impact of sustainable agriculture. The workshop will last at least 2 days and involve at least 20 operators.	Period 3 , 13 - 16

Activity 2.2	
Title	Educational activities for the local community on the agricultural biodiversity
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 3, 13 - 16
Description	<p>This activity includes different activities sharing the same objective, that is promoting awareness and understanding of the value of biodiversity in agriculture. Among the actions to be implemented, a series of practical workshops and lectures (10) with the local community under the responsibility of PP2 (which may also provide external services such as room, catering, etc.) will be focused on old varieties of fruit trees/forest fruit trees in the area of Dalmatia, techniques of vegetative propagation of trees, permaculture practices in growing fruit trees, agroforestry, etc. PP3 will be responsible for the implementation of an educational program for elementary schools and mentoring of high school students for peer education. Specifically PP3 will create an educational program for pupils of Primary School Ostrog, known for its School Botanical Garden, with the aim to improve nearly 50-year-old school garden and encourage successful future maintenance. In addition, Sunce will mentor high school students who participated in the cross-border training (WP1) in designing a workshop for their peers where they will present their experience and newly acquired skills that can be used in the school garden. In addition, PP3 will organize a Green Swap Fair with the aim of encouraging agricultural practices at the local level and connecting individuals, SMEs and interest groups engaged in sustainable agriculture. Activities' communication will be ensured via social media, project and partners' communication channels, and press releases spread at local level. Local public authorities and research organizations will be involved too.</p>
Partner(s) involved	PKD, Sunce

Deliverables 2.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.2.1	1 Series of lectures and practical workshops (10) with local community in Dalmatia	10 between practical workshops and lectures will be carried out by PP2, focused on old varieties of fruit trees /forest fruit trees in the area of Dalmatia, techniques of vegetative propagation of trees, permaculture practices in growing fruit trees, agroforestry, etc.	Period 3 , 13 - 16
D.2.2.2	1 Educational program for elementary schools in Dalmatia	PP3 will create an educational program for pupils of Primary School Ostrog, known for its School Botanical Garden, with the aim to improve nearly 50-year-old school garden and encourage successful future maintenance.	Period 3 , 13 - 16
D.2.2.3	1 Mentoring activity of high school students for peer education in Dalmatia	PP3 will mentor high school students who participated in the cross-border training (WP1) in designing a workshop for their peers where they will present their experience and newly acquired skills that can be used in the school garden.	Period 3 , 13 - 16
D.2.2.4	1 Green Swap Fair	PP3 will organize a Green Swap Fair with the aim of encouraging agricultural practices at the local level and connecting individuals engaged in sustainable agriculture.	Period 3 , 13 - 16

Activity 2.3	
Title	Digitalization of Pomona's collection of ancient figs
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 3, 13 - 16
Description	The main biodiversity collection of I Giardini di Pomona botanical conservatory is dedicated to the "Ficus carica" species: 600 Afghan, Bosnian, French, Portuguese, Albanian, Israeli and of course Italian and Apulian figs. It is one of the most important collections in Europe and the Mediterranean basin, in terms of quality and variety. The objective of this activity is to catalogue and digitalize part of this precious heritage in order to preserve it, increase accessibility for visitors, and aid in the management and utilization of the information. A digital catalogue

Activity 2.3	<p>(database) will be created, containing about 125 sheets (one per fig variety) including their scientific name, common name, genetic characteristics, other relevant information and pictures. Each plant will have a waterproof tag attached with a QR code stamped on it, linking to the corresponding information in the database, so that visitors can easily access the information using their smartphones or other QR code scanning devices. By implementing this process, the botanical conservatory can provide visitors with a convenient and interactive way to learn about different fig varieties and their unique characteristics. Researchers can also benefit from easy access to the information and can use it to study the different fig varieties present in the conservatory. VERA will digitally preserve the genetic material of the most ancient local biodiversity, protecting it from the threat of extinction and passing it on to future generation thanks to the digitalization. In order to promote and raise awareness on the uniqueness of the Pomona's gardens collection, an ad-hoc social media campaign on figs biodiversity will be carried out on VERA social media. PP4 will create engaging and visually appealing contents that highlights the fig varieties and the garden's biodiversity heritage. This can include photos, videos, infographics, and other types of content that showcase the unique characteristics of the figs.</p>
Partner(s) involved	Pomona

