



## LAYMAN'S REPORT

LIFE19 CCM/NL/001200

Enabling impactful climate actions through community-based tree planting, educating future generations, and developing innovative tree monitoring technology.





## What is Life Terra?

Life Terra is a project that aims to restore people's connection with the Earth and enable them to take impactful climate action.

The project seeks to bring people together to plant 500 million new trees for Europe, harnessing and monitoring nature's own carbon capture mechanism and enabling citizens to take urgent action against the climate crisis.

Life Terra facilitates tree planting, educates future generations, and develops tree monitoring technology.

The Consortium brings together 16 experienced organisations present in 8 European countries.



— CORE COUNTRIES OF THE LIFE TERRA PROJECT



PLANTING  
TREES TO  
RESTORE OUR  
CONNECTION  
WITH THE  
EARTH



# Project motivation

Life Terra is driven by the urgency of the climate crisis, which has escalated into a pressing economic, social, and environmental challenge. While Europe has set ambitious climate goals, and individuals are eager to take action, a gap remains in translating intentions into impactful change. Life Terra aims to bridge this gap by empowering people with concrete, scalable solutions to address and effectively mitigate climate change.

To do that, the project is founded on the knowledge that tree planting is regarded as the most cost-effective nature-based solution to capture carbon and restore biodiversity. As part of a multi-faceted mitigation strategy, planting trees can play an important role in the fight against climate change and the devastation it causes (heat waves, drought, desertification, erosion, flooding).

LIFE TERRA BOASTS MANY ELEMENTS OF DISTINCTION THAT MAKE IT UNIQUE – IT COMBINES SCIENCE-BASED KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIVE MONITORING AND TRACKING TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATING YOUNGER GENERATIONS AND ACTIVELY INVOLVING CITIZENS ACROSS MULTIPLE COUNTRIES.





## Our objectives

Life Terra is Europe's initiative to lead the fight against climate change, prepare future generations, drive greener policies across the board and generate investment and growth in green jobs. The main objectives are to:

### 1. Engage

a record number of individual citizens and stakeholders to take action towards climate change mitigation.

### 2. Connect

participants through an innovative and comprehensive web platform and monitoring tool.

### 3. Innovate

in the latest monitoring and satellite technologies to provide citizens and specialists alike with transparent data on trees planted.

### 4. Inspire

the next generation of EU citizens to thrive in the face of climate change challenges, through a unique STEM-based sustainability education programme in combination with local climate action.



# How was the project carried out?

The Life Terra project is a comprehensive initiative that combines four interconnected pillars: implementation, communication, technology, and education.

Together, these elements create a powerful framework for large-scale climate action.

Each pillar reinforces the others, making Life Terra not just a tree-planting project, but a holistic climate action movement.



## PLANTING

- Mix of 6 different species (minimum) to ensure biodiversity
- Ecosystem-based approach: "the right tree in the right place"



## MONITORING

- State-of-the-art monitoring program to ensure transparency on the climate and ecosystem benefits



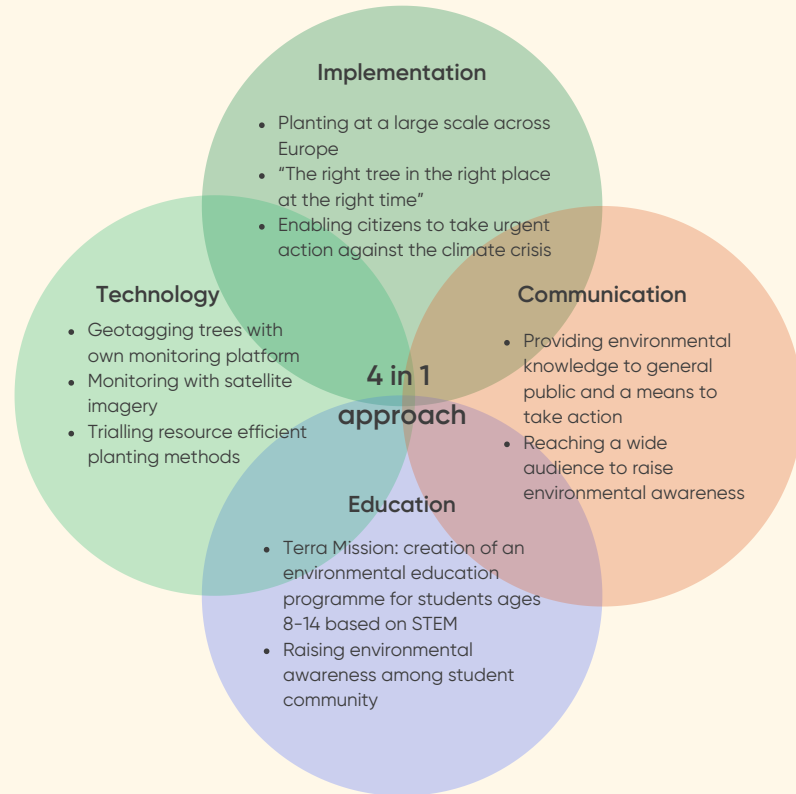
## EDUCATING

- Creation of a STEM based, interactive environmental education programme for children ages 8-14.



