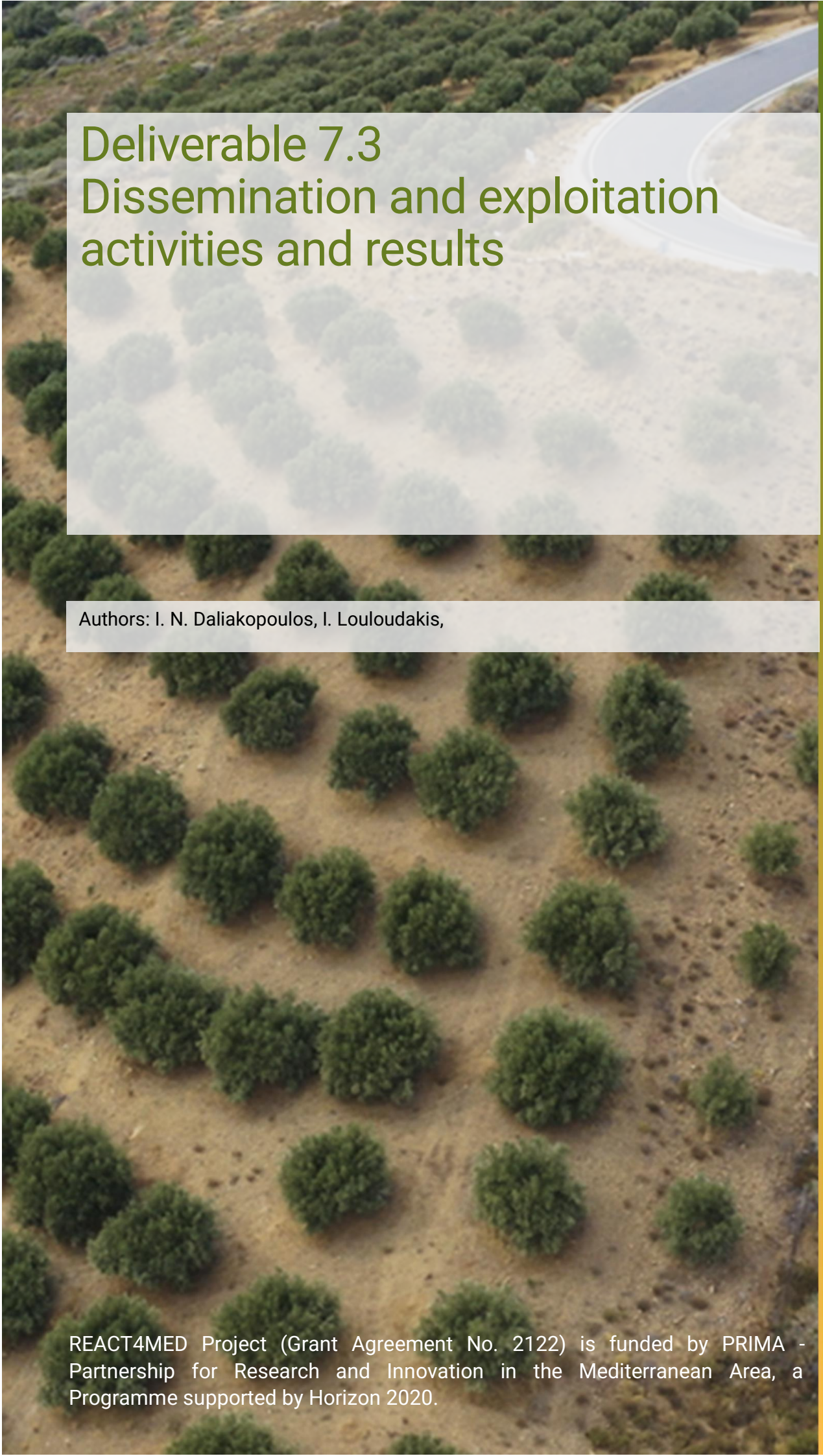

Deliverable 7.3
Dissemination and exploitation activities and results

Authors: I. N. Daliakopoulos, I. Louloudakis,

PRIMA
PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

REACT4MED

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Executive Summary

This deliverable reports on the implementation and results of the REACT4MED Dissemination and Communication Strategy (DCS, D7.2) over the full project period (2022-2025). It documents the activities carried out, the outputs produced, and the performance achieved across four complementary streams: (a) visibility and public engagement, (b) practical guidance and capacity building, (c) evidence-to-policy products, and (d) scientific exploitation.

On the public communication front, REACT4MED reached over 8,400 new website users (130% of target) and generated more than 17,000 page views (87% of target). The project maintained an active social media presence across Twitter/X (495 followers), Facebook (287 followers, 96% of target), and LinkedIn (162 followers, 108% of target), and produced three newsletters reaching approximately 470 subscribers each. Over 30 press and media items and 7 blog posts further extended the project's visibility across six Mediterranean countries. Web presence monitoring via the Mentiolytics platform confirmed broad and geographically diverse engagement.

To support the practical uptake of results, the consortium developed practitioner-oriented guidebooks in seven languages, contributed to and enriched the WOCAT global database on sustainable land management, and maintained a project glossary embedded in the website to ensure terminological consistency across all outputs and target groups.

Evidence-to-policy products translated field-level findings from the pilot areas into decision-ready formats. Pilot-area factsheets traced each site's restoration pathway, while a cross-project policy brief on transdisciplinary research for sustainable land and water management was produced in collaboration with peer PRIMA-funded projects. A series of capstone Ecosystem Restoration Living Lab (ERLL) workshops across Italy, Spain, Egypt, Cyprus, Morocco, and Greece brought together over 100 stakeholders to validate results and discuss upscaling conditions.

Scientific exploitation yielded 13 peer-reviewed journal articles (75% of the target of 18), including a flagship publication in Nature on Mediterranean precipitation variability, and 37 conference presentations (137% of the target of 27), with contributions to EGU, TERRAENVISION, and WASWAC, among others. All open-access outputs were deposited in the project's Zenodo community to ensure long-term findability and reusability in line with FAIR principles and the Data Management Plan.

Overall, REACT4MED successfully implemented its dissemination strategy, converting locally generated restoration knowledge into accessible outputs for practitioners, policymakers, and the scientific community. The project leaves a legacy of strengthened networks, validated methodologies, multilingual guidance, and digital tools that can support continued upscaling of Mediterranean agro-ecosystem restoration.

1 Introduction

This work package operationalises the project's Dissemination and Communication Strategy (DCS) through four complementary activity streams, ensuring that REACT4MED knowledge and results reach the right audiences in the right formats and at the right time. First, (a) it establishes a continuous, wide-reach communication flow via an initial leaflet, annual newsletters, and diverse multimedia outputs to raise awareness, maintain engagement, and make progress visible, with partners supporting translation and on-the-ground distribution. Second, (b) it produces detailed, practical guidance co-developed with the ERLLs, translating emerging outputs into usable technical materials and trainings for practitioners across regional, national, and EU levels. Third, (c) it targets decision makers with pilot-area factsheets and policy recommendations that trace the restoration pathway from baseline to implemented actions and assessed effectiveness, culminating in a final dissemination event and field visit to a flagship restoration action. Finally, (d) it strengthens scientific exchange within the consortium and beyond through the REACT4MEDHub and dissemination via peer-reviewed open-access publications and conferences, aligned with the Data Management Plan (DMP).

2 Visibility and public engagement

During the project period, REACT4MED achieved substantial visibility in external media and institutional news channels, with coverage spanning Greek, Cypriot, Spanish, Italian, German, and Moroccan outlets, as well as partner newsrooms and thematic platforms. Overall, the project generated over 30 distinct press and media items (2022–2024), with peaks around major dissemination moments such as COP27, World Soil Day partner meetings, and the first ERLL (living lab) meetings in Cyprus and Greece. This coverage helped amplify REACT4MED's core objectives raising awareness of land degradation and desertification risks in the Mediterranean, showcasing living-lab based approach on restoration actions, and communicating early results and stakeholder engagement by reaching audiences beyond academia (general public, practitioners, and policy-facing readers). Additionally, 7 blog posts (https://react4med.eu/category/blog/) contributed to disseminating REACT4MED's message.

#	Title / format (as available)	Date (DD/MM/YYYY)
1	Building Sustainable Future for Mountain Agriculture: CyI Leads a Successful Ecosystem Restoration Living Lab in Troodos Mountains	16/01/2024
2	Feature in wissenhochn.de on 16/01/2024. A short article on Sustainable agriculture	16/01/2024
3	Feature in bladi.net on 30/09/2023 on climate change and desertification in Cyprus	2024 (date not provided)
4	Feature in Alpha News on 17/06/2023 on climate change and desertification in Cyprus	30/09/2023
5	Feature in Paidia News on 06/02/2023 for the 1st ERLL meeting in Troodos Mountains, Cyprus	17/06/2023
6	Feature in CyI News on 06/02/2023 for the 1st ERLL meeting in Troodos Mountains, Cyprus	06/02/2023
7	Feature in ypaithros.gr on 01/02/2023 for the 1st ERLL meeting in Heraklion	06/02/2023
8	Feature in LIFETHEMIS News on 31/01/2023 for the participation of NewLife4Drylands representatives at the 1st ERLL meeting in Heraklion, Greece	01/02/2023
9	Feature in bladi.net on 30/09/2023 on climate change and desertification in Cyprus	31/01/2023
10	Feature in Greenagenda.gr on 6/12/2022 for the Haifa meeting ahead of World Soil Day	06/12/2022
11	Feature in CyI News on 5/12/2022 for the Haifa meeting ahead of World Soil Day	05/12/2022
12	Feature in Greenagenda.gr on 23/11/2022 due to the appearance in COP27	23/11/2022
13	Feature in HMU.gr news on 21/11/2022 due to the appearance in COP27	21/11/2022
14	Feature in Corriere del Mezzogiorno on 20/11/2022 due to the appearance in COP27	20/11/2022
15	Feature in RUVID, Network of Valencian Universities for the promotion of Research, Development and Innovations on 17/11/2022 due to the appearance in COP27	17/11/2022
16	Feature in RUVID, Network of Valencian Universities for the promotion of Research, Development and Innovations on 17/11/2022 due to the appearance in COP27	17/11/2022
17	Feature in RUVID, Network of Valencian Universities for the promotion of Research, Development and Innovations on 17/11/2022 due to the appearance in COP27	17/11/2022
18	Interview of C. Zoumides on CyBC 3rd channel, Proino Dromologio 23/07/2022	23/07/2022
19	Feature in AgriMaroc.ma on 12/7/2022	12/07/2022

20	Feature in Agrodiario.com on 7/7/2022	07/07/2022
21	Feature on Diari La Veu del País Valenciàon on 7/7/2022 in Spanish	07/07/2022
22	Feature in ABC Espana on 6/7/2022	06/07/2022
23	Feature in Spanish News Agency EFE on 6/7/2022	06/07/2022
24	Feature in Spanish news portal COPE.ES on 6/7/2022	06/07/2022
25	Feature on Spanish news portal EuropaPress on 6/7/2022 in Spanish	06/07/2022
26	Press release on the announcement page of CyI on 1/7/2022 in Greek	01/07/2022
27	Press release on the announcement page of CIHEAM Bari on 27/6/2022 in English and Italian	27/06/2022
28	Feature on Climatebook on 19/6/2022 in Greek	19/06/2022
29	Press release on the announcement page of TUC on 16/6/2022 in Greek	16/06/2022
30	Feature on the cover of Greek Environmental portal GreenAgenda on 16/6/2022 in Greek	16/06/2022

2.1 Printed material

Throughout the project, REACT4MED produced a range of physical dissemination materials to complement its digital communication channels and ensure visibility at in-person events. In line with the consortium's commitment to sustainability and resource efficiency, the project adopted a digital-first communication approach, prioritising online and electronic dissemination wherever possible. Nevertheless, targeted printed outputs were produced where physical presence was essential for stakeholder engagement. These included printed versions of the pilot-area factsheets and practitioner guidebooks (described in Sections 3.2 and 4.1, respectively), which were distributed at ERLL workshops and final outreach events to facilitate hands-on discussion with farmers, advisors, and local authorities. Project banners and roll-ups were produced to ensure consistent branding and visibility at conferences, symposia, and stakeholder meetings across the Mediterranean. Conference posters were prepared and displayed at international scientific events to communicate emerging results to the research community. Additionally, branded promotional items (t-shirts, caps, and similar materials) were produced and distributed at field events and workshops to strengthen project identity and foster a sense of community among participants and stakeholders. All printed materials adhered to the REACT4MED visual identity and included the required PRIMA and EU acknowledgements as specified in the Dissemination and Communication Strategy (D7.2).