Deliverables 2.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.3.1	I Giardini di Pomona in your pocket (1 digital catalogue)	PP4 will digitalize part of its figs' collection. QR codes for about 125 fig varieties will be created, linking to the corresponding information in the database (digital catalogue) will be created.	Period 3 , 13 - 16
D.2.3.2	1 Social media campaign on figs biodiversity	PP4 will create a social media campaign on the figs heritage of I Giardini di Pomona, with engaging and visually appealing contents showcasing the unique characteristics of the figs.	Period 3 , 13 - 16

Outputs

Output 2.1	
Output Title	Pilot actions to engage the local community and raise awareness on biodiversity
Programme Output Indicator	RC084_2.2: Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
Measurement Unit	pilot actions
Target Value	4.00
Delivery period	Period 3, 13 - 16
Output Description	The collaborative pilot actions undertaken by PPs (A2.1, 2.2, 2.3 workshops, lectures, fair and digitalization) will contribute to the preservation of biodiversity and raise awareness about its significance. This joint effort has the potential to leverage this conservation of biodiversity as a powerful tool for sustainable development and ecological balance. Partners will inspire communities and stakeholders to actively participate in the protection and restoration of the natural ecosystems.

C.5 Project Results

What do you expect to change because of the activities you plan to implement and the outputs you plan to deliver? Please take a look at the programme result indicators and select those that you will contribute to.

Result 1	
Programme result indicator	RCR81_2.2: Completion of joint training schemes
Measurement unit	participants
Baseline	0.00
Target value	16.00
Delivery period	Period 3, 13 - 16
Result description	Partners of the VERA project will jointly organize a cross-border training scheme on agricultural biodiversity and organic farming for 16 secondary school students from Italy and Croatia. Students are expected to learn about the challenges and opportunities associated with sustainable agriculture; foster a sense of mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation across borders; develop a skilled workforce committed to promoting equitable food systems; and adopt more healthy eating habits, sharing these practices with their peers and within their communities. The training program is thus expected to have multiple positive impacts on the students, their communities, and the environment itself.

C.6 Project Time Plan

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	After End
WP1 Cross-border exchange and training on su...				
<i>A1.1 Cross-border exchange on sustainabl...</i>	D1.1.1		D1.1.2 D1.1.3 D1.1.4	
<i>A1.2 Joint cross-border training for you...</i>		D1.2.1 D1.2.2		
<i>A1.3 Cross-border pilot transplant of fi...</i>	D1.3.1		D1.3.2 D1.3.3 D1.3.4	
<i>RCO115_2.2</i>			O1.1	
<i>RCO84_2.2</i>			O1.3	
<i>RCO85_2.2</i>			O1.2	
WP2 Pilot actions to involve the local commu...				
<i>A2.1 Workshop to increase pruning skills...</i>			D2.1.1	
<i>A2.2 Educational activities for the loca...</i>			D2.2.1 D2.2.2 D2.2.3 D2.2.4	
<i>A2.3 Digitalization of Pomona's collecti...</i>			D2.3.1 D2.3.2	
<i>RCO84_2.2</i>			O2.1	
Result indicator				

RCR81_2.2			R1	
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C.7 Project management

In addition to the thematic work you will do in your project, you will need time and resources for coordination and internal communication. Please describe below how you plan to organise yourself to ensure the project work runs smoothly.

C.7.1 How will you coordinate your project?

Who will be responsible for coordination? Will you have any other management structures (e.g., thematic groups, WP managers)? How will the internal communication work?

