

I European Land Stewardship Congress

Land: Quality of Life

Venue: Cosmocaixa

Location: Barcelona, Spain

Dates: 05th-08th November 2014

Website: www.landstewardship.eu/congress

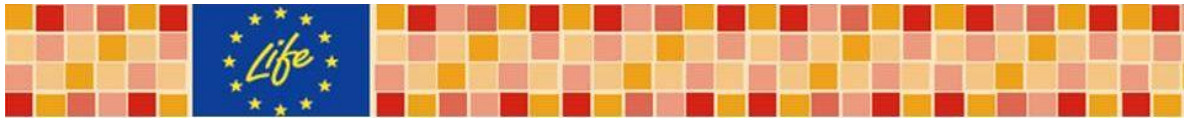
Contact: Pilar Rodríguez info@landstewardship.eu

Background

The Congress is organised in the framework of the LandLife project (LIFE + INF/ES/540) which aims to boost land stewardship as a useful tool for nature conservation and biodiversity and it is formed by five partners: Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori- xct, as a leader partner; Conservatoire d'espaces naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon (CEN L-R); Legambiente Lombardia; Eurosite and Prysm.

More specifically, the LandLife project aims to convey the value of land stewardship among biodiversity conservation stakeholders at European level, especially within the Western Mediterranean:

- to communicate the value of land stewardship to the general public, institutions, land planners and to specific stakeholders as an effective and successful tool for nature and biodiversity conservation.
- to make land stewardship an attractive mechanism for conservation bodies, landowners, and local and regional governments, linking with new opportunities for rural development, marketing of local products, boosting in ecotourism and other benefits.
- to train organisations involved in land stewardship.
- to contrast soil consumption by raising awareness about land value at a European level among public bodies, citizens, no profit actors, land owners.
- to communicate land stewardship among the general public, in order to involve more people in biodiversity conservation, and a more sustainable model of land use.
- To ensure these objectives, Landlife project is focus in two different types of actions: training organisations involved in land stewardship and raise awareness of the concept



amongst the general public, in order to involve more people in biodiversity conservation and develop a more sustainable model of land use.

What is Land Stewardship?

Land stewardship is a strategy that intends to involve owners and users in the conservation and proper use of natural, cultural and landscape resources and values with voluntary agreements between landowners and land stewardship organisations.

These voluntary agreements aim to maintain and recover the natural environment and landscape.

Land stewardship organisations are public or private entities that take an active part in preserving land and its values through land stewardship mechanisms.

Congress Mission and objectives

The Congress aims to facilitate the necessary dialogue and work to go forward in the development of land stewardship as a useful tool for biodiversity conservation and natural resources management. The Congress will promote an interactive discussion, generate ideas and encourage exchanges of experiences and knowledge, as well as to suggest directions and proposals for the future of land stewardship in Europe.

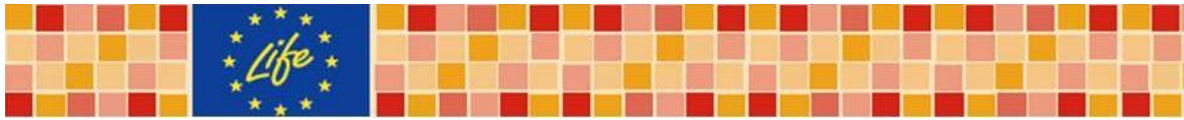
Stewardship means – in its broadest sense – people taking care of the Earth, and this idea of co-responsibility between landowners and users, public and private organisations, and civil society to manage and protect land and natural resources as commons, has inspired the Congress' title: ***Land: quality of Life***.

The title reflects the necessity to find a balance between land use, preserving the value of different human activities, and the need to preserve the natural environment. The Congress aims to facilitate the necessary dialogue and work to go forward in the achievement of this objective through the development of land stewardship.

This means the recognition of a common which is both a collective and natural resources to be preserved in a sustainable manner.

The First European Land Stewardship Congress aims to:

- Publicise the theoretical and legal bases for land stewardship as a strategy for nature and biodiversity conservation in Europe;
- Provide and widely communicate tools and recommendations for the implementation of land stewardship;
- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices between land stewardship organisations and other stakeholders;



- Promote European land stewardship models at the international level;
- Promote innovation and entrepreneurship in land stewardship;
- Promote and raise awareness on soil as a common good;
- Improve land stewardship's visibility in public policies in Europe;
- Contribute to the further development of land stewardship at both the regional and the European level through the signing of the Barcelona Declaration on Land Stewardship, to be debated and formalised during the Congress.

Congress thematic

The Congress is focused on six themes:

- Land stewardship and European and sectoral policies;
- Technical implementation of Land Stewardship;
- Networking & the involvement of stakeholders and citizens in Land Stewardship;
- Funding Land Stewardship;
- Communicating Land Stewardship;
- Enhancing innovation in Land Stewardship.

