



COST Action ES1104 'Arid Lands Restoration and Combat of Desertification: Setting up a Drylands and Desert Restoration Hub' focuses on practical measures that can be used by practitioners, stakeholders and authorities to restore degraded drylands and manage their recovery.

## **Training School 5**

### **Plants, ecology and management for enhanced vegetation establishment for arid land restoration**

**26 – 30 April 2015 – Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece**

#### **Programme**

##### **Saturday 25 April**

Trainees arrive in Thessaloniki

##### **Sunday 26 April**

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-11:30 Welcome and introduction to the training programme: *Assistant Professor Eleni Abraham, Local Organizer*

Welcome to the School of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment: *Professor Dimitrios Koveos, Dean of the School*

Welcome to the Department of Forestry and Natural Environment: *Professor Christos Vlachos, Head of the Department*

The trainees will present themselves, their background and their research objectives

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-14:00 Lecture: The relevance of provenance for selecting vascular plant species for restoration, *Professor Ruediger Prasse, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universitaet Hannover, Germany*

14:00-15:30 Lunch break

15:30-17:30 Lecture: Vegetation ecology in arid environments: The case study of serpentine vegetation, *Assistant Professor Ioannis Tsiripidis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

**Monday 27 April**

- 09:00-11:00 Lecture: Ecological indicators of desertification: where are we in drylands?  
*Associate Researcher Cristina Branquinho, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal*
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30-13:30 Lecture: Restoration of degraded Mediterranean rangelands, *Emeritus Professor Vasilios Papanastasis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*
- 13:30-15:00 Lunch break
- 15:00-17:00 Lecture: Ecotechnologies for improving plant establishment in degraded drylands,  
*Dr. Alejandro Valdecantos, Centro de Estudios Ambientales del Mediterráneo, Spain*
- 17:00-19:00 Lecture: Mycorrhiza at the extreme, *Assistant Professor Michail Orfanoudakis, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece*

**Tuesday 28 April**

- 09:00-17:30 Trainees will attend the international conference on 'Arid Lands Restoration and Combat of Desertification' organised and delivered by members of COST Action ES1104
- 21:00 Social dinner

**Wednesday 29 April**

- 09:00-13:30 Conference: Arid Lands Restoration and Combat of Desertification (continued)
- 13:30-15:00 Lunch break
- 15:00-17:00 Lecture: Effect of woody-plant encroachment on ecosystem services: Reconciling supply and demand, *Professor Osvaldo Sala, Arizona State University, USA*
- 17:00-18:00 Review of the training school, *Assistant Professor Eleni Abraham, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece & Assistant Professor Apostolos Kyriazopoulos, Democritus University of Thrace*
- 18:00-19:00 Feedback session

**Thursday 30 April**

Field trip to visit various restoration projects in Northern Greece.

**Friday 1 May**

Trainees depart