



Newsletter






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ABOUT THE PROJECT

The REVERSE project consists of an exchange of experiences between the 14 partners of the project who are involved in the protection of biodiversity and came from 7 different European countries.

The project focuses on 3 key topics:

-  **Agriculture**, food production and biodiversity,
-  **Tourism** and biodiversity,
-  **Land development** and biodiversity.

Its aim is to promote biodiversity on a European scale, by favouring positive action which have been identified by partners and may be easily transposed to other European regions.

At the end of the project, a guide describing **good practices**, advice and a charter concerning the preservation of biodiversity will be created.

Project duration: 3 years January 2010-December 2012.

Closing Conference: 2012, Brussels, Belgium. Presentation and distribution of the project's conclusions and results.

Project's provisional budget: 2.5 million Euros

Type of project: European interregional cooperation project – INTERREG IVC Programme*

** The INTERREG IVC Programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective. It is an EU programme that helps regions of Europe work together to share their knowledge and experience. Launched in 2007, the programme will run until 2013.*

For more information about the project

<http://reverse.aquitaine.fr/-4-project-description->

REVERSE TEAM

The **partners of the REVERSE project are regional authorities and public establishments**, which have for a long time been involved in the protection and development of natural and cultivated biodiversity. They work on varied and complementary subjects such as: conservatories of species in situ, gene banks, the management of natural spaces, the regional strategies for the conservation of biodiversity (ecological corridors, etc.), the local legislation for the protection of biodiversity, education, etc.

Estonia: Estonian University of Life Sciences **France:** Region Aquitaine, Bio d'Aquitaine, CREN (Regional Natural Areas Conservatory of Aquitaine) **Germany:** Region Bremen, TTZ (Technology Transfer Center Bremerhaven) **Greece:** Region Crete, Forest Directorate of Chania, MAICH (Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania), Prefectural Authority of Drama-Kavala-Xanthi **Italy:** Region Umbria, ARSIAL **Slovakia:** CVRV (Plant Production Research Center) **Spain:** Region Murcia, Basque government



For more information about the partners <http://reverse.aquitaine.fr/-5-about-partners->

LAUNCH CONFERENCE

Biodiversity: an environmental and economic issue for European regions

This launch conference was held in Bordeaux (France) at the Aquitaine Region building, on the 25th June 2010.

It aimed to inform stakeholders involved in technical and political issues, about conservation of biodiversity at the European level.

This conference reminded those present of the causes and consequences of the erosion of biodiversity and highlighted the relevance of action on a local and regional level in the preservation of biodiversity on a European scale. During this half-day of exchanges, those present were also given an explanation of the economic valuation of biodiversity.



To upload the minute of this conference : <http://reverse.aquitaine.fr/41-minute>

A GLIMPSE OF GOOD PRACTICES

Agriculture & Biodiversity

Here are presented successful experiences of Reverse's Partners, which have demonstrated a proven effectiveness in terms of preserving biodiversity

To see more good practices on this topic:

<http://reverse.aquitaine.fr/2-good-practices>

Dynamic conservation of AgroBiodiversity

Presented by Bio d'Aquitaine (France)

The new environmental and food challenges allowed a resurgence of interest for old and landrace varieties. To conserve and to pursue their evolution, those varieties have to be grown and bred in situ by a network of farmers. In this way they can be better known, recognized, and valued.

Goals:

1. Fill in the **shortfall in suitable seeds for organic and low input farming** (re-discovering the agronomic and nutritional qualities of old and landrace seeds),
2. Meet the traceability and **absence requirements of GMOs**
3. Conserve the regional germplasm and cultural **heritage** cultivating regional agrobiodiversity, and participate in its continuous evolution.
4. Recover the technical **knowledge and know hows among farmers.**

Challenges:

1. Rediscovering a heritage in danger of extinction: Lack of seeds and / or information on methods of cultivation.
2. Working on legislative solutions.
3. Propose collective methods to manage agrobiodiversity.

Results:

1. Corn conservation in situ : 309 farmers who has been growing landrace varieties under experimental conventions since the program started up. Around 45 ha cultivated since the program began, under conventions.
2. Wheat conservation in situ: More than 100 farmers breeding wheat at national level.
3. Platforms with collections: *Corn Platform Le Change 2010*: 111 Corn varieties, 25 variety of upland rice, 7 sunflowers, 4 sorghum, 5 Mohazi, camel, lupines. *Wheat platform Le Roc 2010*: around 100 wheat & cereals (300 varieties in 2009)



 **Regional Act 1st March 2000 n°15: Protection of autochthonous genetic resources of agricultural interest**

Presented by ARSIAL (Italy)

Regional Acts are important tools allowing the coordination of the regional activities in agrobiodiversity conservation.

The Regional Law protects Lazio's autochthonous genetic resources of agricultural interest at risk of genetic erosion. It concerns all species, races, populations, ecotypes, clones, and cultivars, including the wild species of the cultivated vegetable species, as well as the animal breeds and populations of zoo technical interest.

Moreover the Region also protects all genetic resources that have disappeared from the regional territory but are currently conserved in experimental institutions, botanical gardens, public and private genetic collections and banks, also in other Regions and Countries.

Census of these autochthonous genetic resources and their characterization allows registration in Regional Voluntary Register (institutional tool) at the same time in situ and on farm conservation is promoted through Conservation and Safety Network (institutional tool).

Goals:

1. Protection of autochthonous genetic resource of agricultural interest so to reduce their "genetic erosion threat";
2. On farm and in situ conservation;
3. Valorization of resources' food products threatened by genetic erosion;
4. Information and dissemination.

Results:

1. Registration of autochthonous plants and animals resources at risk of genetic erosion on the Regional Voluntary Register (RVR), currently are registered n.**172** plant landraces and n.**26** animal local breeds.
2. Farmers enrollment in the Conservation and Safety Network of the protected resources for in situ conservation and multiplication, total members to the present day: **437** for animal genetic resources and **182** for plant genetic resources.
3. Ex situ conservation in Collection Fields and in ARSIAL's Germplasm Bank.



 **Microbial biodiversity as environmental indicator**

Presented by the Basque Government (Spain)

The functioning of the soil resource (the basis of an agro-ecosystem) depends on its microbial communities. Interestingly, soil microbial biodiversity has great potential as a biological indicator of the effect of agricultural practices on soil health.

Goals:

1. To develop a set of methodological tools, based on the status of the soil microbial communities, to assess the impact of conventional agricultural practices on soil health and also to evaluate the beneficial effects of more sustainable agricultural practices on such health.
2. To use soil microbial diversity as a valid biological indicator of soil health.
3. To develop "soil health cards" as a useful tool to bridge the gap between farmers, decision-makers and scientists.

Results:

1. A set of methodological tools, based on the status of the soil microbial communities for the assessment of the impact of agricultural practices on soil health; 2. Soil health cards specifically designed for a territory.

To learn more about the project and the Reverse Partners,
To keep up-to-date with best practices identified and recommendations to preserve biodiversity
To see the diary of events offered by partners

Visit our new website!
www.reverse.aquitaine.eu

