



The project, which is supported by the European Innovation Council and SME Executive Agency (EISMEA) under the Single Market Program (SMP), is carried out by a consortium consisted of Türkiye-Italy-Spain under the coordination of Izmir Commodity Exchanges (ICE). The project, which will be implemented for 36 months between 16 May 2024 - 15 May 2027, aims to improve the production and management competencies of SMEs operating in the field of olive growing in 3 implementation countries and to increase their adaptation to technological methods and to improve their sustainability by creating clusters.

## General Objectives of the project are:

- 1. Reaching out 150 SMEs in olive sector to develop their sustainability skills in the selected themes,
- 2. To create and cultivate 'European Agri-food Sustainability Cluster Partnerships' aimed at facilitating the adoption of the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices among small and medium-sized enterprises,
- 3. To decrease the vulnerability of food production systems to external factors, such as adverse weather events linked to climate change, while harnessing the Farm to Fork Strategy's goal of fostering sustainability,
- 4. To enhance the adoption of resource-efficient technologies by SMEs by identifying and implementing measures to enhance the efficiency of material utilization in processes; incl. preventing and reducing (food) waste and losses,
- 5. To stabilize the food supply chain, reduce production costs, and foster a more competitive and resilient marketplace by developing and implementing strategies to improve resource efficiency and reduce food waste.

## Activities to be implemented:

- Establishing a sustainable assessment methodology for the olive sector
- Identification of good examples that have already been implemented
- Establishing a cooperation network between agri-food [HR1] technology centers
- Field visits in Türkiye, Italy and Spain
- Holistic support activities (awareness raising for SME employees, trainings on resource efficiency, waste management, cleaner production approaches and process management)
- One-on-One Support Activities (mentoring support by Green Transformation Experts)

## At the end of the project, it is aimed at achieving:

- Improving the sustainability competencies of a total of 150 SMEs,
- Establishment of 50 cooperation partnerships,
- Identifying 10 existing good practice examples and promoting them among other SMEs
- To develop 35 good practice examples between olive and olive oil producers from Türkiye, Italy, Spain.

Project Coordinator: <u>Izmir Commodity Exchanges</u> (ICE)

## **Project Consortium Partners:**

- Izmir Agriculture Technology Center (ITTM)
- Unioncamere Puglia
- Centro Tecnológico Nacional de la Conserva (CTNC)
- Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM Bari)
- Camera di Commercio e Industria Italiana per la Spagna (CCIS)