

<https://carbonostrum.eu>

## THE PROJECT

We are excited to bring you the latest news about CarboNostrum, a collaborative effort funded by Erasmus +. Comprising organisations from five Mediterranean countries – Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy, and Turkey – our consortium aims to equip smallholder farmers and new agricultural producers with tools and knowledge to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions in the Mediterranean's lands.

We are creating the CarboNostrum HUB, a comprehensive resource platform designed to empower our agricultural community. Once complete, it will offer a detailed Handbook, a collection of Case Studies highlighting climate-smart agriculture, an immersive online course, and an interactive visualization tool.

## NEWS

July 2023 marked a concerning climate milestone as the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service reported the 4<sup>th</sup> of July as the hottest day on record since they began their climate observations in 1940. This was further confirmed by NASA, which declared the entire month of July 2023 as the warmest month they've ever recorded. This continual pattern of intensifying heatwaves is not an isolated incident but a disturbing testament to our rapidly warming planet. These escalating temperatures are not just figures; they signify the distress of ecosystems, an increase in extreme weather events, heightened risks to human health, and significant disruption to agriculture. This historical heat record is part of an alarming long-term trend, driven by human-induced climate change. As the intensity of the climate crisis escalates, the scientific community warns of increasing frequency and severity of such extreme heat events. This stark reality underscores the urgency of both mitigating climate change and preparing for its inevitable impacts on agriculture.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND NEXT STEPS

We're thrilled to bring you the latest update on our progress. Our team has been diligently working to deliver first-rate results, pouring significant effort into reviewing and refining our battery of Climate-Smart Agriculture case studies in an eBook format and accompanying videos, as well as the comprehensive content of the CarboNostrum Handbook.

In the meantime, our team had the pleasure of reconnecting face-to-face for our third transnational project meeting. The setting for this reunion was the then winter-wrapped Campobasso, Italy. There, we engaged in vibrant discussions around our now-finalized case studies, videos, and handbook. This gathering also marked the commencement of the CarboNostrum blended course's content development, which is now nearing completion. We can't wait to share this innovative educational tool with you soon!



## CASE STUDIES

In our previous communication, we highlighted the crucial role that case studies play in teaching Climate-Smart Agriculture practices. By offering real-world examples, they not only present the advantages and challenges faced in the field, but they also empower newcomers to confidently adopt these sustainable practices. As we strongly believe, there is no better way to learn than through example.

Now, we are happy to announce that all the films for our 11 case studies can be found in the **CarboNostrum Project YouTube page!**

PT - Hortas da Rainha; Porcus Natura  
TR - Farge Organik; CevizBağı Farm; Çağlayanlar Farm  
EL - Lahanokipos; Nikos Kapoulas  
ES - Del Bancal a Casa; Casa Pareja  
IT - Terra Madre; Masseria San Paolo

Furthermore, we produced an **eBook** that comprises our battery of case studies and provides an in-depth look into the unique stories of the various growers and their diverse cultivation systems, shedding light on the strengths and challenges inherent to their land and agricultural and business models.



## HANDBOOK







We're excited to announce the launch of the **CarboNostrum Handbook** - an essential guide exploring the interplay between agriculture, climate change, and desertification in the Mediterranean. With a spotlight on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), it provides practical strategies for boosting productivity, enhancing resilience, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Beyond farming practices, the handbook delves into policy frameworks and innovative monitoring tools like GIS. Despite challenges, it emphasizes the importance of community engagement and capacity-building. This resource is now available on our website, ready to empower farmers and land managers towards a sustainable agricultural future.



## CARBONOSTRUM BLENDED COURSE

We are thrilled to unveil the CarboNostrum blended learning course! Tailored for smallholder farmers and new agricultural producers, this course empowers learners with essential tools to tackle climate change in Mediterranean ecosystems. With a blend of digital resources and hands-on experiences, participants will grasp sustainable agricultural practices and soil management strategies, gaining the knowledge to enhance the resilience of their lands. The course aims to equip learners with the practical skills and theoretical knowledge necessary to navigate the challenges posed by climate change and ultimately contribute to a more sustainable future for Mediterranean agriculture.

The **CarboNostrum Course** is composed of 6 modules, with a total of 150 hours of average planned duration:

-  **M1** - Climate change and desertification in the Mediterranean region
-  **M2** - Understanding the carbon cycle of land-climate and plant-soil feedbacks: soil carbon sequestration in a smallholder environment
-  **M3** - Applying and analysing mitigation and adaptation tools in poor and degraded lands
-  **M4** - Back to basics: the role of traditional knowledge in climate-smart agriculture in a changing world
-  **M5** - Assessment of soil parameters and designing a baseline scenario with readily available tools
-  **M6** - Creating value from ecosystem services, carbon cycling, and land restoration

You can find more information about the course in the **CarboNostrum HUB!**

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