Coordinating a project requires careful planning, effective communication, and the establishment of clear management structures. First, a Project Steering Committee (SC) will be set up and the rules of procedure for the SC established. The SC, composed of representatives of all project partners and led by LP, is responsible for decision-making and coordination (validation of contents, monitoring of finances, project and budget modification, review of the management performance, etc.). Also, VERA will set up a Project Management Unit (PMU) composed by Project Manager, Financial Manager and Communication Manager. From this Unit, 3 sub-groups will be created, the Project Management Group (PMG), Financial Management Group (FMG) and Communication Management Group (CMG) led by the 3 figures respectively and involving at least one representative from each partner organization. Specifically, the Project Management Group will ensure the thematic coordination of the project activities and work packages. The PM will act as a driving force of the project, able to mobilise the partnership in order to achieve the goals set in the application. The PMG is responsible for communicating project updates and risks, and ensures project activities proceed aligned with the project's overall strategy and objectives. The PM will oversee the day-to-day coordination of the project and will ensure an effective internal communication through regular meetings (also online), emails, progress reports etc. KOM, Mid-Term Meeting and Final meeting will be held minimum. Project management tools, such as specific softwares and shared workspaces, can also be used to facilitate communication among PMG members. To sum it up, the VERA project will count on a management structure able to coordinate activities and provide a continuous monitoring at different levels, ensuring that the skills and expertise involved are optimized and that actions align with the project's objectives.

C.7.2 Which measures will you take to ensure quality in your project?

Describe specific approaches and processes and responsible partners. If you plan to have any type of project evaluation, please describe its purpose and scope here.

VERA will take several measures to ensure quality in the project. First, the PMU will define at the beginning of the project clear and specific goals and objectives to reach, in line with the Application Form. This helps everyone involved in the project to understand what needs to be achieved and how success will be measured. Then, quality standards will be established: once the goals and objectives are defined, it is important to define quality standards that will be used to measure the success of the project, such as performance standards and usability standards. In addition, a quality plan (including risk management plan) will outline the steps that will be taken to ensure that the project meets the established quality standards. This plan drafted by the PMU should include specific approaches and processes that will be used, as well as responsible partners who will oversee each step of the process. As a consequence, quality reviews will be regularly conducted to help identify areas where quality is lacking and allow for corrections to be made before the project is completed. Before the project is completed, it should be thoroughly tested and validated to ensure that it meets the established quality standards. After the project is completed, a project evaluation will be conducted to assess the overall success of the project. The purpose of this evaluation is to identify areas where improvements can be made for future projects. In summary, to ensure quality in the project, the PMU will require a clear understanding of the goals and objectives, establish quality standards, develop a quality plan (including risk management plan), conduct regular quality reviews, validate the project, and conduct a project evaluation. By following these steps, VERA will be completed successfully while meeting established quality standards.

C.7.3 What will be the general approach you will follow to communicate about your project?

Who will coordinate project communication and how will he/she ensure the involvement of all partners? How will the communication function contribute to transfer your project results? Please note that all communication activities should be included in the work packages, as an integral part of your project. There is no need to repeat this information here.

The project communication will be led by PP4 (Pomona). To ensure the coordination, a Communication Management Group (CMG) will be established during the Kick off Meeting. The group will be composed of at least one representative from each partner organization and their leader - the Communication Manager (CM). The CMG will be responsible for managing and coordinating VERA communication activities, guaranteeing the participation of all partners. The CMG will approve the Editorial Plan drafted by the CM, outlining the target audience to address, the approach and the types of messages that will be communicated, the channels that will be used, and the frequency of communication. The Editorial Plan will be in line with the project objectives and the related communication objectives foreseen in the Application Form. The monitoring of social media platforms where the project has a presence will be ensured by paying attention to comments, messages, and mentions. The CM will engage with the target groups by responding to their feedback, addressing concerns, and seeking further input. In addition, social media analytics tools will be used to gather data on user behaviour, engagement, and satisfaction. Analyze metrics such as page views, likes, time spent on pages, can provide an understanding of how the target groups are interacting with the communication activities and content. Also, feedback forms will be used by creating online or offline feedback forms that can be easily accessed by the target groups. These forms will provide specific questions or prompts for feedback related to the communication activities/events and editorial plan, leaving space for additional comments and suggestions.

VERA project will use communication in the first place to convene a wide range of stakeholders around the topic of agricultural biodiversity conservation. This will consist in informing the essential stakeholders about the project's existence, significance, and the relevance of the subject matter that it addresses, encouraging their willingness to participate in project activities (workshops, training, lectures, etc.). Secondly, by highlighting the achievements and impact of the project, communication will serve to disseminate the project results transferring them to target groups outside the project partnership and attract new potential collaborators. Finally, one of the main objectives of the communication will be raising awareness among citizens (especially young people) on the diversity and richness of local agricultural biodiversity and the importance of preserving it. For this purpose, the use of photographic material will be fundamental and will be conveyed through social media channels, which will play a key role for the project communication considering the target of young generations.

