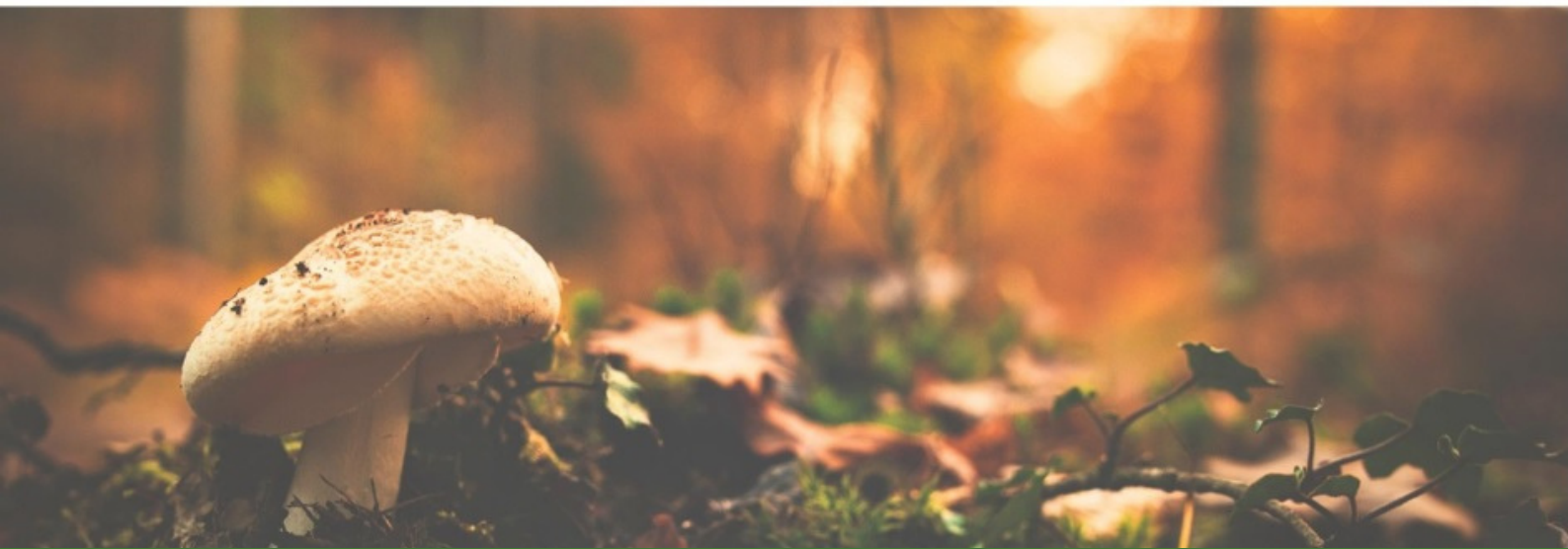


FUNGI PRENEURS

Inclusion of vulnerable groups in rural areas by environmental awareness and social entrepreneurship through mycology



About the FUNGIPRENEURS project

Rural poverty and difficult access to education for vulnerable groups often constitute an added disadvantage of life in rural settings. The FUNGIPRENEURS project is aimed at supporting the social inclusion of vulnerable groups in rural areas through environmental awareness about the importance of fungi for the ecosystems and the marketable value of mycological resources, promoting behaviour change, green skills development and responsible and sustainable social entrepreneurship.

The project will focus on adult educators (project users) and on vulnerable groups in rural areas (project beneficiaries) by:

- Developing the competences of adult educators dealing with project beneficiaries.
- Producing ICT-based educational tools and methods that adult educators will use with vulnerable groups in rural areas to develop their skills and guide them to social entrepreneurship based on the use of mycological resources.
- Testing the tools developed in real educational contexts.

