

Interreg Alpine Space project RESPOnD – Climate resilience alpine wine orchards

Alpine Wine Orchards (AWO) represent a remarkable blend of culture, economy, and ecology. Nestled on steep slopes with minimal mechanization, these small-scale and often terraced vineyards offer much more than just wine production: they protect territories, promote tourism, create jobs, and preserve local traditions and communities. However, this precious heritage now faces increasing threats. Intensive competition for wine production, exorbitant management costs, and abandonment of rural areas loom large; and climate change exacerbates these challenges, posing additional risks to the fragile socioecological system of AWO. In light of these pressing issues, urgent action is needed to improve the resilience of AWO and make the wine sector fit for future challenges. The RESPOnD project has the ambition to mainstream Ecosystem-based Adaption (EbA) approaches to address the multiple challenges faced by traditional wine orchards in the Alpine Space. By focusing on synergies between nature conservation, climate mitigation, and adaptation, RESPOnD's overall aim is to develop and test cost-effective, stakeholder-driven solutions to build a climate resilient wine sector. Collaborating closely with winegrowers, sector professionals and cooperatives, wine consortia, and public authorities – the RESPOnD target groups – the project will: (i) Identify AWO typologies to map important Ecosystem Services (ES) and the values they provide, and to analyse the expected impacts and risks of climate change; (ii) Co-design and test EbA approaches in different pilot actions through an innovative living lab approach, ensuring the scalability and transferability of results; and (iii) empower the project's target groups in implementing EbA approaches and in building a climate-resilient wine sector via a suite of tailored online information & learning tools, dedicated resources and targeted dissemination and communication activities.

Project duration is 36 months starting from 1st September 2024.