## INVOLVING

- Community involvement as a key to ensure local commitment and long term success



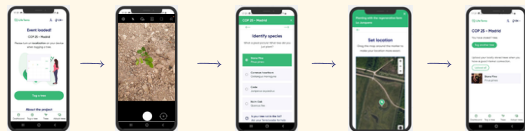
# How was the project carried out: Technology

We believe that monitoring the trees planted is crucial to ensure that the climate and environmental benefits we claim to make are happening. This is why Life Terra has developed its own [tagging tool and online platform](#) to geolocalise the newly planted trees.

## Life Terra's Tagging Tool and Online Platform

Citizens and organisations can tag and register the trees they planted during the Life Terra events.

Via a unique event tagging link, participants tag the planted trees by selecting the species, taking a picture and registering its geolocation.



Information collected by the tagging tool is then visible in our online platform through the Life Terra Dashboard.

Individuals can check the species, CO2 estimation, and other details in their [Personal dashboard](#). Companies and organisations can also have their own [Group Dashboard](#) to track their planted or adopted trees.



Furthermore, all [Life Terra events](#) can be checked on our website. Each event page contains information on the number of trees planted, tree species, a plot map, CO2 estimation and satellite monitoring updates for most of plots.



**+27,000** Accounts created in the LT platform



**+800** Organisations using the Group Dashboard



**+100** Field monitoring visits



**+18,000** Hectares monitored by satellite



**+4,400,000** Tn CO2 eq. captured by registered trees (40y)



## Carbon Footprint Calculator

The University of Barcelona (UB) and CERTH have created an open and free carbon footprint calculator. With this tool, people can calculate their personal carbon footprint based on their travels, diet and daily activities to understand their impact on the planet.





## Citizen Monitoring App and Satellite Monitoring System

We want to be transparent not only in the number of trees planted during the project but also in the success of reforestations. IFER and UB have developed a citizen monitoring tool to help determine a specific plot's survival rate and report trees' growth and planting success.

The tool is open to everyone so that citizens, regardless of their expertise, can provide valuable information on the plantings. At the same time, Life Terra, in collaboration with Cybele, integrates satellite monitoring capabilities to enhance the understanding of reforestation efforts.

While the citizen monitoring tool allows tracking specific plot survival rates and tree growth, the satellite monitoring system provides a broader overview of plant health. This integrated approach ensures transparency and accessibility for all stakeholders. We aim to provide comprehensive support to landowners and organisations, fostering greater control and insight into their reforestation initiatives.

## Tree Seeding Robot and Life Cycle Assessment (LCAs)

As part of our effort to scale up reforestation practices, Land Life designed and field-tested a Tree Seeding Robot – an electrically powered ground vehicle operating in rugged terrains, autonomously seeding the right tree species at the right spot. Trials in Spain and Germany demonstrated robust and flawless high-quality precision seeding on demand under various field conditions. The robot simplifies logistics in biodiverse reforestation, dispensing lightweight, dormant seeds, accommodating the unpredictable onset of rains. This technology thus represents a major leap forward in scalable, climate-resilient tree planting.

To assess its environmental impact, we conducted two LCAs. The first evaluated the rover's footprint compared to traditional planting methods and showed 27% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The second LCA focused on seedling production, comparing conventional peat-based substrates to biochar alternatives. Using biochar led to a 31% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions, offering a more sustainable pathway for seedling growth.



# How was the project carried out: Implementation

Implementation is the essence of Life Terra. Over the course of the project, the Consortium has organised local tree-planting events, actively engaging citizens and volunteers, while also developing large-scale professional restoration projects across Europe.

As a result, more than 1,500,000 trees of +500 different species were planted, contributing to restore public and private land in 34 European countries.

These planting efforts brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including schools, universities, NGOs, municipalities, regional governments, the private sector, landowners, and local communities taking an active role in climate action and contributing to Life Terra's mission.

Throughout our journey, Life Terra has developed planting projects in a variety of contexts, from restoring forests and creating new woodland areas, to planting food forests, agroforestry systems, and new green urban spaces. By adapting our approach to local conditions, and guided by "the right tree in the right place" principle, our tree-planting projects aim to contribute positively to both communities and the environment.

