



Acronym	EduCyprus
Full Title	Fostering Stakeholder Engagement via Educational Activities on Climate Smart Forestry in Cyprus
Partner(s)	Periopsis Ltd., Cyprus
Grant Theme	Citizen and Stakeholder Engagement in CSF and forest restoration
Start Date	December 2024
Duration	12 months
Description	Climate change is a major challenge for European forests, particularly in the South Mediterranean region, where frequent heat waves and prolonged droughts have been observed, followed by large wildfires in Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey. IPCC projections indicate a high risk of desertification in the region. Climate change is likely to lead to disturbances to Mediterranean forests, thus the urgency of adopting adaptation measures. Climate-Smart Forestry (CSF) offers a comprehensive approach to address these challenges by integrating sustainable forest management practices. EduCyprus-CSF aims to build awareness and share knowledge of CSF in Cyprus through a range of activities for local stakeholders. The highly novel GAEA geospatial tool that offers forestry analytics via geoinformatics and remote sensing is used to engage stakeholders and to raise awareness about CSF-based restoration actions and the importance of Mediterranean forests. This happens by means of data stories, geo-visualizations, online learning modules and geo-analytics, empowered by the rich geospatial services provided by GAEA. The project mainly targets citizens, NGOs and policymakers, engaging them through a series of educational activities to increase awareness on CSF, educate on its importance, and co-design relevant initiatives applying CSF locally. These initiatives will empower local communities and stakeholders to actively contribute to CSF decision-making and policy development. Key activities include using GAEA for creating educational materials on forestry and local biodiversity based on environmental geo-analytics, organising field visits to the Troodos Mountains and afforestation actions with NGOs and local authorities, as well as workshops tailored to train NGOs and policymakers on CSF practices and use of emerging technologies for environmental conservation. A final event will take place to share knowledge, exchange experiences, and articulate a policy recommendations paper for CSF stakeholders.



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