C.7.4 How do you foresee the financial management of the project and reporting procedures for activities and budget (within the partnership and towards the programme)?

Define responsibilities, deadlines in financial flows, reporting flows, project related transfers, reclaims, etc.

VERA will ensure a sound financial management of the project and reporting procedures for activities and budget. To ensure the coordination, a Financial Management Group (FMG) will be established during the Kick off Meeting, coordinated by the Financial Manager and involving at least one representative from each partner organization. The FM will work closely with the PM as they are both part of the Project Management Unit. The FM will manage the project budget, which includes budget modifications, financial reporting, and submission of payment claims to the Programme. Also he/she will be responsible for ensuring that project partners receive the Interreg funds and verifies the correct transfer of funds to the partners. Of course, he/she will also provide guidance on financial actions to ensure adherence to program rules, national laws, and institutional regulations, thereby ensuring that expenditures are eligible. Finally, the FM will closely and regularly monitor the financial performance of the project partners, coordinating with the whole financial group and the PM to ensure efficient overall financial management of the project. The FM and PM will communicate with the Joint Secretariat (JS) about project budget spending, and will adjust project activities and budget as needed.

C.7.5 Cooperation criteria

Please select all cooperation criteria that apply to your project and describe how you will fulfil them.

Cooperation criteria		Description
Joint development	Yes	VERA and the whole project structure was designed through the participation of all project partners, on the basis of their combination of ideas, priorities, experiences, actions and results.
Joint implementation	Yes	All partners will contribute to the implementation of the project activities under the coordination of the Lead Partner and in line with the foreseen management structures. Partners will work following a joint common spirit of cooperation with a focus on clear content-based links.
Joint staffing	Yes	Each project partner will have a defined role in the project activities and management structure. Basically, each partner will appoint its local project manager, financial manager and communication manager. These will compose Project Management Group, Financial Management Group and Communication Management Group at project level. All of them will be coordinated by Project Manager on behalf of LP. Representatives of each PP will be thus engaged as members of single project team within the same project, sharing a common vision and granting a smooth and easy cooperation. There are not duplication of functions.
Joint financing	Yes	The VERA project budget has been constructed in line with activities carried out by each project partner. The LP and particularly the Financial Manager (in closely cooperation with the PM) will be responsible for the administration and reporting towards the Programme bodies as well as the distribution of the funds to the partners. A Financial Management Group will be established to make the financial activities smoother and more efficient.

C.7.6 Horizontal principles

Please indicate which type of contribution to horizontal principles applies to the project, and justify your choice.

Horizontal principles	Type of contribution	Description of contribution
Sustainable development	positive effects	<p>The project will promote a sustainable development, in line with UN Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. By promoting agricultural practices that are environmentally sustainable and economically viable, the project helps to ensure food security and improve nutrition for communities in line with Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) of UN. In addition, VERA supports the conservation of biodiversity, which is essential for maintaining ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change, in line with Goal 5 (Climate Action). The project also protects and restores habitats for native species, promoting agroforestry and other land use practices that support biodiversity, reducing the use of harmful agrochemicals, in line with Goal 15 (Life on Land). Finally, VERA supports the Paris Agreement by disseminating and sharing sustainable land use practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance carbon sequestration, and support the conservation of habitats and species.</p>
Equal opportunities and non-discrimination	positive effects	<p>The project respects equal opportunities and prevents all kinds of discrimination by ensuring that all individuals involved in the project, including staff, partners, and beneficiaries, are treated fairly and equitably. All activities will provide equal opportunities to target groups, regardless of differences such as gender, minority, disabilities or any other similar differences. To guarantee accessibility for people with disabilities, the project implements measures to ensure that project activities and materials are more accessible and inclusive, for example ensuring that physical spaces are accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. The project will follow the European Union Disability Strategy (EC Communication of 20 December 1996) on equality of opportunity for people with disabilities in order to remove barriers on fruition of the sharing in the project results.</p>
Equality between men and women	positive effects	<p>The project will ensure the promotion of gender equality by implementing several measures to ensure that women are fully involved in project activities and that their perspectives are taken into account. First, VERA will aim to ensure that gender is mainstreamed throughout all project activities, including in project planning and implementation. This means that gender considerations will be integrated into all aspects of the project, which will take into account the different needs and experiences of women and men. Second, the project will actively work to ensure the participation of women in all project activities, including in decision-making processes. Third, the project will work to address any gender-based barriers or discrimination that may prevent women from fully participating in project activities. This may involve providing support or accommodations to address specific needs or challenges faced by women, such as childcare or transportation. Overall, the project is committed to promoting gender equality.</p>