In addition to our planting efforts and, as part of our mission to support and give visibility to reforestation, Life Terra also registered trees planted by several partner organisations. In total, over +34.6 million trees were registered on the Life Terra platform, showcasing the collective impact of tree-planting actions across Europe and beyond.

## Stichting Life Terra

As the project's lead partner, the Life Terra Foundation was responsible for the overall coordination and strategy of the project's implementation. The foundation has led and organised +900 planting actions, mobilising and supporting individuals and organisations to plant trees.

A selection of the most inspiring planting projects supported by the Life Terra Foundation are shown in pages 12, 13, and 14.



**+3,000** Planting events



**34** Countries in Europe



**+500** Species



**+120,000** Citizens participating in planting events



**+1,500,000** Trees planted by Life Terra



**+34,600,000** Trees registered in the LT platform





## Associação Natureza y Hombre (ANYH)

ANYH was responsible for the project's implementation in Portugal. With a focus on community building and ecosystem restoration, ANYH worked to promote biodiversity and inclusive participation in reforestation projects, engaging local companies and communities.

**Highlight:** ANYH's work in Serra da Estrela, one of Portugal's most fire-affected regions, combined reforestation with social impact by involving Ukrainian refugees and other migrants in planting activities. This initiative helped restore native ecosystems while fostering emotional healing, integration, and a deeper connection between displaced communities and their new environment, turning reforestation into a symbol of resilience, inclusion, and hope.



## Volterra Ecosystems

Volterra Ecosystems was the Implementation Coordinator in Spain. During the project, Volterra supported planting projects and technical tree monitoring in Spain and helped secure land and local partnerships to carry out several tree-planting events across Spain and Portugal. Thanks to Volterra, several schools, municipalities, environmental NGOs, volunteers, and private landowners have benefited from the Life Terra project.

**Highlight:** Volterra's partnership with the municipality of Las Rozas (Madrid) has allowed Life Terra to organise five massive tree-planting events yearly involving over 15,000 participants, including families, young volunteers, local organisations like Fundación Trébol, and the local community.



## CERTH

Within the Life Terra project, Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) has led both citizen and professional planting efforts in Greece, particularly in the post-lignite region of Western Macedonia. The organisation combines its scientific expertise with local engagement to restore degraded land and promote sustainable land use.

**Highlight:** In Western Macedonia, CERTH coordinated the large-scale planting of thousands of trees on former lignite mining areas, working closely with regional authorities and the Public Power Corporation. This initiative contributes to ecosystem restoration while supporting the region's socio-economic shift toward a low-carbon future.



## Legambiente

As the Implementation partner in Italy, Legambiente played a key role in leading environmental outreach and mobilisation campaigns throughout Italy, especially among schools and young people.

**Highlight:** Legambiente's most impactful campaign is the Festa dell'Albero, a national tree planting initiative organised yearly every autumn. Over the course of the Life Terra project, children and adults planted over 80,000 trees and shrubs in more than 700 events within the Festa dell'Albero. This campaign was further promoted thanks to the collaboration with the Music for the Planet project and the collaboration with the well-known Italian singer Elisa.





## The Right Tree in The Right Place

Biodiversity is key to successful ecosystem restoration. By planting a variety of trees and shrubs and carefully selecting the right species, our planting projects and events help boost the local ecosystem.

Life Terra always uses a mix of species to promote local fauna and flora, support water retention, and help enhance the quality of the soil. During the project's implementation Life Terra planted more than 500 different species. A small percentage of shrubs were usually included to provide shelter and food for animals, as well as prevent soil erosion.



BOOSTING  
BIODIVERSITY  
THROUGH TREE  
PLANTING

## Training and Building Capacity

One of the Life Terra goals is to empower people to take climate action. To do this, we developed educational materials to train volunteers to become Terra Leaders. Through online and in-person training, we have successfully trained +400 Terra Leaders, who supported our planting events. Key resources for this training include the Terra Leader Manual and The Green Manual.

As part of our mission to scale up tree planting and raise environmental awareness across Europe and beyond, Life Terra has focused on partnering up with NGOs and organisations dedicated to this cause. So far, we have worked with 113 planting organisations in 32 countries in Europe, building a strong network through our online platform.

As Lead Reporter for DG Environment, we helped these groups by reporting their trees through the MapMyTree initiative, part of the EU's 3 Billion Trees pledge. The following map showcases the extent of the network created.





# Planting Partners Network

## ALBANIA

Ecological Vision for Shkodra

## AUSTRIA

Wald4Leben

## BELGIUM

Bollebos

SRFB-KKBM

## BULGARIA

St. Cyril and Methodius S.

