



Acronym	RESTART
Full Title	Restore lowland forest biodiversity and knowledge through engagement and art
Partner(s)	Spiritus Mundi ODV, Italy (<i>coordinator</i>) Collettivo Pictor, Italy
Grant Theme	Citizen and Stakeholder Engagement in CSF and forest restoration
Start Date	December 2024
Duration	18 months
Description	The RESTART project has the objective to raise awareness, educate and engage local communities on the importance of lowland forest restoration for climate change mitigation in Padua Province, Italy. To reach this goal, the project will focus on two workstreams: • developing a fully-fledged educational campaign, including guided tours, school lectures, planting events, printed materials, videos and social media content on the importance of forests in climate change mitigation, with a specific focus on nemoral flora; • promoting artistic expression, engaging the local population in a transformative journey to reflect and re-imagine its relationship with forests. These two streams will converge in the “Cammina, impara, disegna” events (“Walk, learn, draw”), a transformative moment for participants to learn, reflect and reimagine their relationship with forests. In-situ activities will take place in three forested areas in the municipalities of Albignasego, Rubano and Saonara. The initiative addresses the urgent need for climate mitigation and forest restoration in the Province of Padua, where anthropic activities led to the near disappearance of lowland forests. Soil consumption caused a massive fragmentation of natural areas into a constellation of tiny islands, which are usually excluded from wider-scale restoration projects because of their limited biodiversity relevance.



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