Figure 1: REACT4MED printed material.

2.2 Social Media presence

2.2.1 Twitter/X (@REACT4MED)

REACT4MED has built a consistent presence on Twitter/X (https://x.com/REACT4MED) with nearly 500 followers and 491 posts since late 2021, actively sharing updates and engaging with the broader research and sustainability community. In all cases the PRIMA and EU are clearly mentioned.

2.2.2 Facebook

On Facebook, REACT4MED (https://www.facebook.com/react4med) has attracted 178 followers, providing another channel to reach wider audiences and share project news beyond the research community.

2.2.3 Linkedin

On LinkedIn, REACT4MED (https://www.linkedin.com/company/react4med) maintains an active page with 162 followers, regularly posting project updates and participating in key events, with growing engagement from the scientific and institutional community.

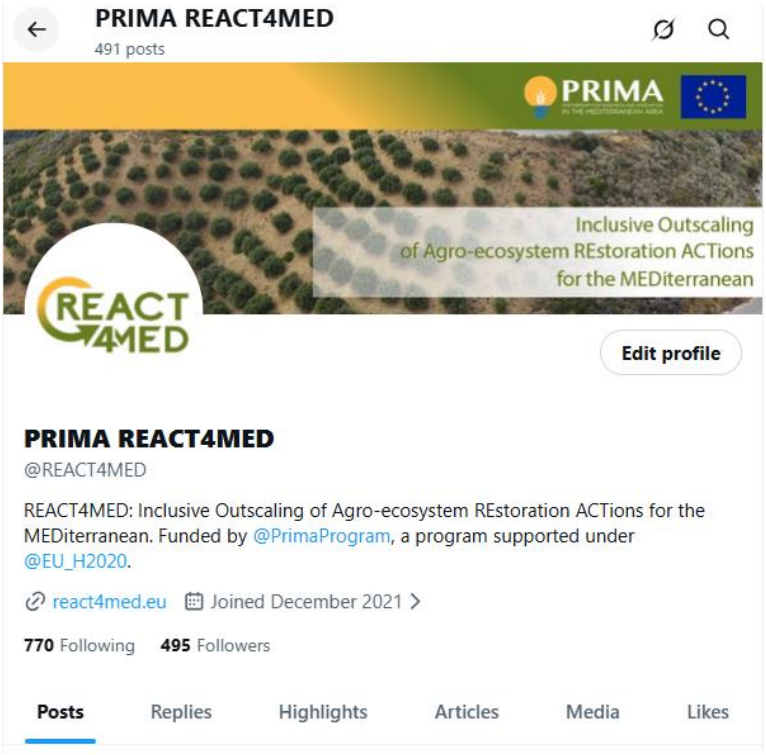


Figure 1: REACT4MED Twitter/X page.

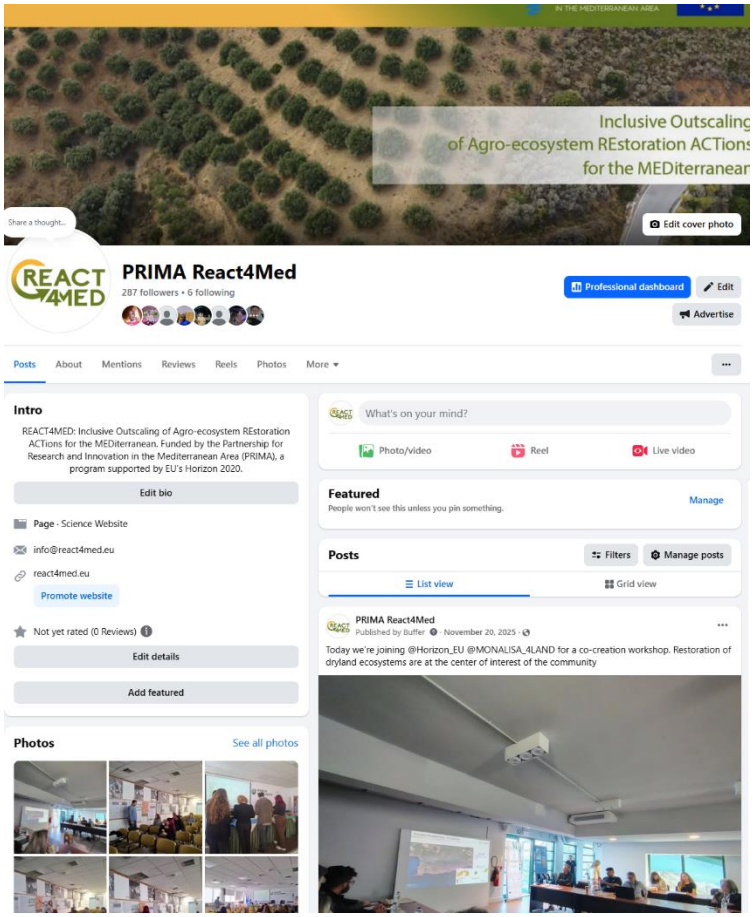


Figure 2: REACT4MED Facebook page.

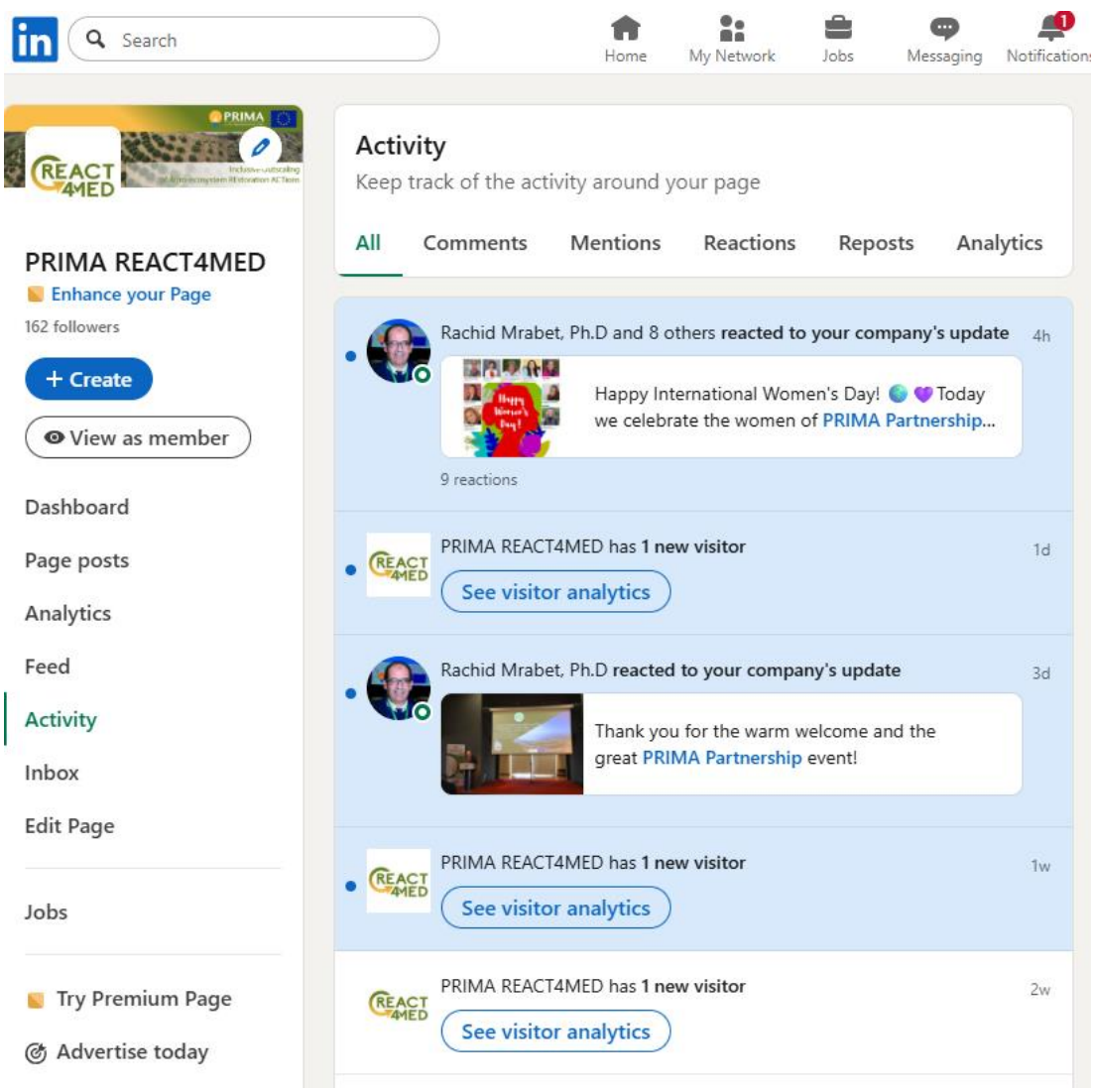


Figure 3: REACT4MED Linkedin page.

2.3 Website traffic

Website traffic was tracked using Google Analytics over the period January 2022 to December 2025. Figure 4 and Figure 5 show traffic after 1/1/2023 (due to the transition of Google Analytics to GA4, previous results are not shown in the same graph). Over this period, the REACT4MED website (react4med.eu) attracted a cumulative total of 8,436 new users against a project target of 6,500, corresponding to an achievement rate of 130%. Annual new-user counts grew from 457 in 2022 to 1,645 in 2023, 2,041 in 2024, and 4,293 in 2025, reflecting a steep upward trajectory driven by intensified project activities in the final year, including the ERLL workshop series, conference sessions, and the publication of the guidebook and policy brief.

In terms of page views, the website accumulated 17,056 views against a target of 19,500 (87% achievement). Views followed a similar growth pattern, rising from 1,508 in 2022 to 3,468 in 2023, 3,762 in 2024, and 8,318 in 2025. The slight shortfall relative to target is attributable to the fact that the 2024 figures were lower than projected, as major dissemination events (guidebook launch, final ERLL workshops, TERRAENVISION, WASWAC) were concentrated in 2025. The strong rebound in the final year confirms that the DCS approach of linking online visibility to physical events and major publications was effective.

Content-wise, the most visited pages included the pilot-area descriptions, the impact and publications repository, and the blog, reflecting the interest of both academic and practitioner audiences. The availability

of content in eight languages (English, Greek, Italian, Spanish, French, Turkish, Hebrew, and Arabic) contributed to broadening the geographic reach of the website beyond the consortium's immediate networks.

