

**Faculty:** Faculty of Agriculture

**Project title:** Selection, protection and promotion of Balkan food forest species – FOOD FOREST PARKS

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

**Period of realization:** 01.07.2013 – 01.04.2015

**Total budget of the project:** 405.408,00 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 conservation and promotion of the indigenous fruiting forest plants in the cross-border region between Republic of Macedonia and Greece.

The expected project results are:

- 1) Promotion of forests as food option;
- 2) Attracting the interest and sensitivity of public opinion to fruit forest plants as well as the interest of professionals and hobbyists;
- 3) The Food Forest Parks will be used for environmental education for schools, university students and scientists. The above categories could attend and be trained to the whole procedure of cloning and regeneration of the plant material;
- 4) Development of knowledge and technology in new fields of basic and applied research and approaching new trends of marketing and through the exchange of personnel from one partner to another so as to exchange know-how in protection and propagation;
- 5) Transformation of the Balkan fruit forest plant market from importing to exporting and the promotion of tourism of the mountainous regions by exhibiting the plant species of those regions.

**Partner institutions:** Aristotle University, Laboratory for forest genetics and plant breeding, Thessaloniki, Greece

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