For more information please visit: <http://www.landstewardship.eu/congress>

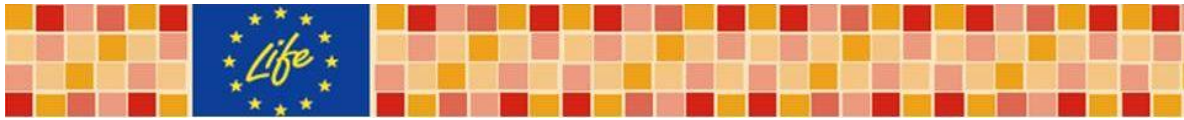
Activities

Workshops, round tables, poster exhibitions, video presentations and networking spaces are some of the activities organised to facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge between participants. These will be centered on the Congress' different topics and themes.

During the Congress, people will learn from each other's experiences, will discuss different perspectives of land stewardship and will be able to propose innovations for and improvements to the implementation of stewardship as a conservation tool.

The debates will bring together perspectives from a wide range of different actors: public institutions, private organisations, NGOs, landowners, various land users, etc. Many best practice examples and cases studies of land stewardship will be presented.

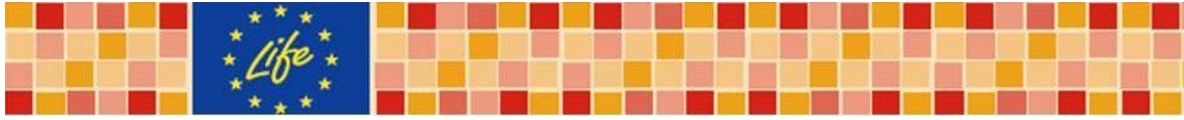
Additionally, a full day field trip is planned for the 08th November. During the trip different land stewardship experiences will be visited.



Target actors

The Congress will bring together experts on nature and biodiversity conservation and a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- Land stewardship organisations (public, private, non-profit);
- Landowners;
- Land users;
- Site Managers working on nature conservation within and outside Natura 2000 sites;
- Staff working in outreach / public information functions;
- Staff working directly to support the implementation of Natura 2000 and other protected areas;
- Biodiversity conservation experts;
- Researchers and students in ecology, geography, conservation biology, environmental history and policy;
- Staff working on regional cooperation and rural and landscape development, at a more strategic level.
- Stakeholders from local communities;
- Local and national authorities;
- Elected representatives and politicians;
- Volunteers working to conserve nature on a local and/or regional level;
- People interested on land stewardship, nature conservation and biodiversity.



LandLife partners



The Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori – XCT, is a not-for-profit organisation working to foster land stewardship as a conservation strategy for the natural, cultural and landscape resources and values of Catalonia and its environment. www.custodiaterritori.org



CEN L-R is an ONG. Its main mission is to supply sustainable land management, including empowering owners and users in heritage conservation and natural resources. Its policy tool is to obtain the right to use or possession of plots of land in Languedoc-Roussillon. www.cenlr.org



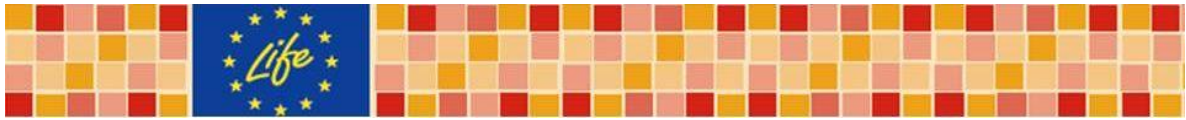
Legambiente Lombardia is a non-profit organisation whereby a group of individuals, joined together to improve and protect the environment. Legambiente Lombardia performs its activities on a regional basis, with more than 100 local groups. www.legambiente.org – www.custodiadelterritorio.org



Eurosite's mission is to exchange, enhance and promote expertise in the management of sites for nature, throughout Europe. It is one of the largest pan-European networks bringing together governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as private bodies, in active collaboration for the practical management of Europe's nature. www.eurosite.org



PRYSMA is a Spanish company formed by a group of professionals with over 15 years experience in process consulting, auditing and training, aimed at improving corporate governance, quality and environment in all sectors of the economy. www.prysmas.es



With the support of:



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government
of Catalonia



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO
DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN
Y MEDIO AMBIENTE



Fundación Biodiversidad



Obra Social "la Caixa"

With the collaboration of:



**Fundació
Catalunya
La Pedrera**

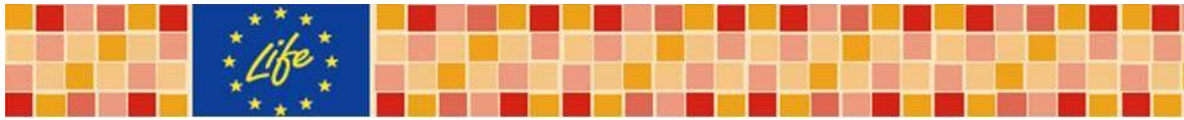


**Diputació
Barcelona**
xarxa de municipis



Diputació Tarragona





Transports Metropolitans
de Barcelona