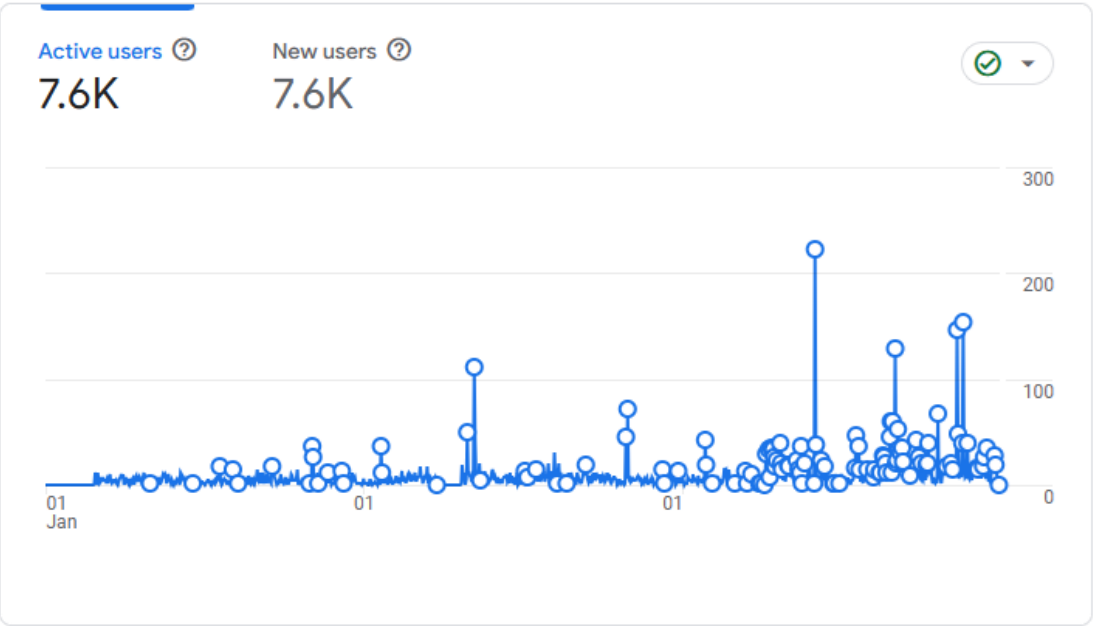


Figure 4: New users at the REACT4MED website from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2025

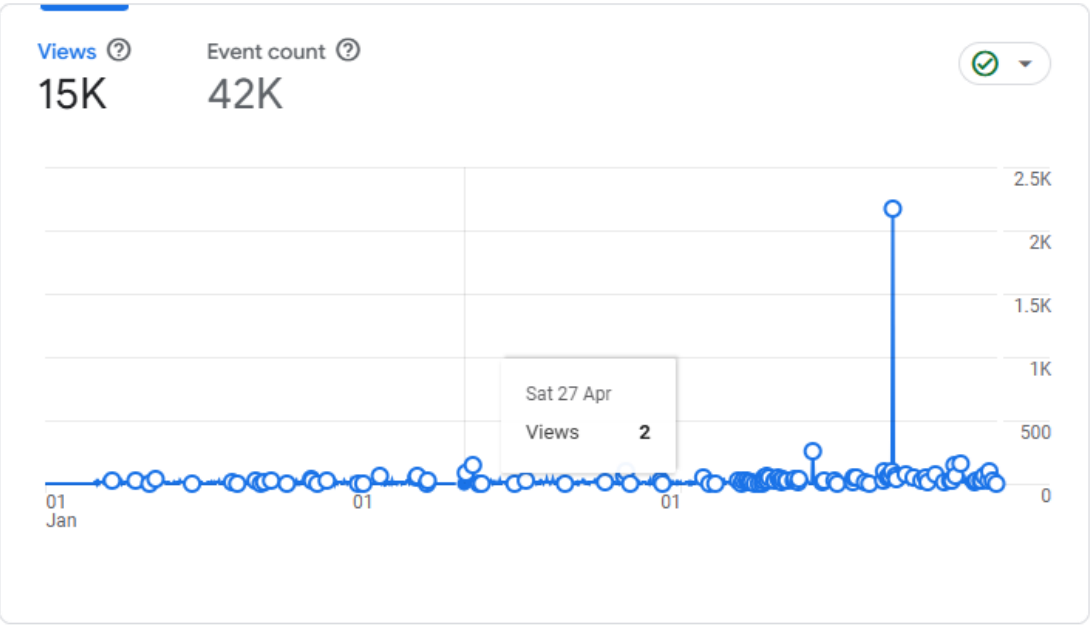
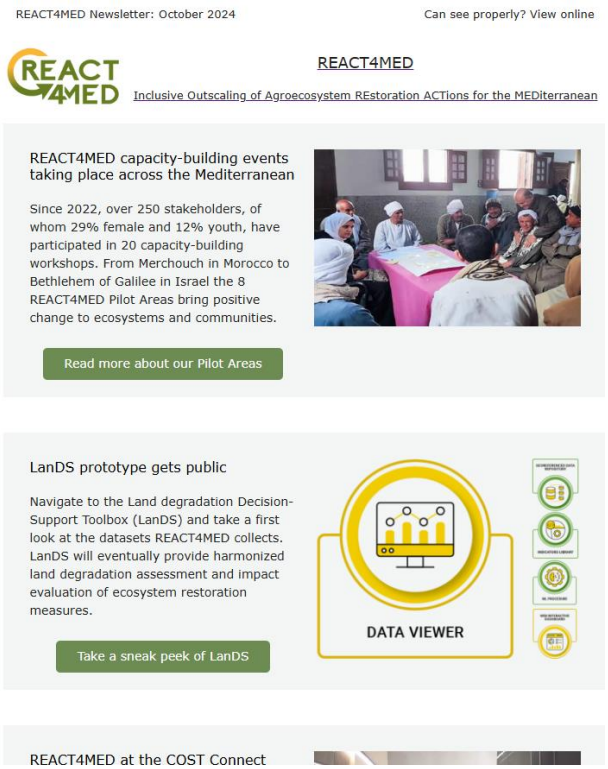


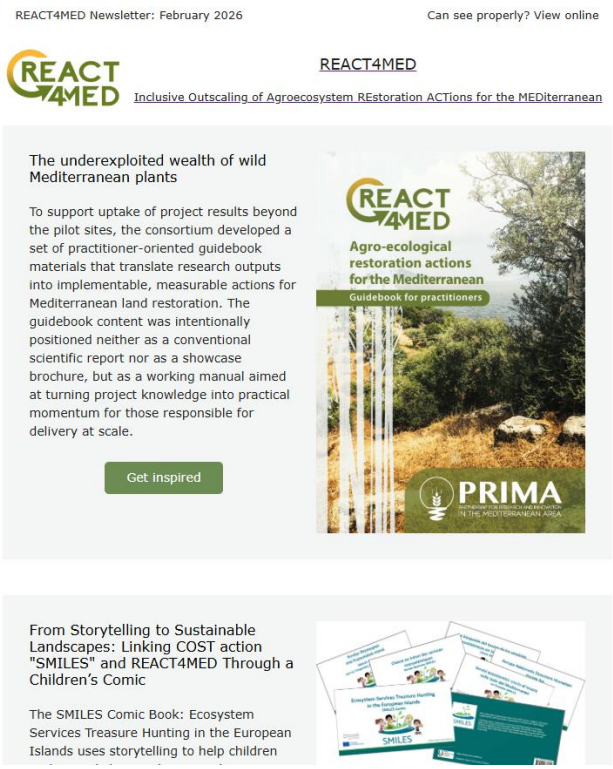
Figure 5: Website views from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2025.

2.4 Newsletters

According to the DCS, the newsletter aims to inform and update the different target audiences about interim project progresses and results as well as SLWM events and activities. The newsletter could also share experts' opinions. In terms of timing, the newsletter will be distributed electronically at least once a year and it will be disseminated through the project's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter) and website. REACT4MED has issued 3 newsletters, in 2024, 2025, and 2026 (Figure 6a, b and Figure 7a), with 494, 469, and 469 subscribed recipients, respectively. A 4th newsletter is planned for May 2026 (Figure 7d). Direct links to the REACT4MED newsletters can be found in the "Impact" section of the REACT4MED.eu.

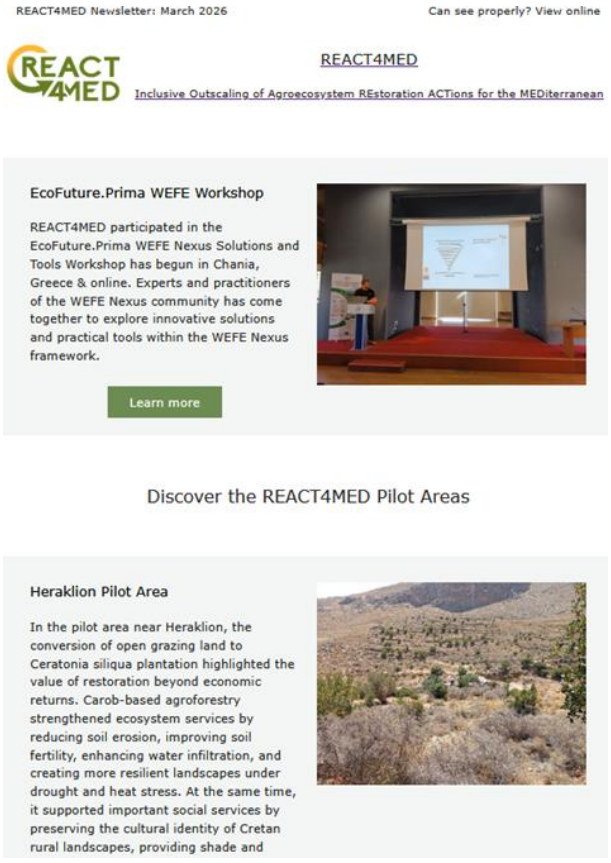


(a)



(b)

Figure 6: REACT4MED Newsletter for October 2024 (a), and for February 2026 (b)



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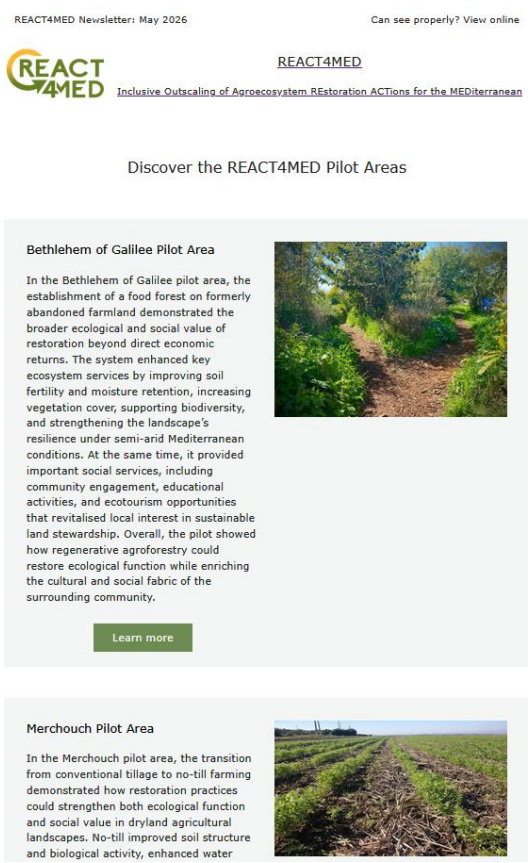


(b)

Figure 7: REACT4MED Newsletters for March 2026 (a) and May 2026 (b)

2.5 Overall public engagement

To assess the broader reach and visibility of REACT4MED beyond the project's own channels, web presence monitoring was carried out using the Mentiolytics platform. Mentiolytics aggregates mentions, references, and engagement signals across online news outlets, blogs, social media platforms, forums, and other web sources, providing a consolidated view of the project's digital footprint.

As shown in Figure 8, REACT4MED achieved substantial visibility across the web, with mentions spanning multiple countries and languages in the Mediterranean region and beyond. The platform spread analysis (Figure 9) indicates that engagement was distributed across social media (primarily Twitter/X and Facebook), news websites, and institutional portals, confirming that the DCS multi-channel approach reached diverse audience types including researchers, practitioners, policy stakeholders, and the general public.

Peaks in online engagement coincided with key project milestones: the COP27 appearance in late 2022, the first round of ERLL workshops in early 2023, the Nature publication and guidebook release in 2025, and the TERRAENVISION and WASWAC conference sessions. This pattern validates the strategy of combining event-driven communication with sustained social media activity to amplify reach and maintain relevance between major outputs.

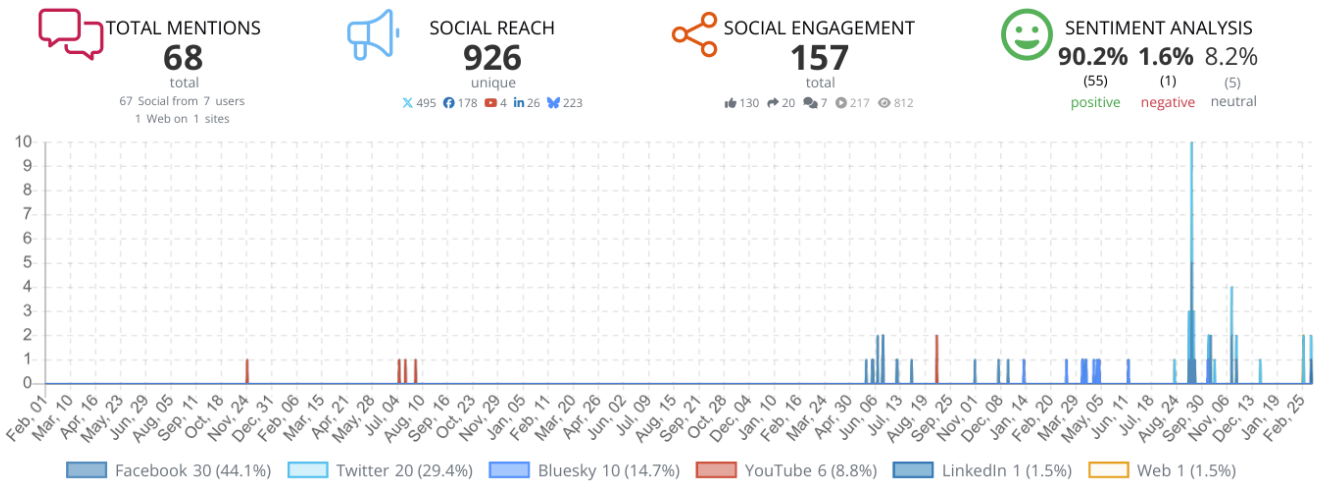


Figure 8: Overview of REACT4MED's presence on the web.

