



Introducing FOOD FOREST: Building Europe's Community Food Forest Network

**EHU**Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea
Universidad del País Vasco

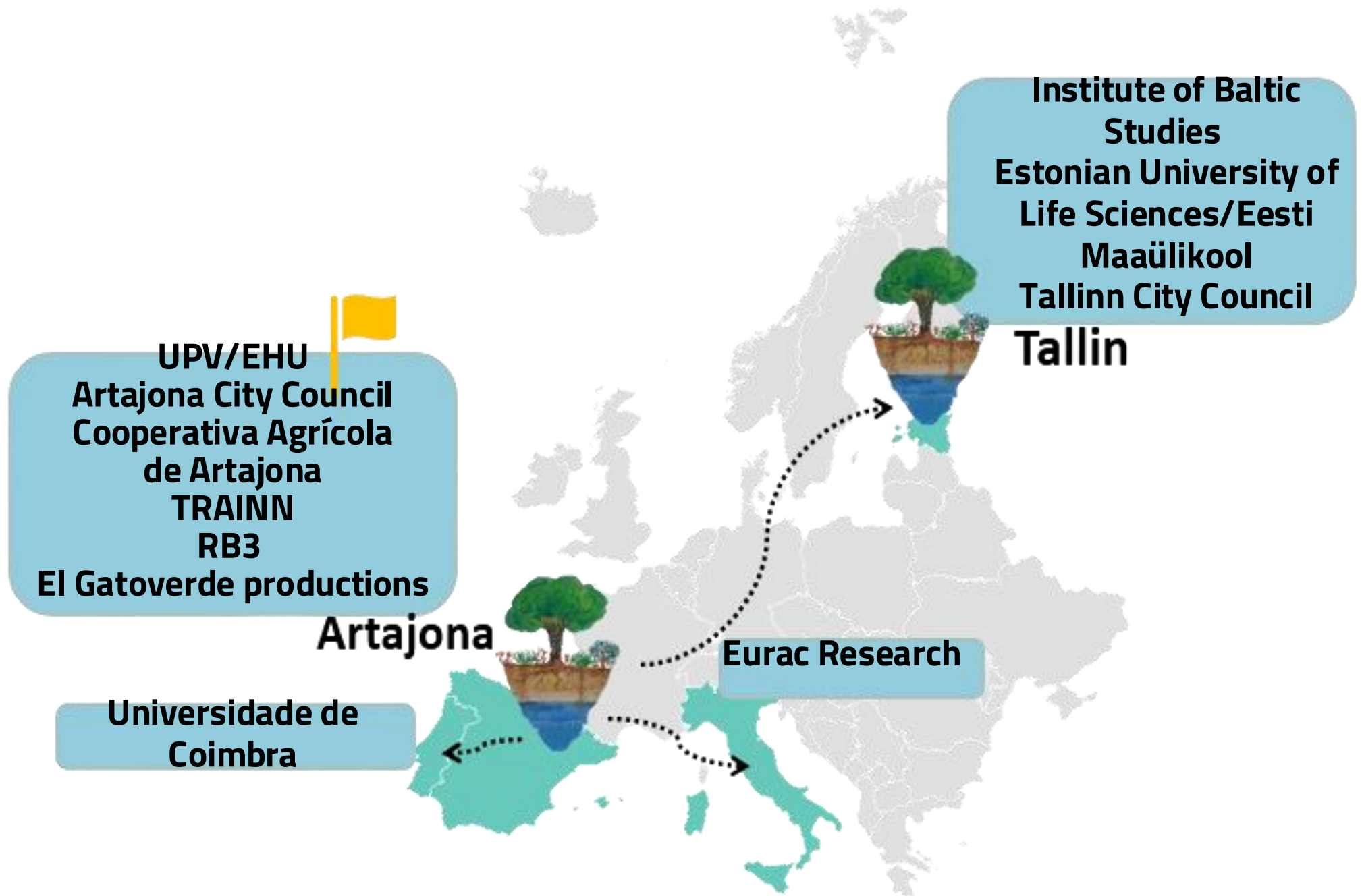
The **Food Forest** project is a two-year European initiative (2025–2027) funded by the **EIT Food**