## CROATIA

Boranka

Compensating by Planting

## CZECH REPUBLIC

Nadace Partnerství

## CYPRUS

300K Nicosia

## DENMARK

Growing Trees Network

## FINLAND

A Million Trees to Finland

Love Forest Finland

## FRANCE

A Tree For You

ASES

Forestry Club France

Naudet

PUR

Restore Forest

## GERMANY

Aktion Baum

Miya Forest

Viva La Wald

## GREECE

We4all

## HUNGARY

10 Milliő Fa

## ICELAND

Land og skogur

## IRELAND

Stepping Stone Forests

Reforest Nation

Easy Treesie

## ITALY

Alberitalia

Azzero co2

CUFA

Med Sea

Regala un albero

Rete Clima

Soulfood Forestfarms

## LATVIA

Agnis Graudulis

## LITHUANIA

Myliu Miškų

## MALTA

Grow10Trees Malta

## NETHERLANDS

BoomFeestadag

Bosgroepen

Bosnodig

Grand Verbond

Het Weelde Bos

Natuurlijk Voorne Putten

Meerboemennu

Planboom

ReNature

The pollinators

Twickel

Voedselbos Lingehout

## POLAND

Aeris Futuro

Klub Gaja

One Tree Foundation (PL)

## PORTUGAL

Climate Farmers

Companhia das Lezírias

Gandum

Montado Freixo do Meio

Plantar Uma Árvore

Porcus Natura

Quinta das Abelhas

Reflorestar Portugal

Restore nature

Terramay

## ROMANIA

Plantăm Fapte Bune

## SERBIA

Treecikli farm

## SLOVAKIA

Chateau Bela

## SLOVENIA

Green Gaia Foundation

## SPAIN

Agricultaris

Asociación Aprisco

Betula custodia

BioINNOVA

Boodaville

Bosques CO2

Bosquia

Cascos Verdes

CIEF

Corredor Biológico Mundial

Creadoras de Bosques

Desert Leaves Foundation

Ecodes

Ecoescuelas

Ecotròs

FIEB

FNyH

Fundació Emys

Fundación Biodiversidad

Fundación Montescola

Fundacion Trébol

Fundem

Interpreta Natura

La Junquera

La Mar de Verde

LIFE Teixeres

Montes de Vigo

Montescola

Naranjas del Carmen

Pego Viu

Plant for The Planet

(R)Forest Project

Reforestex

Sèlvans

SEO/BirdLife

Social Forest

The Green Rebel

Tierra Pura

Vivencia Dehesa

## SWEDEN

59Degrees

## SWITZERLAND

MYBLUEPLANET

There For Trees

## TURKEY

Emine-Emir Şahbaz Bilim ve Sanat Merkezi

## UKRAINE

Mama plant a tree

## UNITED KINGDOM

Enfield council

International Tree F.