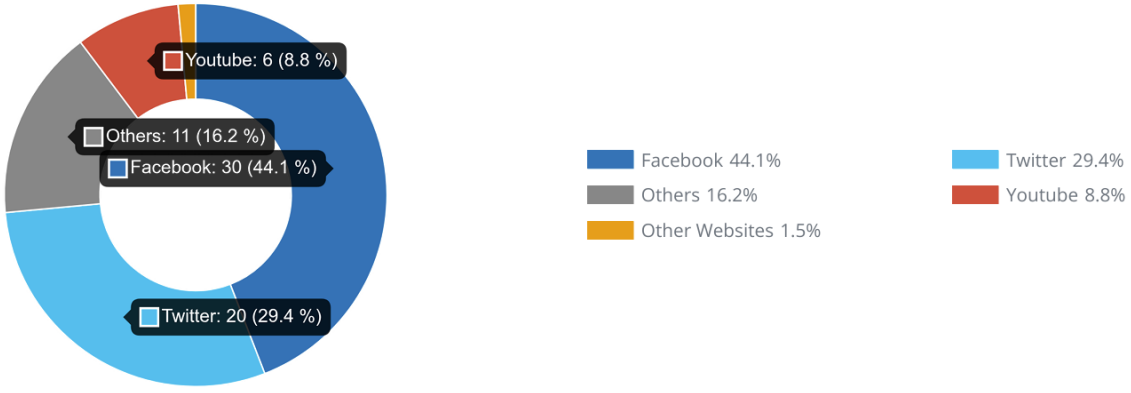


Figure 9: Platform spread of REACT4MED presence on the web.

Table 1 summarises the communication and outreach performance of the REACT4MED project across the period 2022-2025, comparing planned targets with actual achievements. It covers key indicators across the project's primary dissemination channels, website analytics, press and newsletter activity, and social media engagement. The data provide an overview of how effectively the project expanded its visibility, reached its intended audiences, and progressed toward its communication goals.

Table 1: Communication and Outreach performance.

	Indicator	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% Goal
Website	Target number new users	500	1000	2000	3000	6500	**130%**
	Number of new users achieved	457	1645	2041	4293	**8436**	
	Target number of views	1500	3000	6000	9000	19,500	**87%**
	Number of views achieved	1508	3468	3762	8318	**17056**	
News	Number of newsletters planned	0	1	1	1	3	**100%**
	Number of newsletters distributed	0	0	1	1	3	
	Target number of press items	10	20	20	20	70	**59%**
	Number of press items achieved	24	8	4	5	41	
Social media	Target number of Twitter followers	100	400	800	1000	1000	**50%**
	Number of Twitter followers achieved	195	316	485	**495**	**495**	
	Target number of Facebook followers	50	100	200	300	300	**96%**
	Number of Facebook followers achieved	41	75	97	**287**	**287**	
	Target number of LinkedIn followers	25	50	100	150	150	**108%**
	Number of LinkedIn followers achieved	24	48	106	**162**	**162**	

3 Practical guidance and capacity building

To support uptake of project results beyond the pilot sites, the consortium developed a set of practitioner-oriented guidebook materials that translate research outputs into implementable, measurable actions for Mediterranean land restoration. The guidebook content was intentionally positioned neither as a conventional scientific report nor as a showcase brochure, but as a working manual aimed at turning project knowledge into practical momentum for those responsible for delivery at scale (farmers, advisory services, community leaders, policymakers, and investors).

Guidebook development was tightly linked to the project's social learning and capacity-building approach within the ERLLs, where trust and long-standing cooperation enabled iterative refinement of messages and recommendations. Knowledge was consolidated through structured interactions amongst its stakeholders. Capacity building was embedded within the project workshop series and reinforced through a dedicated capacity-building event in the final project year, ensuring continuity from piloting to dissemination.

Figure 10: REACT4MED Guidebook for practitioners and Pilot Area Brochures.

3.1 WOCAT Documentation

WOCAT (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) is a global network and knowledge platform for Sustainable Land Management (SLM), officially recognised by UNCCD as a recommended global database for SLM best practices. In the context of this work package, WOCAT documentation supported REACT4MED's objective to enhance Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) across the

Mediterranean by translating field experience into re-usable knowledge products that can be accessed by land users, researchers, advisors, and policymakers beyond the consortium.

REACT4MED on the other hand updated the database where needed in accordance to Work Package's 2 task 2.2 goal to "contribute local knowledge to enrich WOCAT". This essentially created a feedback loop strengthening the project's validity and enhancing WOCAT's relevance.

Figure 11: REACT4MED contribution to WOCAT

3.2 Guidebooks

To support uptake of project results beyond the pilot sites, the consortium developed a set of practitioner-oriented guidebook materials that translate research outputs into implementable, measurable actions for Mediterranean land restoration. The guidebook content was intentionally positioned neither as a conventional scientific report nor as a showcase brochure, but as a working manual aimed at turning project knowledge into practical momentum for those responsible for delivery at scale (farmers, advisory services, community leaders, policymakers, and investors).

Across practices and case examples, the guidebook foregrounds the "human dimension" of restoration, decision-making under risk, livelihood considerations, and the enabling conditions required for the technology adoption, thereby strengthening relevance for real-world implementation. In line with the project's impact pathway, each practice is presented with quantitative indicators that allow readers to assess trade-offs and co-benefits transparently (e.g., soil health and productivity outcomes, resource-use implications, and longer-term resilience considerations), supporting evidence-based decision making by public authorities and private actors.

To maximize accessibility and regional reuse, the guidebook outputs were prepared for publication and dissemination in seven languages (English, Arabic, Turkish, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish) and disseminated through the project's communication and outreach channels (WP7), supporting direct uptake by end users across diverse Mediterranean contexts.

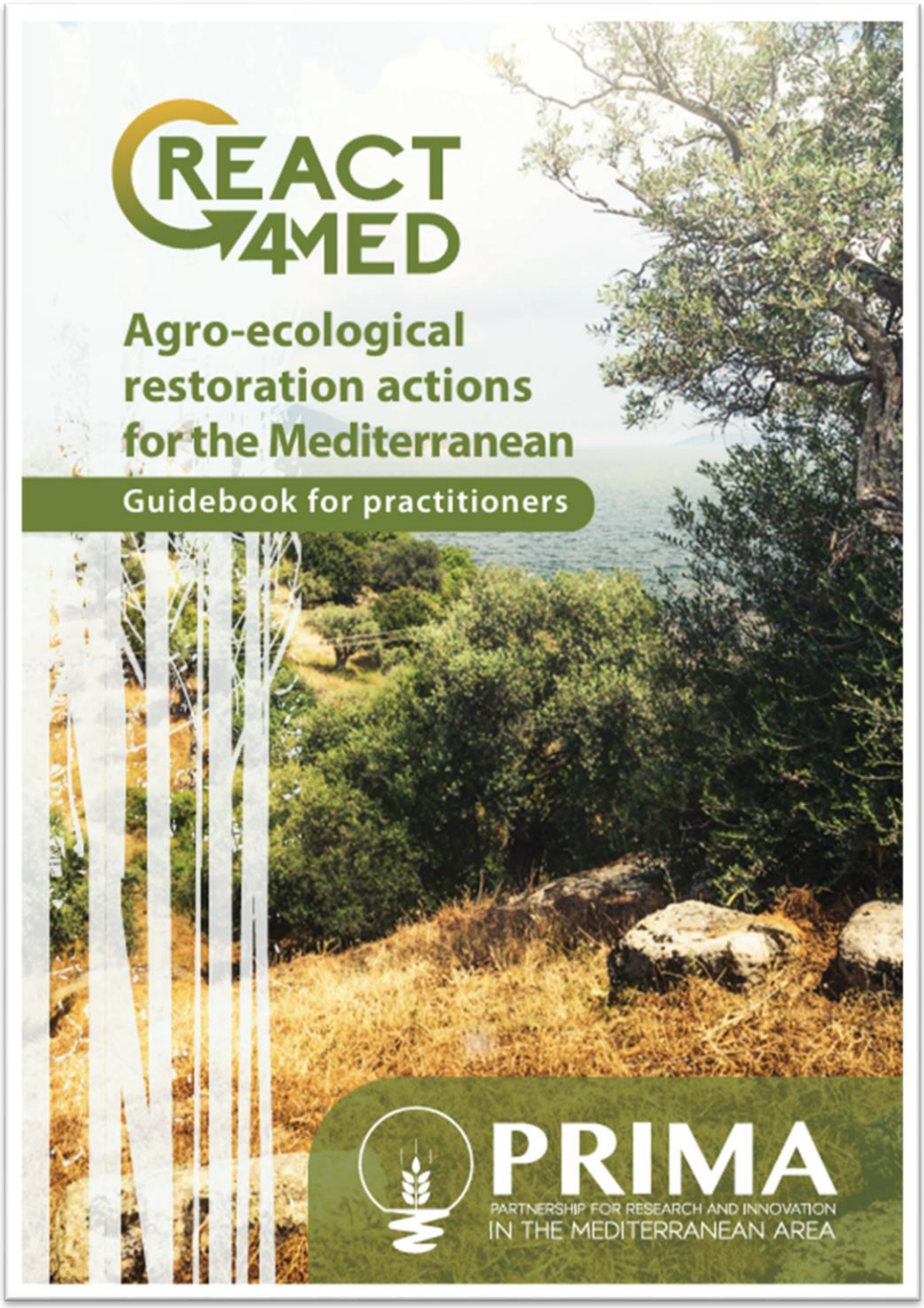


Figure 12: REACT4MED Guidebook for practitioners

3.3 Glossary

To support practical guidance and capacity building across countries, disciplines, and stakeholder groups, REACT4MED maintains a project glossary on the website. Its purpose is to provide a shared vocabulary for key project concepts (e.g., land degradation and restoration terms, living-lab terminology, decision-support components, and work-package outputs), so that practitioners, stakeholders, and early-career scientists can interpret guidance materials in the same way.