WHAT WE DO

It aims to foster the establishment of **food forests** as an additional and sustainable food production solution that addresses **climate change** while **rebuilding ecosystems** and meeting human needs for **food** and **natural resources**

PARTNERS



Our consortium brings together 11 partners from Spain, Portugal, Italy and Estonia, combining expertise in **agriculture, landscape regeneration, landscape architecture, innovation, architecture, communication, gender equality, community development, and environmental research**

COLLABORATING PARTNERS

Pamplona Rotary Club

Sponsoring partner of the Artajona Food Forest and benefactor partner

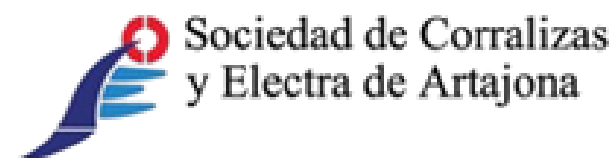


Rotary Forest y Rotary Green Revolution

Initiatives, from Rotary International as benefactors and strategic partners



Sociedad de Corralizas y Electra de Artajona



NEIGHBOURHOOD

Local residents, as the driving force behind the project



AGROFORESTRY

Roots n Permaculture

(training of active agents)



Estonian Permaculture



HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

Sabor a Banda S.L.U. Molino de Urdániz



SUPERMARKETS

UNIALCO, S.L.U.
(Supermercados BM y SUPER AMARA)



Grupo VENTA BIOD-VENTA

BIOD, S.A.



EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

IES Marqués de Villena

IES EGA

Centro Integrado Politécnico Tafalla

FP Agroforestal Villava

CP Urraca Reina

Mustamäe reaalgümnaasium

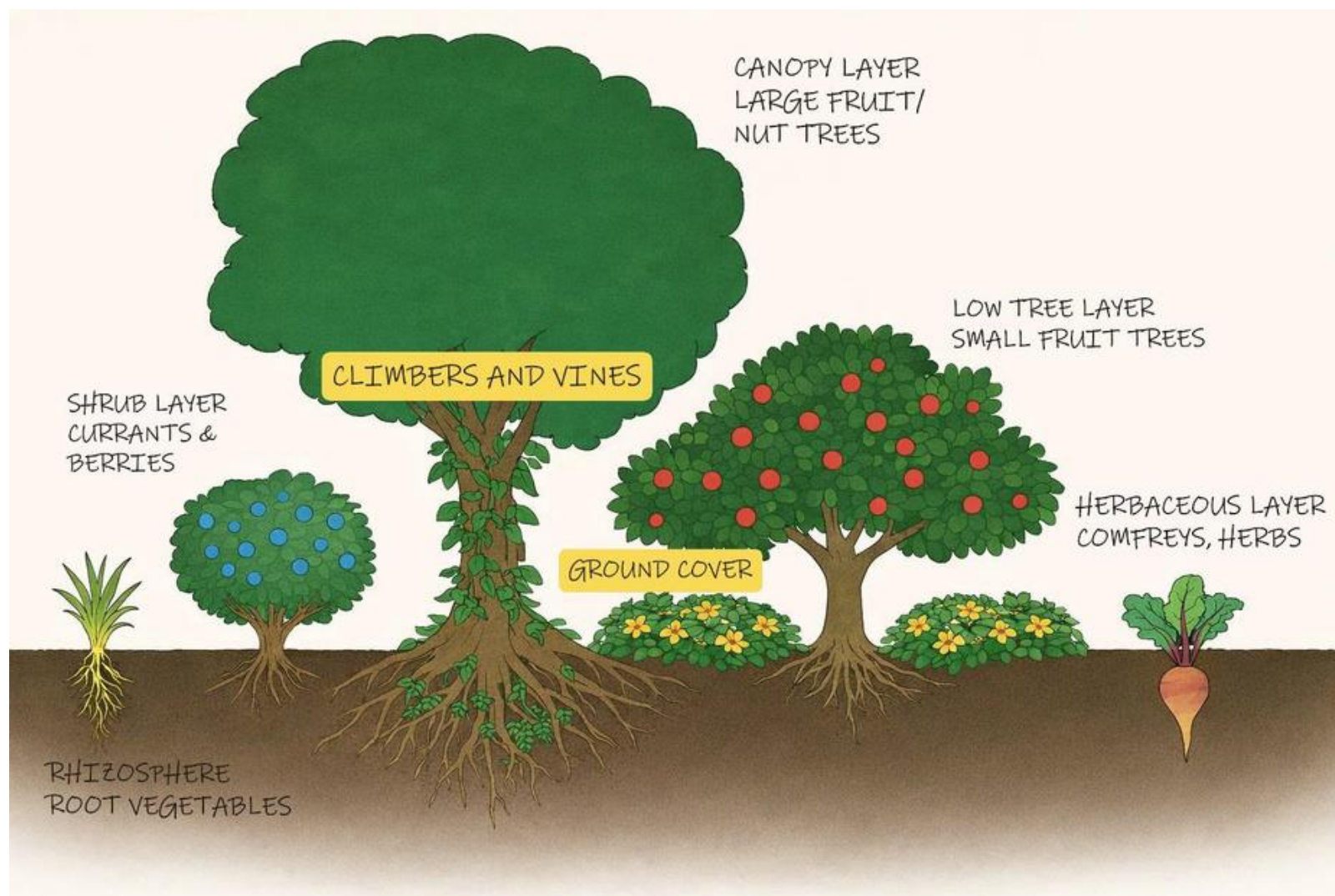
Arte gümnaasium

Tammetõru lasteaed

WHAT IS A FOOD FOREST?

Food Forest is a form of cultivation **inspired by nature** that mimics the functioning of a forest, but with the goal of producing food, herbal remedies, firewood, and other useful resources for **people and other living beings, while regenerating the soil and boosting biodiversity**. Unlike a natural forest, this approach allows for the selection of the plant species that will form the ecosystem, while also enabling support measures that help the system establish and function more quickly.

To design a food forest following **permaculture principles**, it is important to take into account a set of ethical and design principles. These aim to create a balanced, self-sufficient, resilient, and regenerative system that **cares for both the environment and people**. We can see the production happening in several layers



STRUCTURE OF THE PROJECT

**FOOD FOREST
AS A
BUSINESS
MODEL**

**EDUCATIONAL
PROJECT**



**PARTICIPATORY
PROCESSES**

CO-CREATION

**CREATION OF A
NETWORK OF
COMMUNITY
FOOD FORESTS
LIVING LABS
EDUCATIONAL
HUBS**

STRUCTURE OF THE PROJECT

1

Co-creation of the Physical Space and the European Network of Community Food Forests

Within the project, **two Community Food Forests (CFFs)** will be co-created to serve as pilot experiences and inspiring models for future initiatives that will join the European Network of Community Food Forests, which we will also develop.

These two forests will be located in a **countryside environment** in **Artajona (Spain)**, and in a **city environment** in **Tallinn (Estonia)**, urban environment, and will be designed following the principles of **Permaculture**, a way of planning and acting that aims to meet human needs while **caring for nature, other living beings, and the planet**



Project Scaling

The Community Food Forests of Artajona and Tallinn will serve as pilot models and starting points for the creation of 15 new forests during a scale-up phase of the project. To achieve this, during the first stage we commit to:

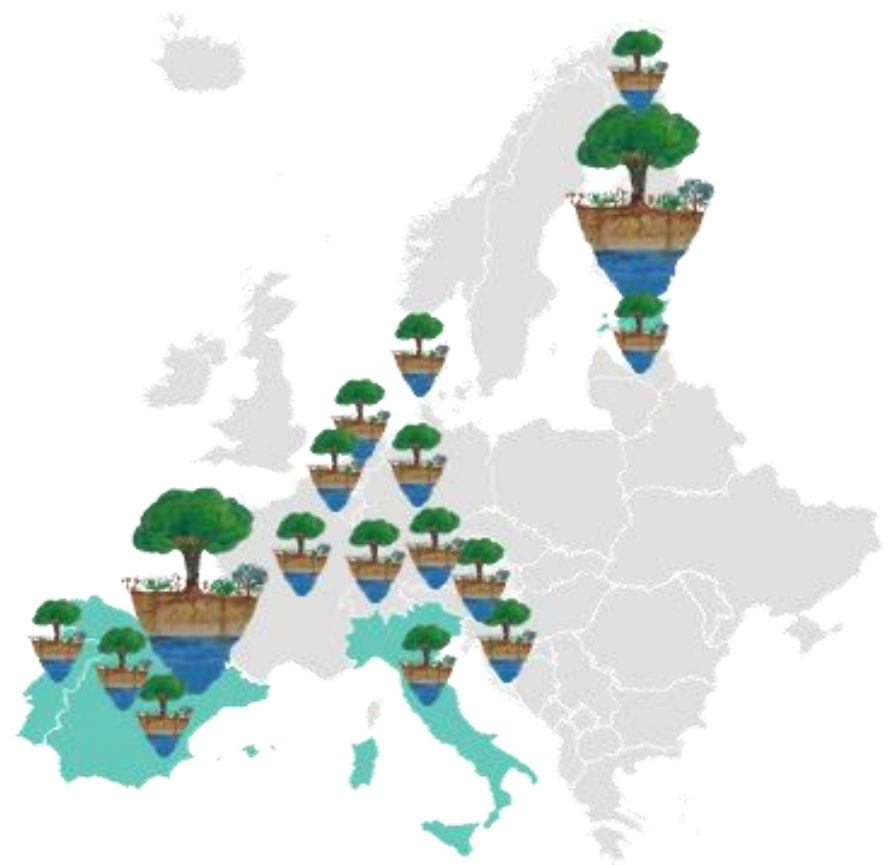
Identifying suitable physical spaces

Identifying and supporting the local communities that will manage them

Providing training in food forest design and permaculture

Exploring potential funding sources to make them a reality

The CFFs of Artajona, Tallinn, and the 15 new sites—together with other similar initiatives that wish to join—will form part of the **future European Network of Community Food Forests**. Furthermore, these 17 forests will operate as a network of Living Labs and Educational Platforms, offering multiple opportunities to participate in research, training, and hands-on learning projects across diverse fields. This network will provide a valuable research and learning platform, reflecting the diversity of climates and local conditions throughout the continent



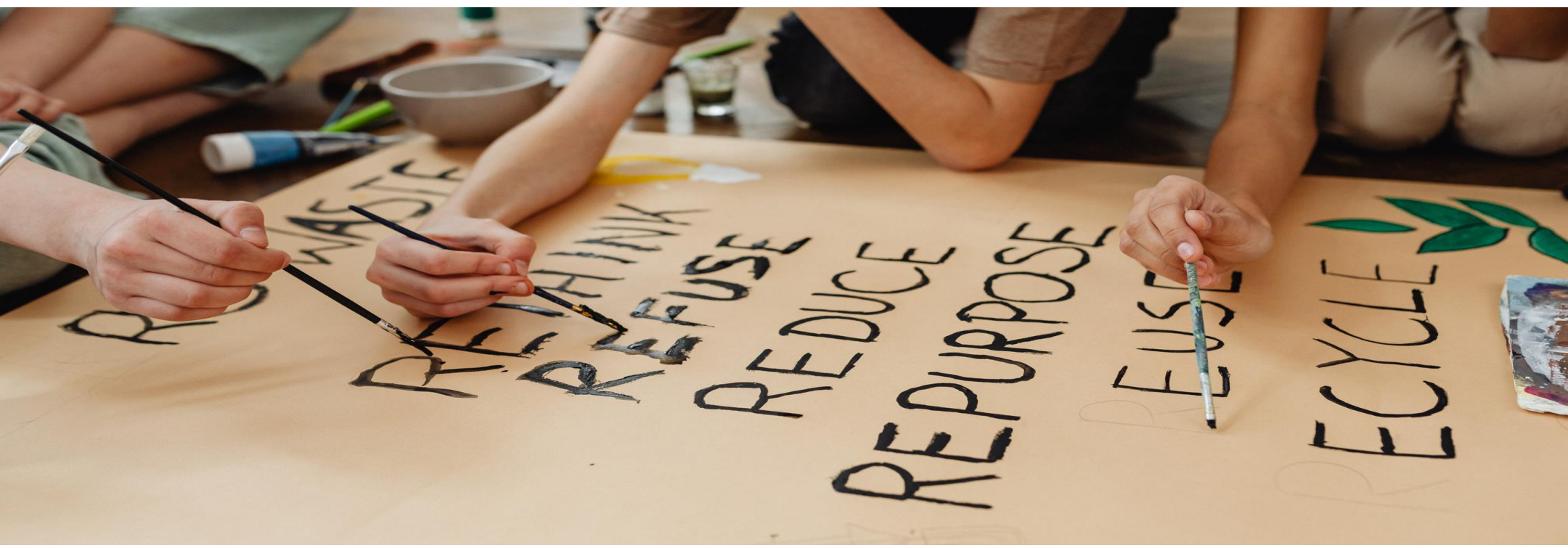
This group of activities aims to use the Community Food Forest (CFF) as an educational tool, targeted both at the general public and, especially, at students. Through it, topics such as **permaculture, food production, environmental care, healthy eating, sustainability, diversity, gender equality and respect for nature** and others will be addressed. All activities carried out throughout the project will have a participatory approach and will be implemented using co-creation techniques, fostering collaboration, shared learning, and active involvement of participants

