



# Invitation to the inception workshop of the Ecosystem Restoration Living Lab in Newe Ya'ar Research Center and Bethlehem of Galilee

**Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022**

We cordially invite you to the first workshop of the Ecosystem Restoration Living Lab on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 in Newe Ya'ar Research Center and Bethlehem of Galilee. The Living Lab is part of the project REACT4MED that addresses soil degradation by evaluating and disseminating knowledge about sustainable soil management practices.

In this workshop you get an overview of the overall project and the frame for the engagement of local actors in the national as well as international research context for the next three years. Together with you, we want to prepare the first steps for this engagement. Thus, we would like to address several topics in a first round of interactive discussions. These will be complemented by visits to two pilot sites of advanced soil management practices.

Your experiences regarding soil management are of utmost interest to us and will support us in making the project outcomes relevant for actors in agricultural practice, political decision-making and research.

## Contact

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## Meeting Agenda with transfer: 9:00 – 15:00

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Time	
08:30	Arrival at Newe Ya'ar Research Center, Model Farm for Sustainable Agriculture
09:00	Welcome and introduction of the workshop and the REACT4MED project
09:30	Getting to know each other
09:45	Problem definition for sustainable soil management
10:45	Coffee break and guided tour at the Model Farm for Sustainable Agriculture
11:00	Joint exploration of goals, needs, ambitions and expectations for the Ecosystem Restoration Living Lab Bethlehem of Galilee
12:00	Transfer to the Food Forest
12:15	Lunch and guided tour at the Food Forest
13:15	Stakeholder Mapping
14:00	Co-design of the Land degradation Decision-Support Toolbox
14:30	Evaluation of the workshop and follow-up
15:00	End of workshop

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## Directions

Newe Ya'ar Research Center, Model Farm for Sustainable Agriculture  
Ramat Yishay

Food Forest, Bethlehem of Galilee

## What are living labs?

Living Labs in general are spaces in which researchers and local actors from practice, administration and policy collaborate to address pressing societal questions and, by doing so, learn from and support each other's expertise and experiences. The idea is to jointly identify and develop those solutions that are environmentally beneficial, socially desirable and make sense from an economic point of view.

## About the project

The REACT4MED project aims to collect, exchange, enhance and distribute practices and knowledge on sustainable land and water management. The overall aim is to reverse land degradation and improve the livelihoods of people in the Mediterranean area.

To reach this aim, the project establishes Ecosystem Restoration Living Labs as learning platforms. Here, actors involved in land and water management, like farmers, political decision-makers, farm advisors, and others can meet and collaborate with the international research community involved in REACT4MED. The dialogue between actors and researchers will take place in eight Ecosystem Restoration Living Labs around the Mediterranean, that all face serious problems of soil degradation and desertification.

The eight Ecosystem Restoration Living Labs are located in Morocco, Egypt, Spain, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey and Israel.





## The Approach

During the project run time of three years (May 2022 to April 2025), the Ecosystem Restoration Living Labs will address different topics. There will be approximately 4 workshops as well as other specifically suitable activities depending on the topic:

- Co-development of soil, water and vegetation-related indicators to assess the suitability of different restoration actions
- Assessment of barriers to and opportunities for the implementation of good restoration actions
- Co-design of a decision support tool to identify the most suitable restoration actions in different locations
- Capacity development to enhance the dissemination of identified restoration actions

The team involved in REACT4MED believes that large-scale and effective soil remediation interventions are more robust and have lasting impact when implementation of best practices involves all societal stakeholders. For this reason, REACT4MED follows two conceptual directions: On the one hand, broad-scale concepts and methods (e.g. modeling and remote sensing) will highlight general insights into cost-effective good practices against land, water, and agro-ecosystem degradation as well as physical vulnerabilities in the Mediterranean region. At the same time, in collaboration with local actors those broad-scale concepts and methods will be refined and made relevant to the local context. This will support overcoming obstacles in the out-scaling of the identified restoration actions.

For more information on the REACT4MED project, please visit:

[react4med.eu/](https://react4med.eu/)