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*The GREENCHANGE project is co-financed by the LIFE programme, the EU instrument for the conservation of nature and biodiversity*

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## Life Greenchange progress in Malta



Last year, the introductory issue of the Life Greenchange newsletter was launched to inform the public of the actions being taken in connection with

the project. Funded mainly by the **EU's Life programme**, the project deals with biodiversity conservation in the Maltese archipelago and the Pontine Plain in Italy.

Through this environmental programme, the **Province of Latina and its partners** were able to draw up a series of comprehensive actions in order to strengthen the ecological value of agricultural systems in the two areas of intervention.

In spite of the Covid-19 restrictions, **the project has progressed well in Malta and Gozo**. Having put in place the foreseen territorial governance systems, **MIEMA**, the Maltese partner, is now embarking on the demonstration actions for the construction of green infrastructures. This has been possible thanks to the strong synergy created with the relevant institutional bodies.

**Newsletter #2 introduces the Life Greenchange progress in Malta and Gozo.**

**Malta and Gozo project area on the Life Greenchange web site**

**Reference framework for the systematization of interventions of rural areas – Malta**



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# Demonstration interventions



The design of the interventions for the restoration of the rubble walls and the submission of the necessary permit applications proceeded smoothly, once the owners of the pilot sites had signed the land stewardship agreements promoted by the project. The tender for the

restoration works has been concluded, while site visits, surveys, and a series of meetings with the landowners have been organised.

In the next stage, following the completion of the interventions on the rubble walls, MIEMA will be planting wildflower strips adjacent to the restored walls. Discussions with the authorities concerned, to plan this phase of the project, have been ongoing. An agreement has been reached with the EcoGozo Directorate to plant such wildflower strips alongside rubble walls restored by the Ministry at the Ta' Sopu area. In addition, MIEMA is collaborating with the Directorate to explore synergies which may be achieved by the two entities, in view of the Ministry's investment of more than €10 million in European funds for the restoration of rubble walls, as part of the framework of the EcoGozo programme.

- [\*\*The restoration of rubble walls by Gozo and LIFE Greenchange DOSSIER.\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Technical document for rubble walls restoration in Maltese pilot areas \(EN\).\*\*](#)

## The pact for biodiversity in Gozo





**The Pact for Biodiversity** is the instrument designed by the **Life Greenchange project** to define the actions and tools that support the management of rural areas. It sets up a permanent discussion table of the territorial actors involved in increasing the levels of agricultural functionality and ecological connectivity within agro-ecosystems. Although the Covid-19 restrictions have slowed down the signing process, the Pact has been shared successfully with all the Gozitan local councils as well as the EcoGozo Directorate. Its early endorsement by the Gozo Regional Council triggered synergies between the actions of Life Greenchange and the activities framed within the EcoGozo



programme, implemented by the directorate of the Ministry for Gozo. These include interventions for the restoration of over 25km of rubble walls on the island, funded through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

As a result of this collaboration with the Region and the Ministry for Gozo, Life Greenchange can further contribute to the transformation of Gozo into an ecological island, preserving its typical landscape while improving the biodiversity as well as the soil quality of rural areas.

- **Pact for Agrobiodiversity for Gozo (Malta).**
- **Land stewardship agreement model for the management transfer of rubble walls to local farmers.**

## Ex-ante environmental monitoring

The Italian experts selected for the fauna monitoring activities have paid a number of visits to the islands of Malta and Gozo to carry out ex-ante surveys of wildlife species, including birds, reptiles, and butterflies. Repeated visits took place in each location so as to obtain a more reliable sample.

These preparatory actions were necessary in order to evaluate the best ways in which to monitor the effectiveness of the green infrastructures that will be implemented during the project.



MALTA - FAUNA

MALTA - FLORA

# Networking with the Life Terracescape Project



A number of networking activities involving the Maltese partner have taken place within the past year.

On the 18th of March, the **representatives of the Life Greenchange team met with those of the Life Terracescape project**, which is intended to introduce Land Stewardship Agreements on the Greek island of Andros. Life Terracescape aims to expand this tool to other islands of the Aegean and the Mediterranean.

**The meeting explored both the common aspects as well as the differences between the two Life projects.** Both aim to improve and enhance dry-stone walls, typical of the Mediterranean rural landscape, as a way to transform them into green infrastructures that can contribute to climate change adaptation efforts and to the fight against biodiversity loss. Nevertheless, while Life Terracescape places Land Stewardship Agreements at the heart of the project, using them as a leverage to transform terraced landscapes into green infrastructure, Life Greenchange is trying to frame such Agreements within the wider governance tool of the Pact for Biodiversity. This brings together public and private subjects in the management of the territory and includes the implementation of sustainable agricultural policies.

[Read the article](#)

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GREENCHANGE TEAM

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