



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



The **newsletter n# 4** of the **LIFE Greenchange** describes the actions and interventions carried out in the final phase.

Launched in 2018, the project, led by the **Province of Latina**, is implementing conservation and environmental restoration actions in the Agro Pontino and in the Maltese archipelago, investing in green infrastructures, territorial governance and sustainability of agricultural systems.

After the slowdown caused by the Covid restrictions, we will tell you about the

closure of works in some of the construction sites, the enthusiasm in resuming educational activities in schools and the new networking events in the consolidated online mode.

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Malta & Gozo, restoration of rubble walls





Before

After



Before

After

In Malta and Gozo, the partner of LIFE Greenchange project **MIEMA** engaged a specialized company to carry out the envisaged works in Manikata/Mellieha and various sites in Gozo. **It has now finalized the restoration of more than the foreseen 1.5 km of rubble walls in the target areas.**

The participating farmers have expressed their satisfaction with the results and appreciated the efforts made to take into account the needs and timing of the agricultural activities in their estates when establishing the schedule of construction works.

The next phase consists of the planting of wildflower strips, which will be carried out in October with the collaboration of the Maltese Plant Protection Directorate and **EcoGozo**. The activity will be launched in the area of Manikata/Mellieha with an Open Day for students organized by the local Farmers Cooperative.

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Management of windbreak strips at school with LIFE Greenchange team



LIFE Greenchange has concluded the educational activities dedicated to the students of the San Benedetto vocational training institute in Latina - Italy with practical lessons on the design, management and enhancement of the windbreaks on the school's farm.

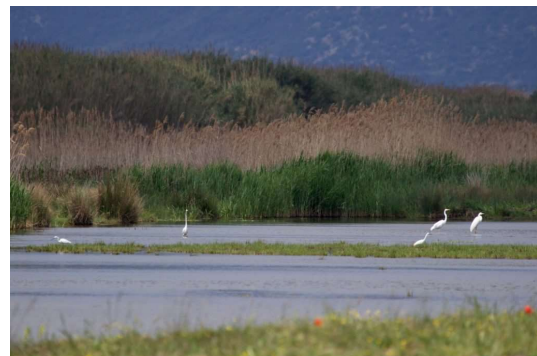
The activities, which began in 2021 with theoretical lessons, have continued this year with the aim of making the new generations promoters of biodiversity protection in the Agro pontino.

The students of 3 classes, one of the agricultural technical course and two of the vocational training for agriculture, were involved in the maintenance of the windbreaks under the supervision of the project partners Consorzio Poliedra, U-Space and Confagricoltura Latina, thus

understanding the meaning and importance of green infrastructure to strengthen the ecological value of agro-ecosystems.

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Ufente River - Italy, birdwatching on the LIFE Greenchange wetlands



LIFE Greenchange has built two **birdwatching huts** in the intervention area of the Ufente River. Environmental restoration works are in the

pipeline in the stretch of river included in the municipality of Pontinia. The huts will allow to observe the numerous species in the two **new wetlands created** by the project by planting native trees and shrubs along the riverbanks. In full respect of the surrounding environment and without disturbing the local fauna, the huts can accommodate **adults, birdwatchers, students and children**. The frequentation of this place will become for them an opportunity to attend training and education activities and increase their environmental awareness.

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Green infrastructure in the Gelasio Caetani farm- Latina, Italy



With the inlet of water into the area, LIFE Greenchange has completed the works for the **construction of the wetland within the Gelasio Caetani farm**. The wetland was built to replace a pre-existing poplar

plantation and is characterized by variable depths ranging from a few centimeters up to a maximum of 30-40 cm. Within this humid environment and on its banks, islets and small hills were built and trees and shrubs were planted. In the water and in its immediate vicinity, plant species were planted to meet the ecological needs of a large number of animal and plant species.

The creation of the wetland was accompanied by the construction of a **windbreak belt, together with the restoration of the riparian vegetation of the Fosso Epitaffio and the drainage canals.**

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The reproduction of dragonflies in the LIFE Greenchange wetlands

Restoration of the Allacciante canal in the Agrilatina farm - Latina, Italy



When the restoration interventions started inside the Agrilatina farm, the conditions of a section of the Allacciante canal were rather compromised.

LIFE Greenchange intervened to reconstitute the riparian habitats to locally increase the ecological functionality of the canal and the environmental quality of the farm's territory.

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Restoration of the Cicerchia canal in the Ganci farm - Latina, Italy





LIFE Greenchange has completed the **redevelopment of the Cicerchia canal in the Ganci farm.**

The actions mainly concerned the restoration of the canal's riparian habitats with the elimination of invasive and alien species, such as the common reed (*Arundo donax*), and the planting of native trees and shrubs, including English oak, elm and ash. A belt of riparian vegetation was reconstituted, capable of performing important naturalistic and landscape functions, and, in part, of mitigating the percolating pollutant load.

Participation in the online meeting by the Italian Ministry of ecological transition

LIFE Greenchange took part in the online meeting "A priority for Europe. Investing in the protection and restoration of nature ". An important **networking** opportunity organized by the Italian Ministry of ecological transition.

The meeting involved numerous projects of the European LIFE environment and climate programme.

Consorzio Poliedra Politecnico di Milano, partner of LIFE Greenchange, spoke at the session dedicated to sustainability in agricultural and forest soils, **describing the good practices implemented by the project for strengthening biodiversity in the Agro Pontino.**

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Versione online

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