Expected Project Results

- R1** ECVET Training Curriculum on social inclusion by environmental awareness and social entrepreneurship through mycology
- R2** FUNGIPRENEURS Toolkit for adult educators
- R3** FUNGIPRENEURS e-Learning Platform
- R4** FUNGIPRENEURS Training Path

Users and beneficiaries

The project will boost the skills and opportunities of its final beneficiaries, who are **vulnerable groups in rural areas**. Concurrently, **adult educators**, as the primary project users, will employ the specially developed materials and methodologies to educate and assist these groups, fostering their integration and development.

Launch transnational partners' meeting in Spain

The "FUNGIPRENEURS" kickoff meeting, held on February 7, 2023 in Spain, marked a significant stride in integrating vulnerable groups into rural areas through mycology. The event, focusing on project main objectives and expected results, brought together all project partners: ECM, DISRUPTIA, MINDSHIFT, META4, CSI, and INQS.

Key discussions revolved around project overview, the development of the FUNGIPRENEURS Training Curriculum on social inclusion by environmental awareness and social entrepreneurship through mycology, quality assurance plans, and communication strategies. Discussions emphasized the potential of mycology in fostering social inclusion and environmental consciousness.

Importance of fungi

In Europe, fungi, encompassing over 75,000 species, are essential for forest ecosystem health. Over 5,500 macrofungi are on conservation Red-Lists, with 10-20% endangered, largely due to inadequate forest and farmland management.

Sustainable management strategies are crucial for protecting these species, enhancing forest resilience, and conserving ecological habitats. Forest mushrooms, beyond their ecological role, have significant recreational and economic value. They are sought after for their edibility and potential in nutraceutical and medicinal industries. In certain regions, mushrooms' commercial value surpasses timber, leading to the development of businesses focused on edible and medicinal fungi. Mushroom picking has also grown into a popular recreational activity across Europe, reflecting the cultural and economic importance of these fungi.



The FUNGIPRENEURS meeting exemplified exceptional collaboration among partners, with each organization bringing unique insights and a shared commitment to the project's success. Throughout the discussions, there was a palpable sense of unity and understanding of the project goals. The atmosphere of mutual respect and goal alignment not only fostered productive discussions but also set a strong foundation for the project's future endeavors.



ECM, a forestry company founded in 2009 and linked to the University of Valladolid, focuses on sustainable forest management and natural resources. It leads in Applied Mycology and environmental research, and has won 7 awards, including the 1st Award for Innovation for Rural Women in 2010. Its services include forest management, tackling climate change, CO2 reduction, and environmental training, along with R&D in natural resources.

IDISRUPTIA, a leading SME in digital transformation, focuses on leveraging smart technologies for a sustainable future. Specializing in digital strategy for educational institutions and public bodies, DISRUPTIA aims to develop a strong digital education ecosystem and enhance essential digital skills. Its strategy involves creating advanced solutions to improve infrastructure and digital literacy, facilitate capacity planning, and update organizational skills.

<https://disruptia.es>



Mindshift specializes in elevating human capital by enhancing digital and interpersonal skills in organizations and society. Operating both nationally and internationally, it offers services in competence assessment, upskilling, training, coaching, career management, and personal development. Mindshift prepares the workforce for new labor market challenges, integrates young professionals through trainee programs, and develops strategic communication on social networks. <https://www.mindshift.pt/en/>

Meta4 Innovations, a research and development organization, specializes in creating innovative digital learning tools, sustainable development solutions, and technology-driven services for social inclusion. It focuses on addressing current socio-economic challenges while shaping future sustainable learning communities. <https://www.meta-4.org>



CSI is a Research and Development organization dedicated to promoting social innovation with the potential to positively impact local, national, regional, and global contexts. The organization believes in four key pillars: Social Interaction, Education, Development, and Economic Rationalization. By combining sustainable and disruptive solutions to systemic social problems, CSI aims to create impactful changes in society's social fabric. <https://csicy.com>

InnoQuality Systems (INQS) offers program and policy services aimed at improving outcomes for students and teachers in early childhood, primary, postsecondary, vocational, and adult education. Covering the full spectrum of learning, from early infant care to college and workforce training, INQS employs innovative approaches and methodologies to enhance educational program quality. <https://innoqualitysystems.com/>