C.8 Long-term plans

As a programme, we would like to support projects that have a long-lasting effect in the territory and those who will benefit from them. Please describe below what you will do to ensure this.

C.8.1 Ownership

Please describe who will ensure the financial and institutional support for the outputs/deliverables developed by the project (e.g., tools), and explain how these outputs/deliverables will be integrated in the work of the institutions.

The main deliverables and outputs developed by the project are training schemes, educational programs, workshops and lectures. For this reason, once they have been developed, these will be automatically integrated in the routine work of the responsible partners also after their conclusion, with the involvement of the relevant stakeholders. As for the digitalization activity of Pomona's heritage, the partner itself will ensure the necessary financial support for the sustainability of the action. After the VERA project end, partners will have at disposal new structures and contents for training, workshops, lectures and educational activities to be used and replicated in the future also at cross-border level. In addition, project partners will continue to work closely with relevant stakeholders and networks created within the project to pursue opportunities for collaboration. Overall, the project team will work to ensure that the outputs and deliverables developed by the project are effectively disseminated, integrated, and sustained by partners themselves and stakeholders, in order to maximize their impact and promote sustainable development.

C.8.2 Durability

Some outputs/deliverables should be used by relevant groups (project partners or others) after the project's lifetime, in order to have a lasting effect on the territory and the population. For example, new practices in urban transport need to be used by local authorities to have cleaner air in the city, and the whole population will benefit from this. Please describe how your outputs/deliverables will be used after the project ends and by whom.

The main deliverables and outputs developed by the project are study visits, training schemes, educational programs, workshops and lectures, all promoting biodiversity conservation and agricultural sustainable practices, which will be used by a variety of stakeholders, including farmers, environmental associations, educators, policymakers, etc. Addressees of workshops and lectures (farmers, agricultural specialists, etc.) could use the new sustainable practices learnt to reduce their environmental impact, increase the efficiency of their operations, and potentially improve their profits. Conservationists could use the materials to educate the public about the importance of biodiversity and the need to protect natural habitats. Policymakers could use the information to inform legislation and regulations related to agriculture and sustainable land use. Educators could use the programs and workshops to teach students about sustainable farming practices and the importance of biodiversity. Overall, the usage of these outputs/deliverables after the project's lifetime would have a positive impact on the environment and the wider community. By promoting sustainable practices, the project could help to reduce the negative impact of agriculture on the environment and protect biodiversity. This, in turn, could have benefits for the broader community, such as improved air and water quality, increased food security, and a healthier and more resilient ecosystem.

C.8.3 Transferability

Some outputs/deliverables that you will deliver could be adapted or further developed to be used by other target groups or in other territories. What will you do to make sure that relevant groups are aware of your outputs/deliverables and are able to use them?

To ensure that relevant groups are aware of the outputs/deliverables developed by VERA, first a comprehensive outreach and promotion strategy will be developed to inform stakeholders about the project and its results. This will involve leveraging social media platforms, targeted advertising, press releases, and traditional media. Second, open and free access will be guaranteed to project results, to ensure that they are available to anyone who wants to use them. With regards to activity 1.1, 2.1, 2.3, the related results including approaches, methodologies and training contents will be published on the Programme website and made available free of charge for everyone. Also, they will be disseminated via social media to the wider community. In general, all project outputs can be easily transferred both in terms of territory and in terms of organizations as they are suitable for adaptation and customization to meet the needs of different target groups or territories. For example, the materials could be tailored to address the specific challenges faced by farmers in different regions or to address the unique environmental needs of different populations. Finally, since all partners are committed to biodiversity conservation, they will continue to disseminate results through networks of nationally and internationally environmental organisations and similar.