Re-thinking the Green Revolution in the Medieval Western Mediterranean (6th - 16th centuries)

Fact Sheet

Project Information

MEDGREENREV
Grant agreement ID: 101071726

Funded under
European Research Council (ERC)

DOI
10.3030/101071726

Start date
1 June 2023

End date
31 May 2029

Total cost
€ 8 520 592,00

EU contribution
€ 8 520 592,00

Coordinated by
UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA
Spain

Objective

As Mediterranean societies prepare for the impacts of climate change over the next few decades, a case study to inform their future resilience is associated with one of the defining events in world history: the emergence of Islam in the 7th century, the subsequent Arab (and later Berber) conquests of the southern and western Mediterranean, their associated population movements and the environmental adaptations that enabled these new societies to flourish. The introduction of new forms of agriculture that transformed the economies of the conquered regions has been previously framed as the “Green Revolution”. Moving beyond the limited focus of earlier research, with its restricted spatial and chronological scope, this project will
adopt an integrated ecological approach, encompassing plants, animals and soils, from production through to consumption, and compare the impact and legacy of environmental transformations associated with long-term societal change in the western Mediterranean (Iberia and Morocco), beyond the initial Arab/Berber conquests. Adopting a broader chronological span, from the century before the conquests through to the century after the dissolution of the last Islamic polity in Iberia, the transition from Islamic to Christian regimes in Iberia will be compared, for the first time, with the persistence of Islamic polities in northwest Africa, against the backdrop of climatic fluctuations. This will enable relationships between environmental transformations and sequences of political and demographic change to be effectively contextualised. The synergy between our groups will combine regional specialisms with a wealth of scientific expertise, enabling us to conduct the first long-term and inter-regional study of how conquest, migration and encounters with resident populations and landscapes drove environmental transformation in the western Mediterranean during this formative period in world history.

**Fields of science**

- humanities > history and archaeology > history
- social sciences > sociology > demography
- social sciences > political sciences > political transitions > revolutions
- agricultural sciences > agriculture, forestry, and fisheries > agriculture
- natural sciences > earth and related environmental sciences > atmospheric sciences > climatology > climatic changes

**Keywords**

- Geoarchaeology
- zooarchaeology
- archaeobotany
- palynology
- GIS
- multiculturalism
- state formation
- Mediterranean
- Iberia
- North Africa
- longue durée
- Arab conquest
- Medieval Green Revolution

**Programme(s)**

- HORIZON.1.1 - European Research Council (ERC)
Topic(s)

ERC-2022-SyG - ERC Synergy Grants

Call for proposal

ERC-2022-SYG

See other projects for this call

Funding Scheme

HORIZON-ERC-SYG - HORIZON ERC Synergy Grants

Coordinator

UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA

Net EU contribution
€ 2 251 502,31

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Region
Este > Cataluña > Barcelona

Links
Contact the organisation Website Participation in EU R&I programmes HORIZON collaboration network

Other funding
€ 0,00

Participants (6)
THE UNIVERSITY OF READING

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Net EU contribution
€ 2 526 323,54

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Other funding
€ 0,00

UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA

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Net EU contribution
€ 1 798 983,75

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Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links
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Other funding
€ 0,00
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

United Kingdom

Net EU contribution

€ 1 537 515,00

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London > Inner London — West > Camden and City of London

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

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Other funding

€ 0,00

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UNIVERSITAT DE VALENCIA

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Net EU contribution

€ 101 934,89

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Este > Comunitat Valenciana > Valencia/València

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

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Other funding

€ 0,00
UNIVERSIDAD DE MURCIA

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€ 79 946,26

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Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

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Other funding
€ 0,00

UNIVERSITAT BASEL

Switzerland
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Other funding
€ 0,00
UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Net EU contribution
€ 0,00

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Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

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Other funding
€ 0,00

EC signature date 18 April 2023
Last update: 8 June 2023

Permalink: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101071726

European Union, 2023