One Tree Planted

## OUTSIDE EUROPE

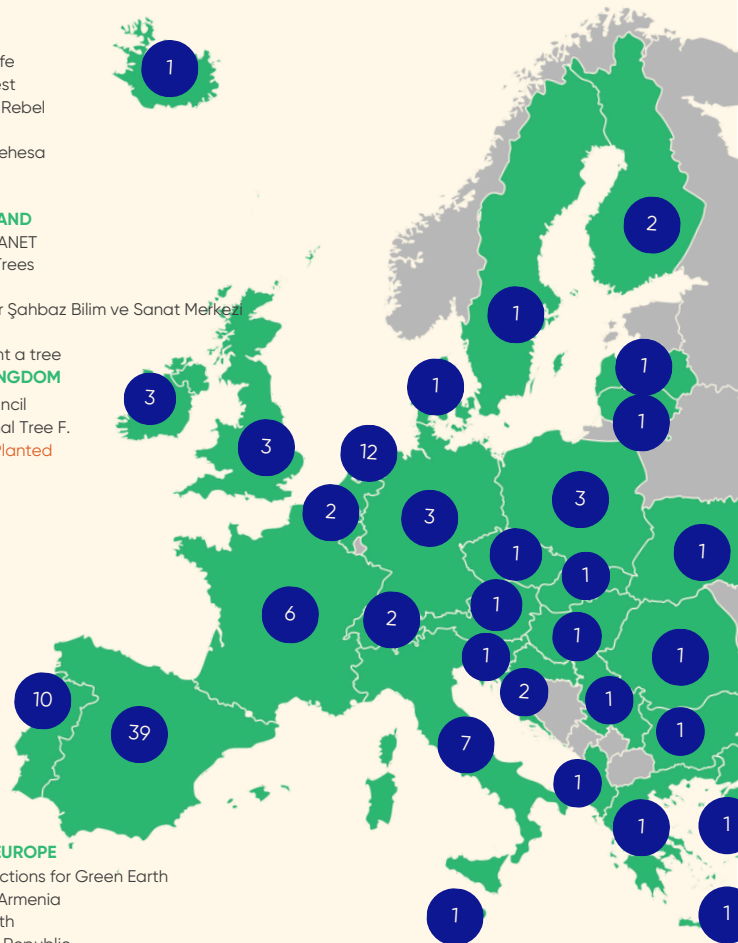
Loliondo Actions for Green Earth

My Forest Armenia

New Growth

The Green Republic

Communities EverGreening Africa



\*Reporting trees in the MapMyTree initiative through Life Terra

# Inspiring stories



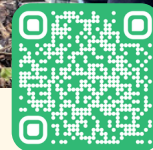
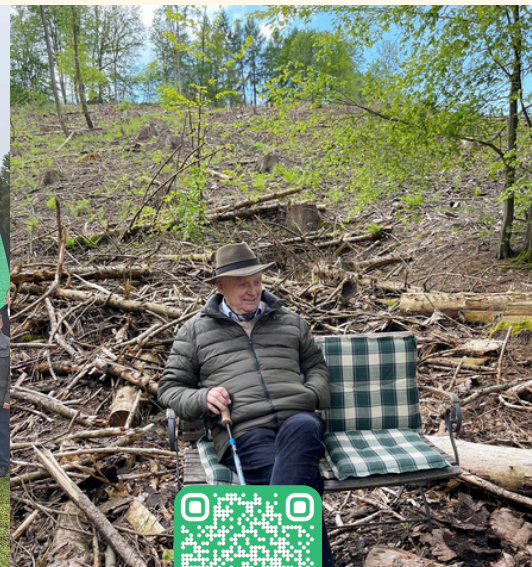
## Gandum Village

An exciting project building an eco-village in the region of Alentejo, in the south of Portugal, where sustainability is the main driver. Life Terra collaborated for three years with the project. Together more than 20,000 trees of +80 different species were planted to make the farm's regeneration a reality.



## Ambassadors Event

Life Terra, in collaboration with the City Council of Las Rozas and the San Diego Gredos School hold a unique tree planting event that counted with the participation of 13 European Embassies, the Representative of the European Commission in Spain, local political representatives and students.



## The "Klimawald"

In March 2021, we planted our first "Klimawald" (climate forest) on a 5-hectare site in Germany, using 19,500 Spanish-origin trees from 16 species chosen for their resilience to heat and drought. The goal was to create a diverse, climate-adapted forest better suited to future conditions.





## Food Forest in Zoersel

Geert and Goele dreamed of becoming sustainable farmers, driven by concerns about conventional agriculture's impact. They transformed a plot near Antwerp into a food forest: an agroecosystem that mimics nature with layers of edible plants, trees and shrubs. Life Terra helped supply trees and organise volunteer planting events, with generous backing from ClimatePartner and ING Belgium.



## Avans alumni planting

Green Office students Lisa and Nick of Avans University of Applied Sciences had a big dream: to give a tree as a gift to all graduates and to create a new forest with it. In July 2021, the first 4,000 graduates received a tree for their graduation and later that year, the first alumni planted trees in Den Bosch. This new forest will grow to 100,000 trees in the coming years.



## The Mortgage Forest

The Hypotheekbos (Mortgage Forest) is a campaign set up by the Nationale Hypotheekbond in The Netherlands. It aims to plant 15,000 trees through donations from relations in the financial sector. Life Terra has already organised multiple planting event with hundreds of volunteers and more than 8,000 trees have been planted.





## Connected by nature

To inspire children at Escola Dolors Monserdà-Santapau in Barcelona, Life Terra and a group of 30 Prototyp employees from Sweden organized a planting event in 2022 at the Parc de la Serralada Marina. For the nearly 50 participating kids, it was a fun day with friends, while the Prototyp team embarked on a 35-hour train journey to connect with each other and enjoy exploring Europe before working in the field.



## Amazon Rain Garden

Life Terra and Amazon, alongside Associazione Gentile and Soulfood Forestfarms, led a tree-planting initiative in Mazzo di Rho with over 400 participants, including residents and students. Local schools participated by planting and nurturing trees. The Raingarden manages rainwater to prevent flooding and supports a native ecosystem. The initiative aims to boost eco-consciousness and develop a sustainable green urban space for the community's future.



## Miyawaki Forest in Nice

In November '22, we planted our first Miyawaki forest in Nice, France, transforming a former car park into a green space with local citizens and children. Supported by One Tree Planted, Ville de Nice, and ASES, the area is becoming a biodiversity haven. The Shannon-index rose from 1,231 to 2,336 due to the variety of species planted, including climate-resilient species that require less water, ensuring the project's long-term success.

# Nature-Based Solutions

## 1. Carbon Removal Credits

Life Terra's Carbon Removal credits enable companies to take effective climate action supporting reforestation initiatives in Europe. These credits originate from verified projects focused on native and climate adapted species, ecosystem restoration, and community involvement. They complement emission reduction strategies, promoting climate neutrality with transparency and lasting impact.

