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WILD PLANT - Forest Plant Wild Harvesting Learning in Europe

The objective of the project was to develop the necessary methodologies for implementing an effective training on wild harvesting of non wood forests products (NWFP), focusing specially in medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP).
 Four research and training organizations from Lithuania, Portugal, Spain and Turkey developed the necessary methodologies.

Public interest in collecting and using Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) leads to the importance of understanding the best training model that may provide knowledge of sustainable wild harvesting and usage of MAP.

There is a large quantity of information about usage of medicinal and aromatic plants in several books and websites, however, for proper identification of plant species the advice of a specialist and the contact with living plants are essential.

Project tasks:

- Analysis of research, technology transfer and training
- Analysis of teaching methodologies and tools, the existing adults' training and the future projects on sustainable wild harvesting.
- Analysis of the existing business related to wild plants' harvesting: supply of products and services, and challenges for adults' training.
- Study the good practices and proposals for future projects and implement training on sustainable wild harvesting.

Good Practices for wild harvesting training on MAP should provide learners with knowledge, practical skills and qualifications to perform sustainable wild harvesting of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

Which tools for supporting trainers, learners and professionals are most useful?

Workshops Technical Visits

- Reports
- Successful stories and entrepreneurial business
 - MAP collection in Portugal and Lithuania
 - Čepkeliai Nature Reserve
 - Herb and spice shops
 - MAP garden at L'Avenc de Taverte



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF PORTUGAL

Knowledge of plant biology, ecology, botanical identification, bioactive compounds and storage patterns, theoretical and practical skills in plant harvesting and post-harvesting technologies, knowledge of market and business framework, as well as knowledge of legal acts and legislative measures regulating wild plant harvesting, are essential for professional harvesting and sustainable usage of MAP resources.

Target learners are defined considering Good Practices of wild harvesting training in MAP:

- People harvesting raw material for their personal use.
- Local population employed by a farm.
- Groups of harvesters commissioned by a buyer.
- Professional harvesters.
- Enterprises supplying raw material for end products.
- Forest owners.
- Promoters of MAP projects.
- Policy makers.

Other criteria applied for learners selection in Portugal:

- Training in MAP wild harvesting addressed to collectors
- Origin, experience, knowledge and skills, age, logistic conditions of operators (collectors and/or buyers)

The main objectives of training modules:

- Importance of MAP,
- Rules and Principles for collecting
- Guidelines for collecting
- Practical exercises to trainees

Subjects

- Knowledge of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, as a resource
- Use of Portuguese flora.
- The role of wild medicinal plants in the daily life of local communities.
- Portuguese medicinal and aromatic plants wild harvesting, for commercial and non-commercial use.
- Laws, regulations and administrative requirements at international, national and local levels.
- Sustainable principles for wild harvesting.
- Handling the plant material during and after collection.



A good practice of wild harvesting of carqueja (*Pterospartium tridentatum*)

References:
 J.Radusiene, E. Moré, A.M.Barata, V.Lopes, F.Rocha, N.Sekeroglu. 2013. 5th meeting report Plant Wild Grundtvig Project. Good practices for training of medicinal and aromatic plants wild harvesting. 11-14th June, Forest Sciences Center of Catalonia, Solsona (Spain)
<http://plantwild.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/report-conclusions-grundtvig-plant-wild.pdf>

Sambucus nigra L. WH TRAINING

Which plant parts, how much and when to collect

Plant parts collected	Maximum percentage that may be collected	Harvesting Periods
Flowers	20% of the flowers of each plant and additionally 50% of the whole population	March - August
Fruits	20% of the total fruit	August - October
Leaves	20% of the leaves	June - July
Barks		Autumn

To provide learners with guidelines for handling plant material after harvesting

An example of wild harvesting training with elder (*Sambucus nigra*)