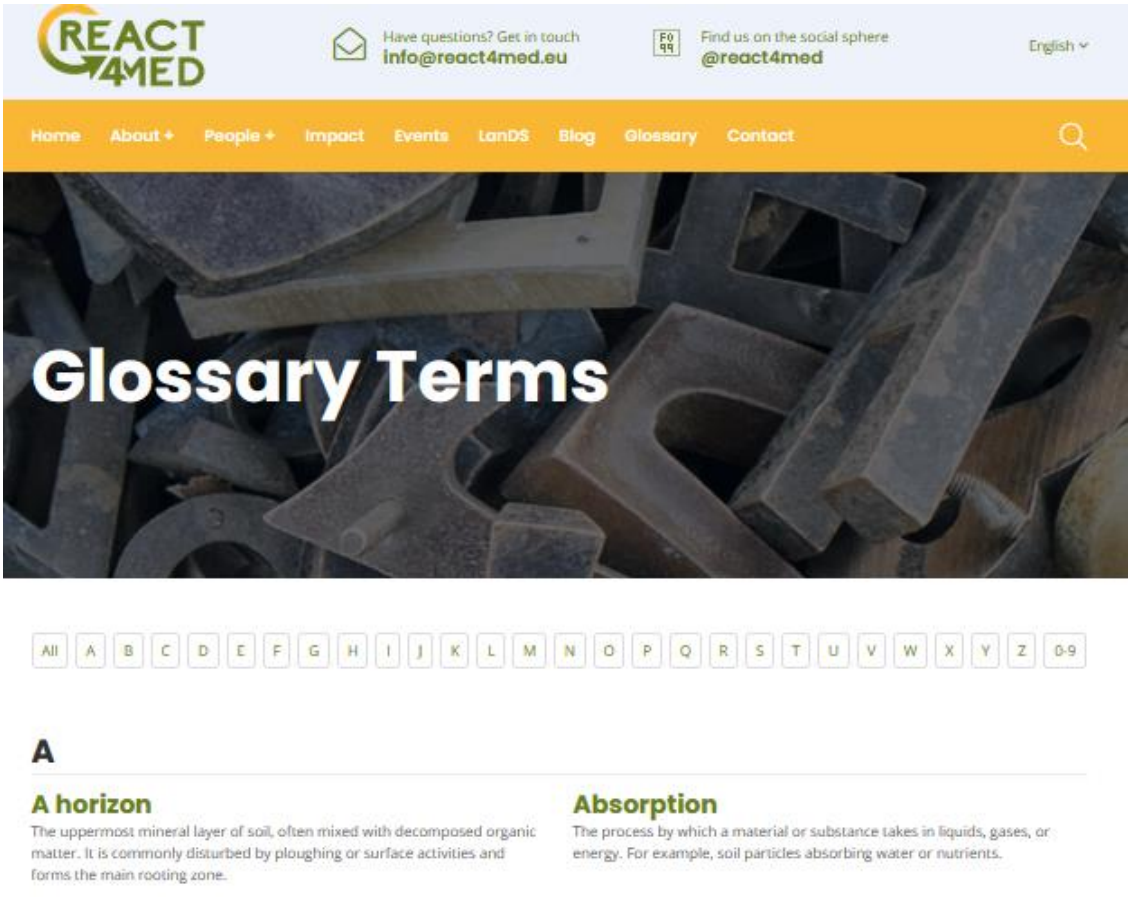


Figure 13: REACT4MED website glossary

Key words anywhere in the website, that have a glossary entry, are also active links to the glossary entry. This is particularly important in a project that deliberately bridges bottom-up and top-down approaches and works through multi-actor "living labs" across the Mediterranean, where partners and stakeholder communities operate in different institutional and linguistic contexts. In practical terms, the glossary functions as a lightweight but high-impact capacity-building tool that reduces ambiguity in training and guidance outputs (workshops, guidebooks, webinars, factsheets, and tool documentation). It helps users navigate project resources, especially digital, and methodological components, by clarifying how terms are used consistently across materials and work packages. This complements the project's broader effort to make complex outputs usable by non-specialists.

Figure 14: "Ecosystem Services" phase in a REACT4MED blogpost leading to the glossary entry

4 Evidence-to-policy products: pilot factsheets, recommendations, and final outreach event

REACT4MED's evidence-to-policy work translates "hard-won knowledge into practical momentum" by packaging lessons from the pilot areas into decision-ready products that can be used by regional and national authorities, land and water agencies, and policy-facing stakeholders. Rather than treating land degradation as only a biophysical issue, these products foreground the socio-ecological reality of Mediterranean landscapes: soils function within living communities, and restoration succeeds when it aligns measurable environmental gains with viable livelihoods. This approach is especially relevant in a region already facing hotter conditions, shifting rainfall patterns, erosion and salinity pressures, and growing competition for natural resources trends that demand policies capable of handling uncertainty while accelerating resilience-building actions on the ground.

4.1 Pilot factsheets (evidence before prescription)

To support decision-making and uptake beyond the pilot sites, REACT4MED developed pilot-area factsheets as a structured "evidence-to-policy" product that consolidates project work into a format that is easy to scan, comparable across sites, and directly usable by non-academic audiences (regional/national authorities, land and water agencies, and other decision makers). The factsheets were conceived as an output that reflects REACT4MED's broader approach: results generated through living labs and stakeholder engagement are translated into practical knowledge products that can travel from the local to the regional and European level.

From an implementation perspective, the factsheets were produced by synthesising and packaging evidence generated across work packages into a common template that traces each pilot's restoration pathway end-to-end: (i) baseline conditions and diagnosed challenges, (ii) selection of restoration measures and approaches, and (iii) biophysical and social effectiveness as monitoring results emerge. To ensure traceability and consistency of the evidence base, the factsheets draw on project datasets, indicators and monitoring outputs that are stored and shared through the project's digital infrastructure most notably the LanDS decision-support toolbox, which is designed to host georeferenced datasets from pilot areas, implement indicators, and provide a dashboard specifically oriented towards decision makers and policy-relevant communication of outcomes. In dissemination terms, the factsheets act as a bridge product: they convert site-level measurements and lessons into policy-relevant messages (what was done, what changed, and why it matters), while remaining grounded in documented evidence that can be revisited and updated as the project progresses

4.2 Policy recommendations (process and production)

To generate policy-facing recommendations grounded in real implementation experience, REACT4MED contributed to and helped catalyse a cross-project convening in July 2025 that brought together leaders of participatory approaches from multiple EU-/PRIMA-funded initiatives working on Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) and combatting land degradation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The purpose of this convening was explicitly practical: participants exchanged experience on implementation challenges, lessons learned, and the "boundary conditions" that shape how stakeholder engagement works in practice across disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research modes.

The outputs of this process were subsequently consolidated into a dedicated policy brief (November 2025) titled "Bridging the Gap: Funding Transdisciplinary Research for Sustainable Land and Water Management in the EURO-Mediterranean Region" (Figure 16). The brief was produced as a synthesis document: it summarises experiences from the convening and across participating projects (including REACT4MED and peer projects listed in the brief), structures these experiences into a "lessons from practice" narrative (from disciplinary to interdisciplinary to transdisciplinary), and translates them into policy recommendations

targeted primarily at EU funding agencies and programme frameworks (i.e., funders and programme designers), with emphasis on the process quality of science–practice interfaces and capacity-building needs.

Figure 15: REACT4MED Pilot Area Brochures

NOVEMBER 2025

Bridging the Gap: Funding Transdisciplinary Research for Sustainable Land and Water Management in the EURO-Mediterranean Region

OURMED OUR NATURE OUR FUTURE
FrontAg Nexus
REACT 4MED
MONALISA
TERRASAFE
PAS-AGRO-PAS

Executive Summary

EU funding increasingly prioritises research addressing complex agri-environmental challenges, such as soil degradation, biodiversity loss, and water scarcity, especially in the EURO-Mediterranean region, known as a climate change hotspot. However, current funding mechanisms often fail to adequately support the unique requirements of truly transdisciplinary research – a crucial approach for driving systemic transformations. This brief synthesises lessons from recent EU-funded projects, with a particular focus on the EURO-Mediterranean region. It analyses existing barriers and outlines actionable recommendations for funding frameworks, while recognising the specific resources and long-term commitment required for successful collaboration. These recommendations focus on funding framework conditions, emphasising the process quality of science-practice interfaces in transdisciplinary research projects and capacity building.

Based on findings from the following projects

REACT4MED: Raissa Ulbrich & Evelyn Lukat (Osnabrueck University), Ioannis Daliakopoulos & Ioannis Louloudakis (Hellenic Mediterranean University), funded by PRIMA (Grant Agreement No. 2122).

Front AG Nexus: Gertrud Buchenrieder (University of the Bundeswehr Munich), funded by PRIMA (Grant Agreement No. 2242).

MONALISA: Giovanna Seddaiu (Università degli Studi di Sassari), funded by Horizon Europe (Grant Agreement No 101157867).

OurMED: Seifeddine Jomaa (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ), funded by PRIMA (Grant Agreement No. 2222)

PAS-Agro-PAS: Vasco Cadavez (Instituto Politécnico de Bragança), funded by PRIMA.

TERRASAFE: Jane Mills (University of Gloucestershire), Melanie Muro (Institute for European Environmental Policy) funded by Horizon Europe (Grant Agreement No. 10115737), and by the UKRI.

Figure 16: Policy brief cover: "Bridging the Gap: Funding Transdisciplinary Research for Sustainable Land and Water Management in the Euro-Mediterranean Region".

4.3 Final outreach event (knowledge exchange and legacy building)

The final outreach phase of REACT4MED was delivered through a series of Ecosystem Restoration Living Lab (ERLL) workshops conducted between June and October 2025 across multiple pilot contexts (Italy, Spain rainfed and irrigated catchments Egypt, Cyprus, Morocco, and Greece). This sequence of events functioned as the project's capstone knowledge-exchange platform, bringing together regional research institutes, farmer organisations, public authorities, universities, and NGOs. Beyond presenting the project methodology and latest scientific results, the workshops were explicitly designed to: (i) showcase the LanDS (Land-Decision-Support) digital platform, (ii) validate the relevance and usability of project outputs with end users (farmers, advisors, policymakers, and industry representatives), (iii) collect qualitative and quantitative feedback on perceived impacts and remaining barriers to upscaling, and (iv) strengthen a regional stakeholder network capable of sustaining collaboration beyond the project's lifetime. In dissemination terms, this final outreach phase ensured that REACT4MED did not end with "publication" alone, but closed the loop between evidence generation, user validation, and practical next steps for wider adoption.

Figure 17: REACT4MED Participatory Ecosystem Recovery Living Lab implementation.

Across the case studies, the workshops confirmed that participatory, transdisciplinary engagement is central to making restoration knowledge actionable: when stakeholders are actively involved, feel heard, and recognise their knowledge in project outputs, the results are more credible and more likely to be applied. At the same time, the discussions highlighted that scaling sustainable practices requires enabling conditions beyond the technical sphere particularly economic viability, institutional frameworks, and social organisation and therefore demands policy alignment, cooperative models, targeted subsidies or financing mechanisms, and stronger advisory services. A key message from the final outreach phase is that one-off events are insufficient: lasting impact depends on maintaining long-term networks among farmers, researchers, public bodies, and citizens, supporting local champions, and continuing training and demonstration activities. The strong stakeholder interest in decision-support tools (notably in Cyprus), methodological frameworks (Italy), and applied field practices (Spain) underlined the project's scaling potential provided that REACT4MED outcomes are embedded in practical policy instruments such as agri-environmental schemes, rural development strategies, and land management programmes. In this way, the final outreach events served both as a dissemination milestone and as a bridge to post-project legacy, reinforcing that sustainability transitions are as much about trust, social cohesion, and shared futures as they are about soils, water, and productivity.

4.4 Synergies and Networking with PRIMA and Horizon Projects

A distinctive feature of REACT4MED's dissemination approach was the active pursuit of synergies with peer PRIMA- and Horizon-funded projects working on complementary aspects of sustainable land and water management in the Mediterranean. Rather than operating in isolation, the consortium sought opportunities to co-create outputs, share platforms, and amplify collective messages through cross-project collaboration.

This networking effort produced tangible results. On the policy front, REACT4MED contributed to and helped catalyse a cross-project convening that brought together leaders from multiple EU- and PRIMA-funded initiatives, resulting in the joint policy brief (described in Section 4.2). This document carried greater weight precisely because it reflected the converging experience of several independent projects rather than the perspective of a single consortium. On the scientific dissemination front, REACT4MED co-organised or participated in joint sessions and common events with sister projects including SOILS4MED, PROMEDRICE, MountainHER, Nexus-NESS, EcoFuture, MONALISA, SMILE COST Action, among others. At the same time REACT4MED was showcased at various opportunities and events (e.g. ERASMUS, World Soil Day). Indicative pictures in Figure 17. These joint appearances at international conferences and PRIMA-coordinated events enabled the projects to present a coherent picture of the broader PRIMA investment in Mediterranean restoration and resilience, while reaching audiences that individual projects might not have accessed alone.

