



RDP Projects Database (PIKSE)

Postcard Template (MS Word 2003)
Version 2a – September 2010

Project Title: Small scale projects for combating chestnut blight

'At a glance'

Notes

Project Theme:

Choose an item:

Environment and Sustainable Land Management

Please select **only one theme** per project using the **drop-down menu**. Click once on the grey <text box> for options.

Sub-theme:

Sustainable use of forestry land

Please enter **one sub-theme** into the grey <text box>. Please ensure that the sub-theme corresponds to the Project Theme above – see **Annex 2** of the Guidance Note

Keywords:

Forest ecosystem

Forest management

Agroforestry

High nature value

Nature conservation

Please select **up to 5 keywords** per project from **Annex 3** of the Guidance Note and insert into the grey <text fields> as appropriate.

Country/Region:

Greece - Regions of West Macedonia, Central Macedonia, West Greece, Crete, North Aegean

Please insert the **name of the RDP territory** where the **project is located**

Final Beneficiary Type(s):

Choose an item: .Other

Choose an item: .Other

Please insert **up to two final beneficiary types** using the **drop-down menu**. Click once on the grey <text box> for options.

Project Cost:

Choose an item: > €500 000

Please select **one of the cost ranges** from the **drop-down menu**

RDP Measure(s):

227

Please **insert the RDP measure code** into the grey <text boxes>. Provide **ONLY** the numeric code (e.g. 312). Please **DO NOT** insert the title of the measure

Duration:

12.2011

Please insert the **official project approval date** (month/year)

12.2015

Please insert the **project completion date** – actual or estimated (month/year)

Last Updated:

14 March 2012

Please use the grey <text box> to insert the **date (dd/mm/yyyy)** when this postcard is completed.

Postcard Author:

Athanasia Meremeti

Please insert the **name of the person that produced the postcard**

Main Postcard Text

Please note that you may enter the text below in English or any other official EU language. The ENRD Contact will arrange the necessary translation into English.

Background (maximum 150 words):

Chestnut blight, or chestnut bark disease, is caused by an introduced fungus, *Cryphonectria parasitica*. The fungus enters wounds, grows in and under the bark, and eventually kills the cambium all the way around the twig, branch, or trunk. Sprouts develop from a burl-like tissue at the base of the tree called the 'root collar,' which contains dormant embryos. Sprouts grow, become wounded and infected, and die, and the process starts all over again.

Biological control for the chestnut blight was implemented in the chest forests of Athos (1998-2000) covering 70.000 Ha and had very positive eradication result. A similar biological control was also carried out in chest forests under the Forest Inspection of Achaia (2005-2007) and is already effective considering the hypovirulent rate is 60-70%.

The previous Rural Development Programme (3rd Period) biological control was implemented in the following Prefectures: Drama, Thessaloniki, Kilkis, Pellas, Pierias, Arta, Ioannina, Larisa, Karditsa, Aitolokarnania, Evia, Evritania, Arkadia, Lakonia and Messinia.

Objective (maximum 100 words):

In order to combat this disease we focus on biological control through the use of a Hypovirus type with double-stranded RNA, which after attacking the fungus turns it from virulent into hypovirulent. This biological control is carried out after research conducted by the Forest Ecosystem Protection & Wildlife Laboratory of the National Agricultural Research Foundation NAGREF.

This will also be regarded as a new measure covering the Prefectures: Kozani, Florina, Kastoria, Achaia, Ileia, Serres, Lesvos and Chania, which were not integrated in the previous programming period.

Action has the target to protect 2.260 ha of chestnut tree regions.

Main Activities (maximum 150 words):

- A major priority is to undertake a study which will determine the intensity and extent of the infestation of chestnut trees.
- The placement of the biological paste onto the trees will be assigned to contractors with teams relative in size to the amount of paste that will be potentially placed around the cankers of the trees, so that each year, for a total period of three years, the paste will suffice to cover the required area. The main objective of this action is so that biological control will be applied to hypovirulent fungus for three consecutive years between the months of May and July each year.

Results and Benefits (maximum 150 words):

Biological control of chestnut blight which has attacked many chestnut forests of our country will contribute to conserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change and improving the aesthetic value of forests. The immediate beneficiaries of the action taken will be the environment and the inhabitants of the mountain regions whose living standards are related directly to forest productivity. Other users of natural resources such as public administration, farmers, and urban inhabitants will also benefit indirectly.

This project is effective since its application will heal the infected chestnut trees and chestnut forests of the country and further infection will be prevented.

Lessons Learnt (maximum 100 words):

Further Information (enter text or attach any additional documents):

Project Location:

Kozani, Florina and Kastoria - Region of West Macedonia

Please provide more **specific information on the geographical location/scope** of the project e.g. a project in Estonia might be described as in Võru County, South Estonia

This document is protected, you can only enter text in the spaces provided

Serres - Region of Central Macedonia Achaia and Ileia - Region of West Greece Lesvos - Region of North Aegean Chania - Region of Crete	
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Project Cost:

2.000.000,00 € (no private funds, 100% public expenditure)	Please insert the total project cost, including if known the breakdown into EU + National + Private funds
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Other Additional Information:

Contact Information:

Project Website:

www.agrotikianaptixi.gr (for the whole programme RDP Greece 2007-2013)

Contact (Name and E-mail):

Athanasia Meremeti, ameremeti@mou.gr

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Additional Contact Details:

Language(s) for communication:

Greek, English

Please return the completed postcard to postcards@enrd.eu together with a) any relevant photographs and b) any additional documents that you wish to be linked to the postcards.