### Our Added Value:

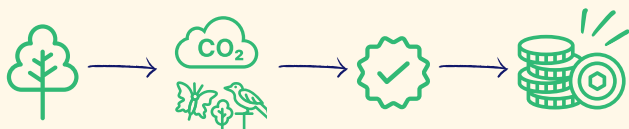
We ensure long-term impact by partnering with landowners, supporting rural economies, and involving communities in every step. Our EU-based projects offer high transparency, strict monitoring, and public traceability through our digital platform.

## 2. Biodiversity Credits

Our Biodiversity credits transform ecological restoration into a measurable asset, rewarding actions that enhance ecosystem health, improve species richness, and helps to connect natural habitats. Based on scientifically validated methods and verified by Nat5, these credits allow companies to support conservation and foster a nature-based economy.

### Our Added Value:

Biodiversity credits facilitate a new conservation economy, providing verified methodologies and tech-driven transparency that empower landowners, attract investment, and establish future stakeholder networks.





# How was the project carried out: Education

Education has been one of our most valuable investments. Life Terra has developed in collaboration with education experts different strategies to raise environmental awareness among all ages, with a focus on children and youth.

The project has engaged students, teachers, and schools through its educational package, [Terra Mission](#).

Terra Mission is Life Terra's sustainability educational package developed by Gynzy. It challenges teachers and students to investigate and learn about the environment, both inside and outside of school. It is addressed to children 8-14 and available in 7 languages.

Since the project started, more than 420,000 students have learned and explored sustainable solutions around 8 different themes: climate change, energy, waste, circular economy, water, agriculture, air and trees.

The team also developed the [Life Terra Guide for School Plantings](#) to help teachers organise a planting activity as an educational experience with their pupils. More than 1,000 classes have planted trees with their school within the Life Terra project.

TERRA MISSION  
TEACHES YOUNG  
CHILDREN  
ABOUT THE  
IMPORTANCE OF  
CLIMATE ACTION



**+420,000** Students reached through Terra Mission



**+35,000** Classes reached through Terra Mission



**+500** Class projects on climate action solutions



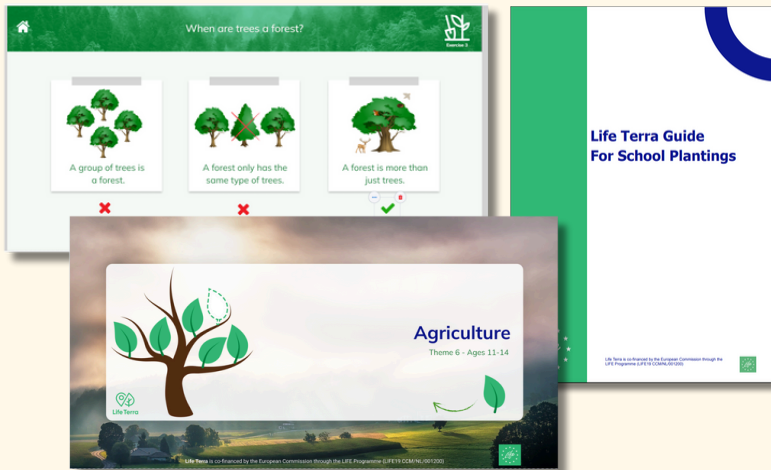
**+700** School planting events



**+1,000** Classes participating in planting events







## Terra Mission MOOC

In 2022, Life Terra, in collaboration with Scientix, developed the [Terra Mission MOOC](#). This Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) was addressed to primary and secondary teachers interested in integrating sustainability topics in their classrooms.

The course guided teachers through the Terra Mission Education Package and helped them gain knowledge on contemporary sustainability issues and how to teach them.

It took place online at the European Schoolnet Academy in two sessions (Jan-Feb 2022 and Sep-Oct 2023).

The Terra Mission MOOC engaged [3,872 schools in 68 countries](#). From those, 970 teachers completed the course entirely, and 99% of participants rated it as good or very good.

## STEM Discovery Campaign

The Scientix STEM Discovery Campaign is a joint international initiative that invites educators, projects, organisations, libraries, schools, universities, youth clubs and all interested stakeholders across Europe and beyond to celebrate careers and studies in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Life Terra has actively participated in the Campaign since 2021 offering a competition organised by Scientix called Terra Mission Challenge.

In 2024, Scientix co-organised together with Life Terra the 2024 STEM Discovery Campaign, which has been the largest to date with 46,000 activities in +50 countries and involving more than 700,000 participants.

For its last year, Life Terra participated in the SDC25 with the "Roots for the Future Award", celebrating teachers who organize school planting and/or implement sustainability awareness activities.