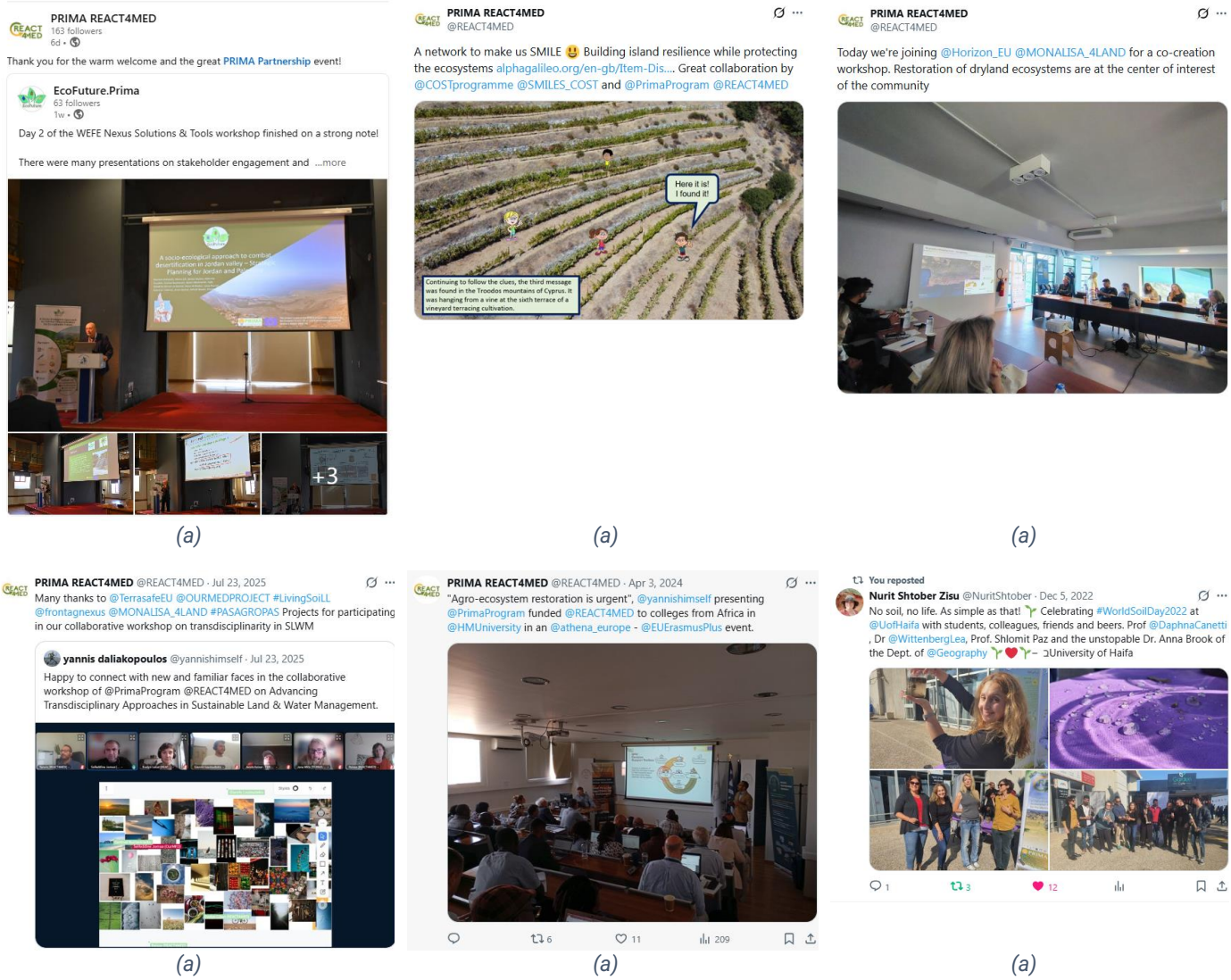
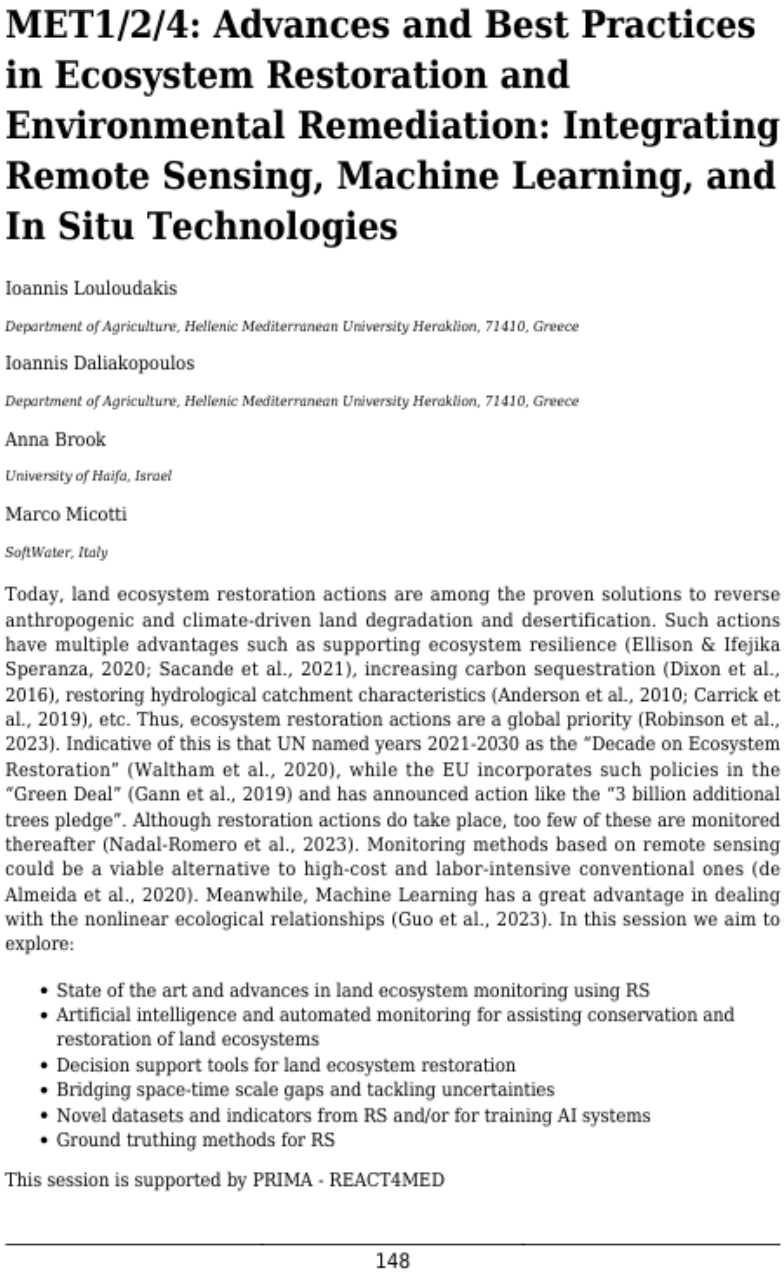


Figure 17: REACT4MED (a) at EcoFuture.Prima Workshop, (b) joint work with SMILES Cost Action, (c) MONALISA Project, (d) the workshop that lead to the policy brief, (e) ERASMUS HMU-Africa Week 2024, (f) World Soil Days 2022.

5 Conferences, Symposia and Events

5.1 TERRAENVISION 2025

REACT4MED organised a session in the TERRAENVISION 2025 Conference that took place in Granada, 8-11 July 2025. The session comprised 11 contributions covering ecosystem restoration, environmental remediation, and advanced monitoring technologies.



MET1/2/4: Advances and Best Practices in Ecosystem Restoration and Environmental Remediation: Integrating Remote Sensing, Machine Learning, and In Situ Technologies

Ioannis Louloudakis

Department of Agriculture, Hellenic Mediterranean University Heraklion, 71410, Greece

Ioannis Daliakopoulos

Department of Agriculture, Hellenic Mediterranean University Heraklion, 71410, Greece

Anna Brook

University of Haifa, Israel

Marco Micotti

SoftWater, Italy

Today, land ecosystem restoration actions are among the proven solutions to reverse anthropogenic and climate-driven land degradation and desertification. Such actions have multiple advantages such as supporting ecosystem resilience (Ellison & Ifejika Speranza, 2020; Sacande et al., 2021), increasing carbon sequestration (Dixon et al., 2016), restoring hydrological catchment characteristics (Anderson et al., 2010; Carrick et al., 2019), etc. Thus, ecosystem restoration actions are a global priority (Robinson et al., 2023). Indicative of this is that UN named years 2021-2030 as the "Decade on Ecosystem Restoration" (Waltham et al., 2020), while the EU incorporates such policies in the "Green Deal" (Gann et al., 2019) and has announced action like the "3 billion additional trees pledge". Although restoration actions do take place, too few of these are monitored thereafter (Nadal-Romero et al., 2023). Monitoring methods based on remote sensing could be a viable alternative to high-cost and labor-intensive conventional ones (de Almeida et al., 2020). Meanwhile, Machine Learning has a great advantage in dealing with the nonlinear ecological relationships (Guo et al., 2023). In this session we aim to explore:

- State of the art and advances in land ecosystem monitoring using RS
- Artificial intelligence and automated monitoring for assisting conservation and restoration of land ecosystems
- Decision support tools for land ecosystem restoration
- Bridging space-time scale gaps and tackling uncertainties
- Novel datasets and indicators from RS and/or for training AI systems
- Ground truthing methods for RS

This session is supported by PRIMA - REACT4MED

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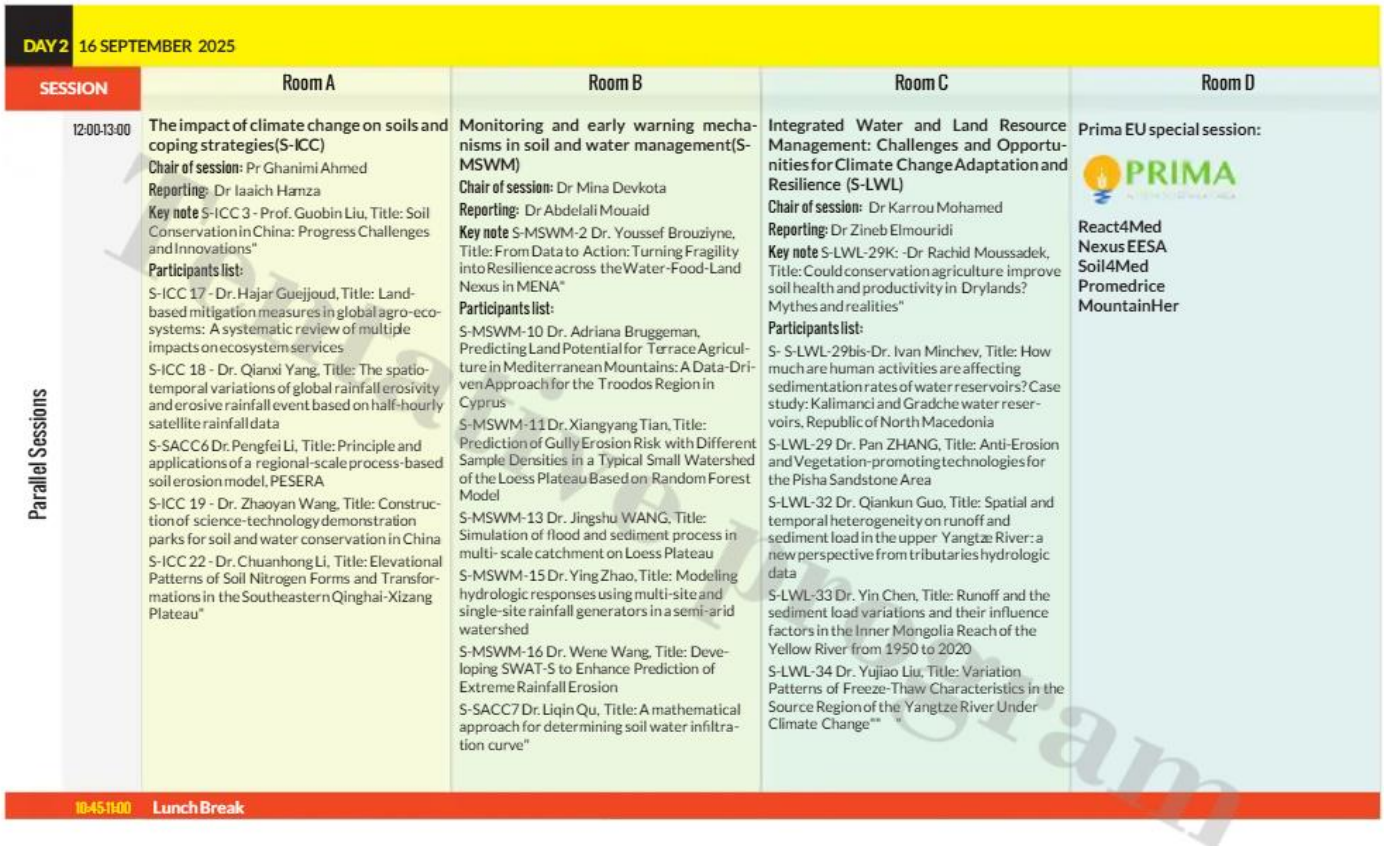
Figure 18: REACT4MED Session in TERRAenVISION 2025 Conference. Full book of abstracts here: https://terraenvision.eu/2025/book.php