Schools

General public

Educational materials

Outreach



Schools

Bringing Research Closer to Schools

Primary and secondary schools

A **cascade education model** will be applied in Artajona. This means that students will receive theoretical and practical training on various topics related to the food forest, such as **permaculture**, **sustainability**, or **organic production**, with the goal of enabling them to share what they have learned with their peers, families, and friends. Once trained, these students will become citizen scientists, responsible for collecting information on consumer interest in products from the food forests.

In the Estonian context, outreach activities with schools will be carried out, including class-based exercises and educational sessions related to food forest, ensuring the involvement of students

Students will also learn to analyse, interpret, and communicate the data collected, developing skills useful for both personal and academic growth

Vocational training centers

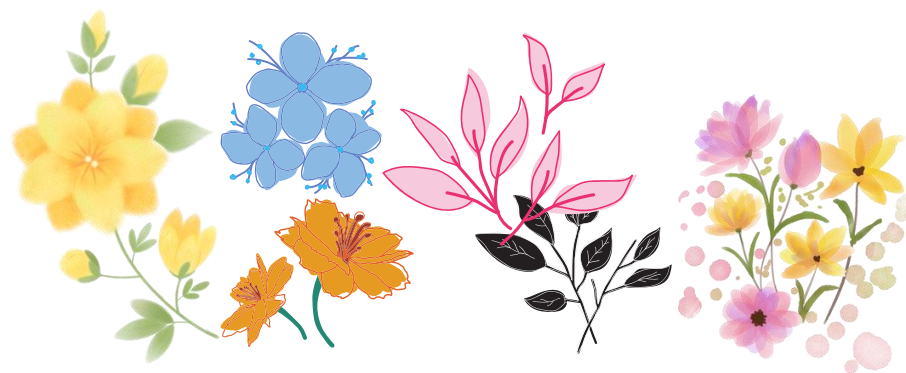
Students will be introduced to the world of **applied research**, receiving initial training and guidance while developing small research projects related to their fields of study and the functioning of the food forest, where they can directly apply what they have learned

General public

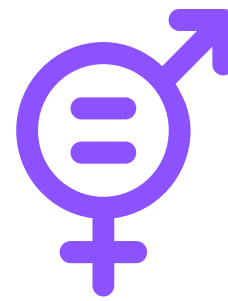
Through workshops and practical activities, the project aims to share knowledge with the local community on topics related to **food forests, healthy eating, sustainability, the environment, diversity, gender equality, and other essential values for respectful and sustainable coexistence**. These activities will not only allow participants to learn but also to share their own knowledge and experiences, create a space for exchange and active participation, and strengthen the social fabric around the CFF



One of the **key objectives** is to recover and value traditional knowledge about **edible and medicinal plants** historically used in the area, connecting the present with the wisdom of past generations



Gender equality



One of the transversal objectives of the Food Forest project is to advance **gender equality** by strategically integrating a **gender perspective** across its three core pillars:

Environmental innovation

The project aligns with European priorities by recognizing and recovering the strategic **role of women** in the green transition, leveraging their knowledge and stewardship within the agri-food sector.