# How was the project carried out: Communication

The Life Terra project and its activities have been successfully disseminated to raise environmental awareness and encourage and provide means to take climate action.

The project reached a wide audience mainly through its social media channels with daily publications on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, X, TikTok and YouTube, and its website.

But also, the Consortium carried out a great number of dissemination activities to promote it:

- 38 Local dissemination events reaching 9,676 participants
- 45 presentations to local and international conferences reaching 8,916 participants
- 2 Partner events for the EU Green Week (2021-2023) with 269 attendees
- 8 Policy events with 878 attendees
- 3 X Chats and 1 Bluesky Chat
- 10 Special Reports, each including 5 articles
- 19 Networking activities with other LIFE projects and initiatives
- Social media campaigns reaching over 1.6 million users



**+16,500** Followers on social media



**+13,600,000** People reached on social media



**+400,000** Website visits



**+1,900** Subscribers to newsletters with  
**41.7%** average open rate



**+2,500** Press mentions



**164** Videos created that reached  
**+2,680,000** people only on Youtube





## Telling stories through videos

One of the strongest focuses has been storytelling. BrightVibes and Stichting worked strategically to develop and execute a cohesive content plan, ensuring our message is seen and felt. By actively participating in planting events, we captured firsthand experiences, authentic moments, and inspiring stories that showcase the dedication of our partners and volunteers.

Through high-quality video production, we highlighted our reforestation efforts, partner collaborations, and the tangible impact of tree planting, making environmental action more relatable and engaging for our audience. These videos, along with blog posts, newsletters (produced and disseminated by EURACTIV), and press releases, were the backbone of our outreach, ensuring that our mission reached individuals, businesses, and policymakers alike.

The project maintained a strong presence across multiple platforms, from social media to traditional media, to maximize engagement and inspire more people to take action for the planet.

## Life Terra Climate Action Awards

In order to further spread our achievements, the Life Terra Climate Action Awards were launched. These recognised the most dedicated contributors each season, celebrating their commitment to impactful environmental action.

The awards served as a tool to inspire individuals, businesses, and organisations to step up their environmental efforts.

In our first edition 2021-2022, we were proud to engage renowned figures like Nico Rosberg, whose influence helped bring climate awareness and Life Terra's activities to a broader audience.

In 2023-2024 edition, we also involved the general public by voting for the "Best European ecosystem restoration project" of the season. The contest, disseminated through our social media channels and website, received thousands of votes from the public.





# EUROPEAN TREE PLANTING DAY



**240,984**  
trees



**19**  
countries



**29,617**  
participants



**45**  
partners



**418**  
events



**44**  
schools

As one of the pillars of our "After Life" activities, we launched the European Tree Planting Day initiative in November 2024 in collaboration with Nadace Partnerství.

Envisioned as a festival of nature, it wants to unite communities to plant trees simultaneously across Europe. Its main goal is to highlight and scale up the effort tree-planting organisations are carrying out and draw attention to the pressing issues facing our planet.

The first edition was a total success bringing together people, schools, organisations, and communities from across Europe and making a tangible impact towards the environment:



THE EUROPEAN TREE PLANTING DAY AIMS TO MOBILISE COMMUNITIES FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE CONTINENT IN A SYNCHRONISED, LARGE-SCALE TREE-PLANTING EFFORT, SYMBOLISING EUROPE'S COLLECTIVE RESOLVE TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FACING THE PLANET.



— EVENTS FIRST EDITION EUROPEAN TREE PLANTING DAY



WHAT HAPPENS  
WHEN ALL OF  
EUROPE PLANTS  
TREES  
TOGETHER?

# Policy Recommendations

Before and during the course of the project, several European laws on nature restoration and forest management were put in place and reinforced:

1. [New EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#) – Strengthen the resilience of European forests by increasing their structural, functional, and compositional diversity.
2. [EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030](#) – Ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems, a path to recovery by 2030.
3. [EU's nature restoration law](#) – Propose binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems.
4. [Fit for 55 \(EU Green Deal\)](#) – Package of legislation to deliver EU's promises to lead the way on green transition: climate neutrality by 2050 and a 55% reduction of net GHG emissions by 2030.
5. [GreenComp \(EU Green Deal\)](#) – the European Green Competence Framework to provide learning schemes fostering sustainability as a competence and to empower individuals to drive sustainable change.