Topics included the full-scale deployment of Enhanced Reductive Dechlorination for chlorocarbon-contaminated groundwater near a salt pond in Italy (Leombruni), the assessment of hazardous metals and pharmaceuticals in soils of the L'Albufera de Valencia wetland (Andreu), Google Earth Engine-based land use mapping in Granada using Sentinel-2 and machine learning classifiers (Demir), UAV photogrammetry to map fertile island patterns in Argan forests of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Morocco (Engelmann et al.),

deriving forest cover rates from multiple map sources to improve official statistics in Italy (D'Agata & Salvati), satellite-based remote sensing combined with Hidden Markov Models to assess land restoration effectiveness in Israel (Zbedat & Brook), the evaluation of AI-generated landscape imagery for sustainable scenario planning (Koundouri & Papadimitriou), the MEO-Carbon decision-support tool for carbon-oriented land-use planning (Sfaksi & Abbessi), the potential impact of soil water repellency on bioretention cell function under climate change (Cuneo et al.), a comparative assessment of enriched compost and biochar from olive pruning residues in a Cretan olive orchard (Galliou et al.), and the use of long-term NDVI time-series with Landscape Function Analysis to reveal ecosystem recovery under different management practices in Messara, Crete (Louloudakis et al.). Collectively, the session demonstrated the value of integrating remote sensing, machine learning, in-situ remediation, circular soil amendments, and decision-support tools for monitoring and guiding ecosystem restoration across diverse Mediterranean and international contexts.

5.2 WASWAC 2025

REACT4MED co-organised a special PRIMA EU session during the WASWAC 2025 conference (Day 2, 16 September 2025), alongside four sister PRIMA-funded projects: Nexus-NESS, SOILS4MED, PROMEDRICE, and MountainHER (Figure 19).



DAY 2 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

SESSION	Room A	Room B	Room C	Room D
Parallel Sessions 12:00-13:00	**The impact of climate change on soils and coping strategies(S-ICC)** **Chair of session:** Pr Ghanimi Ahmed **Reporting:** Dr Iaaich Hamza **Key note** S-ICC 3 - Prof. Guobin Liu, Title: Soil Conservation in China: Progress Challenges and Innovations" **Participants list:** S-ICC 17 - Dr. Hajar Guejjoud, Title: Land-based mitigation measures in global agro-eco-systems: A systematic review of multiple impacts on ecosystem services S-ICC 18 - Dr. Qianxi Yang, Title: The spatio-temporal variations of global rainfall erosivity and erosive rainfall event based on half-hourly satellite rainfall data S-SACC6 Dr. Pengfei Li, Title: Principle and applications of a regional-scale process-based soil erosion model, PESERA S-ICC 19 - Dr. Zhaoyan Wang, Title: Construc-tion of science-technology demonstration parks for soil and water conservation in China S-ICC 22 - Dr. Chuanhong Li, Title: Elevational Patterns of Soil Nitrogen Forms and Transfor-mations in the Southeastern Qinghai-Xizang Plateau"	**Monitoring and early warning mecha-nisms in soil and water management(S-MSWM)** **Chair of session:** Dr Mina Devkota **Reporting:** Dr Abdelali Mouaid **Key note** S-MSWM-2 Dr. Youssef Brouziyne, Title: From Data to Action: Turning Fragility into Resilience across the Water-Food-Land Nexus in MENA" **Participants list:** S-MSWM-10 Dr. Adriana Bruggeman, Predicting Land Potential for Terrace Agricul-ture in Mediterranean Mountains: A Data-Dri-ven Approach for the Troodos Region in Cyprus S-MSWM-11 Dr, Xiangyang Tian, Title: Prediction of Gully Erosion Risk with Different Sample Densities in a Typical Small Watershed of the Loess Plateau Based on Random Forest Model S-MSWM-13 Dr. Jingshu WANG, Title: Simulation of flood and sediment process in multi- scale catchment on Loess Plateau S-MSWM-15 Dr. Ying Zhao, Title: Modeling hydrologic responses using multi-site and single-site rainfall generators in a semi-arid watershed S-MSWM-16 Dr. Wene Wang, Title: Deve-loping SWAT-S to Enhance Prediction of Extreme Rainfall Erosion S-SACC7 Dr. Liqin Qu, Title: A mathematical approach for determining soil water infiltra-tion curve"	**Integrated Water and Land Resource Management: Challenges and Opportu-nities for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (S-LWL)** **Chair of session:** Dr Karrou Mohamed **Reporting:** Dr Zineb Elmouridi **Key note** S-LWL-29K: -Dr Rachid Moussadek, Title: Could conservation agriculture improve soil health and productivity in Drylands? Mythes and realities" **Participants list:** S- S-LWL-29bis-Dr. Ivan Minchev, Title: How much are human activities are affecting sedimentation rates of water reservoirs? Case study: Kalimanci and Gradche water reser-voirs, Republic of North Macedonia S-LWL-29 Dr. Pan ZHANG, Title: Anti-Erosion and Vegetation-promoting technologies for the Pisha Sandstone Area S-LWL-32 Dr. Qiankun Guo, Title: Spatial and temporal heterogeneity on runoff and sediment load in the upper Yangtze River: a new perspective from tributaries hydrologic data S-LWL-33 Dr. Yin Chen, Title: Runoff and the sediment load variations and their influence factors in the Inner Mongolia Reach of the Yellow River from 1950 to 2020 S-LWL-34 Dr. Yujiao Liu, Title: Variation Patterns of Freeze-Thaw Characteristics in the Source Region of the Yangtze River Under Climate Change"" "	**Prima EU special session:** PRIMA React4Med Nexus EESA Soil4Med Promedrice MountainHer
10:45-11:00	Lunch Break			

Figure 19: Joint Session at WASWAC 2025.

The session showcased the breadth of PRIMA's investment in sustainable land and water management across the Mediterranean. PROMEDRICE focuses on developing site-specific agricultural practices that reduce contamination and salinization of soil and water bodies while maintaining productivity in Mediterranean rice-based agroecosystems Promedrice. SOILS4MED contributes to improved soil health monitoring, land degradation assessment, and soil information systems to support sustainable soil management across the Mediterranean region. MountainHER empowers women's associations as drivers of agroecological transformation in mountain farming communities of Italy, Algeria, Croatia, Lebanon,

Morocco and Tunisia, focusing on heritage grain varieties, circular economy fertilizers, and short value chains for traditional foods. Nexus-NESS demonstrated fair and sustainable resource allocation through the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus approach across Mediterranean pilot sites in Italy, Spain, Egypt and Tunisia Prima-nexus-ness. Together with REACT4MED's focus on outscaling agro-ecosystem restoration actions, the joint session highlighted complementary PRIMA approaches to tackling land degradation, water scarcity, food security, and climate adaptation through interdisciplinary collaboration across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

6 Scientific exploitation: REACT4MED backed research

6.1 Journal publications

Across the reporting period, REACT4MED-supported scientific publications advanced the evidence base for Mediterranean land-water management by combining regional hydroclimate assessment, field ecohydrology, and innovative monitoring/decision-support approaches. A flagship outcome in Nature showed that Mediterranean precipitation over 1871-2020 is dominated by strong interannual to multi-decadal variability rather than a long-term trend, based on a uniquely large dataset (>23,000 stations across 27 countries), with important implications for water-resources planning under uncertainty. Complementing this regional perspective, an Ecohydrology study quantified water-use dynamics of Pinus brutia and Cupressus sempervirens in a semi-arid Mediterranean forest, using long-term sapflow and soil-moisture monitoring to reveal contrasting drought-coping strategies (e.g., higher sapflow for cypress and stronger sapflow-soil moisture coupling for pine). Finally, REACT4MED-linked contributions demonstrated scalable assessment methods for restoration: an ISPRS open-access paper applied Sentinel-1/2 remote sensing (vegetation and moisture indices plus SAR-based microtopography/soil moisture) to compare restored vs. non-restored areas and documented measurable improvements in restored sites, strengthening the case for objective, repeatable monitoring frameworks. In parallel, a machine-learning approach to assess land degradation and restoration potential across Mediterranean macro-areas was disseminated via EGU, supporting the project's broader toolbox and up-/out-scaling ambitions.

In addition to monitoring and climate-water science, REACT4MED outputs addressed socio-ecological governance and practical restoration pathways, particularly in terraced and agricultural landscapes. A review in Geography and Sustainability framed terraced agroecosystems as emblematic co-produced ecosystem service systems, emphasising the need to bridge scientific assessment (e.g., mapping/biophysical tools) with local knowledge, participatory practice, and capacity building to sustain multifunctional terraced landscapes under changing socio-economic conditions. At farm and policy interface, an Agronomy article (explicitly embedded in REACT4MED activities) used an interdisciplinary, participatory design to identify indicators and restoration strategies for water-scarce Mediterranean agriculture highlighting governance and infrastructure constraints (e.g., distribution losses, seawater intrusion, unmanaged pumping) and proposing actionable measures (water-efficient irrigation, crop choices, biodiversity-based channel management, and inclusive socio-economic actions). Finally, complementary publications contributed to the project's "restoration portfolio" through agrobiodiversity and nature-based value chains: Planta reported metabolomic and phytosociological evidence for the potential use of the Italian endemic Stachys italica (including bioactive compounds and high antioxidant potential in infusions), while the Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration evaluated the nutritional and functional properties of the Tunisian wild beet Beta macrocarpa across saline/low-fertility soils, supporting its role as a resilient crop wild relative for marginal Mediterranean environments

To document the project's peer-reviewed scientific dissemination in a transparent and verifiable way, REACT4MED related outputs were compiled into the table of journal publications. The table below summarises each article's core bibliographic information (authors, title, journal, year, and DOI) and includes the citation count at the time of writing as a pragmatic indicator of early scholarly uptake. Conference contributions are not included in this table and are reported separately in the subsequent section.

Table 2: Journal publications backed by REACT4MED and citation counts (at the time of writing).

No	Authors	Title	Journal	Year	Cited by (at the time of writing)
1	Zoumides, C. et al.	Revitalising terraced landscapes: Co-production of ecosystem services for sustainable futures	Geography and Sustainability	2025	1
2	Djuma, H., et al	Water Use Dynamics of Drought-Tolerant Coniferous Trees (Pinus brutia and Cupressus sempervirens) in a Semi-Arid Environment	Ecohydrology	2025	0
3	Vicente-Serrano, S. M., et al	High temporal variability not trend dominates Mediterranean precipitation	Geography and Sustainability	2025	35
4	Zbedat, G., et al.	Land Restoration Effectiveness Assessed by Satellite-Based Remote Sensing Technologies as A New Monitoring Approach	The International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences	2025	0
5	Perrino, E. V., et al.	Restoration, Indicators, and Participatory Solutions: Addressing Water Scarcity in Mediterranean Agriculture	Agronomy	2025	1
6	Perrino, E. V., et al.	Stachys italica Mill.: synecology, functional compounds and potential use of an Italian endemic taxon	Planta	2024	5
7	Ben Mahmoud, K., et al.	Nutritional value and functional properties of an underexploited Tunisian wild beet (Beta macrocarpa Guss.) in relation to soil characteristics	Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration	2024	16
8	Gnann S., et al.	Functional relationships reveal differences in the water cycle representation of global water models	Nature Water	2023	58
9	Popovic, Z., et al.	Soil water repellency and plant cover: A state-of-knowledge review	Catena	2023	21
10	Accogli, R., et al.	Edible Halophytes and Halo-Tolerant Species in Apulia Region (Southeastern Italy): Biogeography, Traditional Food Use and Potential Sustainable Crops	Plants	2023	53
11	Perrino, E. V., et al.	Synecology of Lagoecia cuminoides L. in Italy and evaluation of functional compounds presence in its water or hydroalcoholic extracts	Scientific Reports	2023	13

12	Kritikakis, G., et al.	Estimating Soil Clay Content Using an Agrogeophysical and Agrogeological Approach: A Case Study in Chania Plain, Greece	Water	2022	6
13	Christoforidi, I., et al.	Drought- and Salt-Tolerant Plants of the Mediterranean and Their Diverse Applications: The Case of Crete	Land	2022	5

6.2 Conference contributions

Conference presentations served as a fast and effective route to expose REACT4MED results while they were still emerging, aligning dissemination with the project's objective to accelerate uptake of practical methods for land degradation assessment, restoration planning, and monitoring. Through these contributions, REACT4MED-backed research communicated advances in data-driven decision support (e.g., machine-learning approaches and toolbox development), field-based and remote monitoring (e.g., UAV/earth observation), evidence generation from pilot areas all of which are central to turning restoration actions into transferable knowledge that can be up- and out-scaled across Mediterranean contexts, whilst boosting project's exposure to the broader scientific community. In Table 3 can be found all R4M conference contributions.

