

From stakeholders to co-owners and building multi-actor ecosystems for combating desertification

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Combating desertification and improving soil health across the Mediterranean are crucial for ensuring sustainability of agriculture and increasing its resilience. The challenges related to climate change put a huge burden on the sector in the Mediterranean region, therefore creating novel and adaptable tools that are essential for informed decision-making and policy shaping is vital for supporting current and future generations.

In NEMESIS project a great focus is placed on establishing multi-actor stakeholder platforms that will constitute an inclusive hub co-creating innovative solutions addressing soil degradation issues in the region and elsewhere. The aim of building the multi-actor platforms is the creation of multi-actor ecosystems of diverse stakeholders that are empowered to act together, co-design, co-test and co-own sustainable and effective land management practices that can increase soil health and combat desertification.

The active engagement of multiple stakeholder groups will enable achieving NEMESIS objectives of **tackling societal challenges related to the deterioration of soils health.** The created within the project multi-actor groups will be assigned with diverse task related to the project's goals in relation to showcasing solutions and discussing the socio-economic and policy enablers and limitations to implementing these solutions in different regions.

These activities will be conducted in inclusive conditions applying the well-established as well as innovative tools to integrate and empower different stakeholder groups. This will help in ensuring civic awareness and co-ownership of solutions and policy proposals among the involved local communities with focus of equality and representation of future generations. To achieve these ambitious goals, the first step is to identify all the relevant stakeholders.

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Further a specific, locally tailored governance framework will be proposed to ensure that the living labs, as places for co-creating and testing soil health friendly practices will be developed and put into practice in all the regions involved in the project. The next element supporting the inclusivity of the whole process will be the creation of multi-actor platforms serving as additional innovation ecosystem focusing on social and future proofing of the co-developed practices that can be broadly implemented in the NEMESIS regions as well as modified and applied in other socio-economic and environmental settings.

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