Based on the experience gained during our project & in line with discussions with policy makers from local till EU level, Life Terra puts forward the following recommendations:

## General recommendations:

- Prioritize Diverse, Climate-Resilient Forestry:
  - Avoid monocultures; promote diverse, drought-resilient species.
  - Consider regional needs and land tenure systems.
  - Support species-rich hedges for habitat connectivity.
- Strengthen Support for Small Forest Owners:
  - Create accessible funding schemes for fencing and crop protection.
  - Enable income from ecosystem services for sustainable forest maintenance.
- Reduce Administrative Burdens for easier access to restoration support.
- Establish a Robust EU Biodiversity Governance Framework
  - Mobilise funds for restoration and set binding land restoration targets for resilience and food security.
- Align Climate Finance with Ecosystem Restoration
  - Phase out free ETS allowances by 2030 and redirect revenues.
  - Implement the Carbon Removal Certification Framework inclusively for smallholders and community projects.

## Education recommendations:

- Strengthen teachers' competencies to teach sustainability across the curriculum
  - Develop Teachers' Green Competences.
  - Integrate digital skills training alongside green competences development.
  - Leverage communities of practice to support teachers' acquisition and strengthening of green and digital competences through peer learning.
- Promote outdoor learning opportunities
  - Promote outdoor activities at all levels of education.
  - Provide non-financial incentives to encourage outdoor learning.
  - Offer financial aid for impactful initiatives.
- Provide guidance to teachers and educators on the availability of teaching materials
  - Establish a quality assurance process within repositories.
  - Promote repository usage through challenges and awards.







# Conclusions & Life Terra in the Future

We have proven that large-scale, citizen-driven ecosystem restoration is not only achievable, but critical for addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and community resilience. Through on-the-ground experience, we have gained valuable insights that will guide our future work and partnerships.

## Key lesson learned:

- Local engagement is essential – community involvement increases impact and long-term success
- Tailored, site-specific approaches work best – regional needs, land use, species adaptability and climate conditions must guide restoration
- Monitoring builds trust – digital tools and transparent data ensure accountability and encourage long-term stewardship
- Education multiplies impact – involving schools and young people inspires the next generation of climate leaders
- Cross-sector collaboration is vital – combining public, private, and civil society efforts accelerates restoration



## Looking Ahead: The Life Terra Vision

As we enter the After-LIFE phase, our goal is to continue planting and registering trees across Europe, until we reach our original objective of 500 million trees in our platform. We will keep at supporting Europe's climate and biodiversity objectives. We emphasize the importance of collaboration among EU institutions, Member States, the private sector, and civil society to fully leverage nature-based solutions.

To achieve this, we will:

- Expand restoration through partnerships and funding
- Collaborate with landowners, policymakers, and schools
- Develop new digital tools for tree monitoring
- Advocate for policies that support nature-based solutions
- Further develop payments for ecosystem services (Carbon removal credits)
- Engage citizens in climate action

Life Terra is poised to lead this initiative and invites partners across Europe to join us in restoring nature at scale and in the most effective way.

# The LIFE programme



LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. Since 1992, LIFE has co-financed more than 5,500 projects, contributing approximately 5,000 million euros to the protection of the environment.



## LIFE Terra project (LIFE19 CCM/NL/001200)

Enabling impactful climate actions through community-based tree planting, educating future generations, and developing innovative tree monitoring technology.

This Project is co-financed by the European Union through the LIFE Programme.

### Total budget:

€12,804,283

### % EU Contribution:

€7,038,884

### Duration:

01/07/2020 - 30/06/2025

### Contact:

[contact@lifeterra.eu](mailto:contact@lifeterra.eu)

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# Beneficiaries



The Life Terra Foundation has been the project leader and coordinator of all beneficiaries.



Associação Natureza y Hombre Portugal was responsible for plantings in Portugal.



BrightVibes contributed by creating engaging videos for social media and awareness campaigns.



Volterra Ecosystems was in charge of coordinating citizen and professional plantings in Spain.



Legambiente was the implementation leader for Italy and in in charge of creating training materials and engagement among volunteers in the country.



Gynzy was an education associate and helped to create Terra Mission and host it on its interactive learning platform.



CERTH was responsible for tree planting in the Region of Western Macedonia. They led the activities concerning the LCA tool focusing on environmental assessment.



Cybele contributed as a technology associate and developed the satellite monitoring technology.



Viveros Fuenteamarga provided trees for planting and carried out biochar trials to substitute peat in seedling production.



UB participated in overseeing data gathering and analysis, biochar trials, and the ecological impact of new plantings on soil and forests.



Comunicazione Europe was a communication associate and developed the communications strategy.



Land Life developed and tested innovative tree and seed planting technology.



European Schoolnet assisted in the creation and roll-out of the education course in different countries.



EFE provided in-depth coverage and project dissemination materials in Spain and Portugal.



IFER provided on the ground validation of carbon sequestration and calibrating monitoring technology.



EURACTIV provided in-depth coverage, local awareness events, and other dissemination materials.



Transfer Consultancy contributed as a compliance associate.

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## LAYMAN'S REPORT

LIFE19 CCM/NL/001200

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