Table 3: REACT4MED Conferences contributions

No	Authors	Title	Journal	Year
1	Micotti, M., et al.	A Machine-Learning-Based Procedure to Assess Land Degradation and Restoration Potential in the Mediterranean	EGU General Assembly	2025
2	Meena, A. K., et al	An integrated approach to combat desertification in Mediterranean mountain environments: UAV surveys and slope stability modelling in agricultural terrace systems	EGU General Assembly	2025
3	Koutroulis, A., et al	Past and Future Drivers of Land Degradation in the Mediterranean	6th World Association for Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC) World Conference	2025
4	Cerdà, A., et al.	Soil Erosion Control in Citrus Plantations. the Case of Cover Crops in the Montesa Experimental Station	TERRAENVISION	2025
5	Cerdà, A., et al.	Soil Erosion in Agriculture Land in Spain: a Review	TERRAENVISION	2025
6	Zbedat, G., et al.	Land Restoration Effectiveness Assessed by Satellite-Based Remote Sensing Technologies as a New Monitoring Approach	TERRAENVISION	2025
7	Matta, E., et al.	Advancing Land Degradation Assessment and Restoration Planning in the Mediterranean through the LanDS Toolbox	EGU General Assembly	2025
8	Micotti, M., et al.	A Machine-Learning-Based Procedure to Assess Land Degradation and Restoration Potential in the Mediterranean	EGU General Assembly	2025
9	Louloudakis, I., et al.	Revealing Land Management Practices Effects on Ecosystem Recovery Using Ndvi	TERRAENVISION	2025

10	Daliakopoulos, I. N., et al.	Sustainable Pathways for Mediterranean Agro-Ecosystems: Insights from the REACT4MED Project	6th World Association for Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC) World Conference	2025
11	Louloudakis, I., et al.	Restoration monitoring in Mediterranean rangelands: management practices influencing landscape functions	EGU General Assembly	2025
12	Daliakopoulos, I. et al.	Assessing Biowaste-based Amendments for Enhancing Soil Hydraulic Properties in Arid Mediterranean Soils	EGU General Assembly	2025
13	Daliakopoulos, I. et al.	Reconstruction of reservoir water level and storage using Sentinel-1 C-SAR	EGU General Assembly	2025
14	Meena, A. K., et al	An integrated approach to combat desertification in Mediterranean mountain environments: UAV surveys and slope stability modelling in agricultural terrace systems	EGU General Assembly	2025
15	Louloudakis, I., et al.	Evaluating Ecological Recovery and Stakeholder Perceptions in Crete	Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC) World Conference	2025
16	Louloudakis, I., et al.	Fencing Mediterranean Shrubland, a Decade Later	TERRAENVISION	2024
17	Zbedat, G., et al.	Land restoration effectiveness assessed by satellite-based remote sensing technologies as a new monitoring approach	TERRAENVISION	2024
18	Escrivà-Saneugenio, F., et al.	The recovery of urban peripheries and the creation of spaces for citizenship: the project of the Gandia Green Ring	TERRAENVISION	2024
19	Cerdà, A., et al.	The impact of plant types on water repellency as a consequence of forest fires	TERRAENVISION	2024
20	Escrivà-Saneugenio, F., et al.	The renaturalization of urban river channels and the mitigation of flood risk, the “Corredor Verde Barranco de Beniopa” project as a nature-based solution	TERRAENVISION	2024
21	Cerdà, A., et al.	The potential of straw mulch as a nature-based solution in olive groves. A biophysical and socio-economic assessment	TERRAENVISION	2024
22	Perrino, E. V., et al.	Evaluation, solutions and management of water resource in agriculture with stakeholders participation: the case study of Stornara and Tara (Apulia Region - Italy)	RETASTE Conference	2024
23	Christoforidi, I., et al.	Pilot Intensive Cultivation of the Mediterranean Native Urospermum picroides	RETASTE Conference	2023
24	Christoforidi, I., et al.	ΠΟΙΟΤΙΚΗ ΕΡΕΥΝΑ ΑΞΙΟΛΟΓΗΣΗΣ ΓΝΩΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΣΤΑΣΗΣ ΣΥΜΜΕΤΕΧΟΝΤΩΝ ΓΙΑ ΤΗ ΔΙΑΤΡΟΦΙΚΗ ΑΞΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΧΡΗΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΙΘΑΓΕΝΩΝ ΦΥΤΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ	31ο Συνέδριο Ελληνικής Εταιρίας της Επιστήμης των Οπωροκηπευτικών	2023
25	Christoforidi, I., et al.	ΠΕΙΡΑΜΑΤΙΣΜΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΒΙΒΛΙΟΓΡΑΦΙΚΗ ΑΝΑΖΗΤΗΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΠΟΙΚΙΛΩΝ ΧΡΗΣΕΩΝ 15 ΙΘΑΓΕΝΩΝ ΔΕΝΤΡΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗΣ ΧΩΡΙΔΑΣ	31ο Συνέδριο Ελληνικής Εταιρίας της	2023

			Επιστήμης των Οπωροκηπευτικών	
26	Christoforidi, I., et al.	ΑΞΙΟΠΟΙΗΣΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΙΚΗ ΤΟΠΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΣΔΙΟΡΙΣΜΟΣ ΑΝΟΧΗΣ ΣΕ ΑΒΙΟΤΙΚΗ ΚΑΤΑΠΟΝΗΣΗ 33 ΙΘΑΓΕΝΩΝ ΚΑΙ 4 ΕΝΔΗΜΙΚΩΝ ΦΥΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΙΔΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ	31Ο Συνέδριο Ελληνικής Εταιρίας της Επιστήμης των Οπωροκηπευτικών	2023
27	Daliakopoulos, I. et al.	Inclusive Outscaling of the Agricultural Land Afforestation Agro-ecosystem REstoration ACTions in Heraklion, Greece	EGU General Assembly	2023
28	Bruggeman, A., et al.,	Can soil moisture sensors support smart irrigation decision making in mountain terrace agriculture?	EGU General Assembly	2023
29	Koutroulis, A., et al	Historical evolution and future storylines of degradation drivers in Mediterranean arid and semiarid agro-ecosystems	EGU General Assembly	2023
30	Daliakopoulos, I.,	Sustainable Soil and Water Management for Combating Land Degradation and Desertification and Promoting Mediterranean Ecosystem Restoration: The REACT4MED Concept,	Third World Conference on the Revitalization of the Mediterranean Diet, 28-30 September, Bari, Italy.	2022.
31	Manios, T., et al.	REACT4MED Presentation	at the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, Sassari, Italy	2022

Additionally, REACT4MED was referenced in 2 book chapters:

1. Soil Science at the CIHEAM's Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari in Italy | Springer Nature Link)
2. Environmental-economic dimensions of land-use transformations: exploring the Mediterranean rural sustainable development - ScienceDirect

6.3 ZENODO

In line with the project's commitment to open science and the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), REACT4MED established a dedicated community on Zenodo, the CERN-hosted open-access repository (https://zenodo.org/communities/react4med/). The Zenodo community serves as the project's long-term, publicly accessible repository for research outputs that complement the peer-reviewed publication record, including datasets, conference presentations, posters, deliverables, and other digital outputs produced during the project.

This approach is consistent with the Data Management Plan (DMP) developed under WP6, which stipulates that data and other information required to support and allow reproduction of project results will be shared on public open-access repositories. By depositing outputs in Zenodo, each item receives a persistent Digital Object Identifier (DOI), ensuring long-term citability and traceability regardless of changes to the project's own web infrastructure after the funding period ends.

The Zenodo community also supports the broader EU Open Research Repository framework, enabling discoverability of REACT4MED outputs alongside other PRIMA- and Horizon-funded projects. This contributes to the project's legacy by ensuring that its knowledge products remain accessible to

practitioners, researchers, and policymakers working on Mediterranean land restoration long after the project concludes.

6.4 Overall scientific exploitation

The table below summarises REACT4MED's scientific outputs for the period of 2022 through 2025, focusing on two core dissemination indicators: conference presentations and peer-reviewed publications. It shows how the project progressed each year in building scientific visibility, sharing research findings, and contributing to the broader evidence base supporting Mediterranean restoration efforts.

	Indicator	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% goal
Scientific	Target number conference presentations	3	8	8	8	27	**137%**
	Number of conference presentations achieved	3	10	7	17	37	
	Target number peer-reviewed journal publications	3	5	5	5	18	**75%**
	Number of peer-reviewed journal publications achieved	2	4	2	5	14	

7 Conclusions

Over its 42-month duration, REACT4MED succeeded in transforming locally generated restoration knowledge into accessible, evidence-based outputs that serve practitioners, policymakers, and the wider Mediterranean research community. The project delivered a multi-level dissemination and communication effort that expanded visibility, built practical capacity, informed decision makers, and strengthened scientific contributions to land-restoration debates.

Across public-facing communication channels, REACT4MED significantly exceeded most of its outreach targets. Website traffic and user engagement grew steadily above expectations, while media coverage across six Mediterranean countries amplified core project messages on land degradation, stakeholder engagement, and restoration progress. Social-media presence developed into a stable communication channel, and newsletters contributed to maintaining regular contact with interested audiences. These activities helped build a coherent narrative around Mediterranean restoration challenges and opportunities, making project results visible beyond academic circles.

In parallel, REACT4MED produced a suite of practical guidance materials, WOCAT documentation, multilingual resources, and a project glossary that bridge scientific outputs with real-world implementation needs. These tools were intentionally designed for practitioners, farmer organisations, advisory services, and public authorities, helping to translate concepts into actions and enabling consistency in training, workshops, and pilot-area learning pathways.

The project's evidence to policy work consolidated field insights from the pilot areas into policy backing products, including factsheets, recommendations, and an integrated final outreach event across multiple countries. These products demonstrated how restoration actions performed under real conditions, what enablers and barriers shaped adoption, and how future policies could better support socio-ecological resilience. The policy brief co-produced with other Mediterranean initiatives provided a collective voice highlighting the importance of long-term funding, transdisciplinary engagement, and enabling conditions for sustainable land and water management.

On the scientific front, REACT4MED delivered a strong publication and conference record, disseminating findings across climate-water variability, ecohydrology, remote sensing, agronomy, socio-ecological governance, and restoration monitoring. These contributions strengthened the Mediterranean evidence base and supported the development of transferable tools such as the LanDS decision-support platform. The combination of peer-reviewed articles and high-visibility conference presentations reinforced REACT4MED's role as a regional reference point for restoration-focused research.

REACT4MED's experience shows that transdisciplinary engagement through living labs, participatory workshops, co-developed tools, and iterative feedback loops is essential for ensuring that restoration actions are credible, relevant, and ultimately adopted on the ground. The final outreach events confirmed that local actors are ready to engage further.

Looking ahead, the project leaves a legacy of strengthened networks, validated methodologies, actionable guidance, and digital tools that can support upscaling. The demand expressed by stakeholders for continued advisory support, cooperative structures, financial incentives, and long-term monitoring mechanisms highlights clear avenues for future programmes and policy frameworks. In this respect, REACT4MED provides both a knowledge base and a platform for continued cooperation between stakeholders.

Overall, REACT4MED has demonstrated that inclusive, evidence driven, and practice-oriented approaches can significantly accelerate restoration in Mediterranean agro-ecosystems ensuring that environmental improvements align with viable livelihoods, cultural values, and long-term regional resilience.