DID YOU
KNOW?

It has mainly been women who held and passed on traditional knowledge about edible and medicinal plants

Social and educational innovation

The project addresses structural exclusion by empowering over half the population, making women's presence, needs, and knowledge visible while using education as a fundamental tool to **dismantle gender stereotypes** and build an **equitable society**

Economic innovation

The project's commitment to gender equality is embedded in its approach to economic innovation, which challenges conventional models by acknowledging that women often prioritize economic stability, environmental conservation, and aesthetic values over pure profitability. This perspective opens the door to **developing business models aligned with a non-monetary vision of the economy**, helping to **reduce existing gender gaps** and fostering a more inclusive and sustainable economic framework

Educational materials

Another goal of the project is to develop educational materials for schools wishing to join this initiative. These resources will facilitate classroom activities on topics such as **food forests, sustainability, healthy eating, and environmental care**, always promoting these themes from a perspective grounded in **equality and inclusion**



Inspiring healthy and sustainable food
choices and agrifood careers

Additionally, educational materials will be created for the **European FOOD EDUCATORS program**, providing teaching resources that help educators integrate these topics into their curricula in an accessible, practical, and engaging way for students



Outreach

The project will be disseminated nationally and internationally to raise awareness about community food forests and the activities carried out in Artajona and Tallinn. As part of this outreach, a 30–40 minute documentary will be produced, expected to be broadcast on digital platforms and television channels. Short informational videos will also be created for social media and other communication channels



Furthermore, scientific articles and accessible informational materials for the general public will be produced. The project team will participate in conferences and scientific meetings to present the work and achievements, highlighting the central role of **Artajona and Tallinn** as examples of **innovation in sustainability and community engagement**

To support dissemination, the **Rotary Club of Pamplona and Rotary International**, through their initiatives **Rotary Forest and Rotary Green Revolution**, will actively collaborate in promoting the project



Development of a Profitable Business Model for Food Forests



Through a participatory listening process involving all relevant stakeholders—such as farmers, consumers, policymakers, retailers, and others—the project aims to identify current challenges and conditions that prevent farmers from adopting food forests (non-community) as a viable business model for food production.

This consultation will gather extensive information to understand the necessary changes to make **food forests a economically viable alternative**

Based on the results, a recommendation report will be prepared for policymakers, aiming to guide public actions and policies that facilitate **food forests** as a **realistic and sustainable option** for farmers interested in this model





Together, we are working to:

Demonstrate the environmental, social, and economic **benefits of CFFs**

Recover **traditional knowledge of edible plants**

Highlighting the **role of women** in the agroforestry sector

Co-create **training and educational resources**

Generate **policy recommendations** to support large-scale adoption

Lay the groundwork for a **European Network of Community Food Forests**

As we move forward, we are looking to connect with other European and international initiatives working on **sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, climate adaptation, community food systems, gender equality and nature-based solutions**. We welcome collaborations that can amplify impact, integrate knowledge, and strengthen Europe's transition towards resilient food systems

Let's work together to cultivate resilient landscapes and empowered communities across Europe

eurac
research

UPV/EHU **caviar**
calidad de vida en arquitectura
quality of life in architecture

TRA.INN  Tallinn

 Institute
of Baltic
Studies

 ATEC

 Estonian University
of Life Sciences



UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA



 el
gitoverde
PRODUCCIONES

R3 regenerar
renovar
repensar
birsortu
berritu
berbizi
INNOVACIÓN URBANA INTEGRADA



 Sociedad de Corralizas
y Electra de Artajona

 COOPERATIVA AGRÍCOLA
ARTAJONA

**Rotary
NetZero**
Go Carbon Neutral 

Rotary
Pamplona 

**Rotary
Forests**
Artajona Food Forest

**Rotary
green**
Revolution 

 **Food**



Co-funded by the
European Union

EIT Food is backed by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union