**Faculty:** Faculty of Agriculture

**Project title:** Integrated selection, protection and promotion of Balkan forest genetic resources with aesthetic values

**Main donator:** European Commission, Greece – Macedonia IPA Programme for Cross-border collaboration

**Period of realization:** 22.12.2011 – 22.03.2013

**Total budget of the project:** 258.140,08 EUR

**UGD role within the project:** Project leader for Republic of Macedonia

**UGD coordinator of the project:** Prof. Sasa Mitrev

**UGD contact person:** Prof. Sasa Mitrev, Fidanka Trajkova

**Project summary:**

The aim of the project is improvement and reinforcement of the natural resources in the cross-border region between Republic of Macedonia and Greece, as well as their promotion and protection.

The current project is supporting the integration process of the Balkans in the area of joint fundamental and applicative research of natural forest populations, with the basic objective for their presentation to the public, which perceptively will transform the Balkan market from import to export. Jointly, there is promotion of the importance of forestry genetic resources as natural heritage and the necessity for their protection in the cross-border region between Republic of Macedonia and Greece.

The project objectives will be accomplished by several activities: genetic material collection from the natural population of trees with aesthetic values, design and establishment of botanical garden (arboretum) at Faculty of Agriculture, Goce Delcev University. The botanical garden will have educational purposes for students and will be open for visitors.

**Partner institutions:** Aristoteli University, Thessaloniki, Greece

**Short description of the realized activities:** The project is in the first stage of implementation.