



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

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Union for the Mediterranean  
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الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

# REINWASTE

REmanufacture the food supply chain by testing INNOvative solutions for zero inorganic WASTE



## Countries:

Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Italy, Spain

## Target Groups:

Agrifood companies, agriculture clusters, research and innovative institutes

## Theme:

Waste Management

## Key Words:

Waste prevention, innovative solutions, agrifood supply chain

## Months:

25

## Budget:

€ 2,499,304.50

Inorganic materials (plastic film, nylon, greenhouse coverings, agrochemical packaging, food packaging, amongst others) are poorly recycled and occasionally abandoned in natural areas, damaging local ecosystems. To face this problem,

**REINWASTE** brought together a group of SMEs from the agrofood industry, public agencies, and technology centres and innovation centres to identify solutions for the management of inorganic waste in the agrifood sector.

## Objectives

The project is addressed to agrofood sector actors, agriculture clusters, research and innovation centres, and has the following objectives:

- Collect data on the waste flow and management at the plant/farm level
- Find suitable and affordable solutions to reduce inorganic waste in line with company needs and expectations.
- Run a feasible testing and experimentation on site.

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**Innovating to prevent waste disposal in the agrifood chain: a responsible investment for a more sustainable future**

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## Solutions

- Redesigning products and processes based on preventive solutions: promoting the reuse of materials, rethinking unnecessary packaging and logistics optimisation.
- Using biomaterials (i.g. biodegradable or compostable) in the production process (e.g. to substitute plastics used in greenhouse horticultural production) or that can be used in eco-design by developing innovative packaging.
- Managing waste through separation, appropriate conditioning, waste traceability systems and associative waste management models, amongst others.



## Recommendations

### Dairy Production

- Replacement of silage film and plastic ballast bags
- Replacement of plastic baling nets and wires
- Light-weighting of plastic films to wrap cheeses
- Replacement of plastics with biodegradable materials
- Replacement of composite materials with new nanomaterials to improve the recycling of collected packaging
- Adoption of new infra-red technology to prevent disruptive controls on packaging in the processing line

### Meat Production

- Bio-degradable foil
- Eco-design: use of wood (cutlery)
- Increase the mix of recyclable plastics and cardboard
- Traditional trays: lower density to facilitate the recycling
- Replacement of plastic films for live-stock fodder
- Replacement of plastic bale netting and wires

### Crop Production

- Alternatives for conventional use of raffia and clips: substitution, separation, re-use and correct elimination
- Thin padding plastics: alternative solutions (compostable materials, other cropping techniques or cleaning systems for proper waste elimination)
- Valorisation options for thin plastics and non-reusable packaging
- Traceability systems from exploitation area to waste treatment facilities
- Establishment of a waste management system model at a cooperative level
- Implementation of the use of trays made from recycled material (PET)
- Logistics optimisation (secondary packaging)
- Identification of biodegradable primary packaging options
- Eco-design of cardboard packaging for stop cups from falling
- Eco-design of primary packaging

## Lessons learnt and recommendations

There is a lack of knowledge about affordable alternatives to inorganic waste across the agrifood sector, which is an important barrier to address. In this sense, **REINWASTE** project contributes to raising awareness among stakeholders and

transferring knowledge about the best innovative solutions. At a legal and political level, the project recommends creating incentives for adopting innovative solutions to reduce inorganic waste and improve waste management.

## The InterregMED Green Growth Community

Green Growth is a thematic community that promotes sustainable development in the Mediterranean within the framework of the Interreg Med Programme. It supports the sound management of natural resources by enhancing cross-sectoral innovation practices through an integrated, territorially-based cooperation approach.

The community supports its projects in communicating and capitalising on their results to increase their impact at the policy level and ensure their potential transfer into other territories.

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## Further Information:

### REINWASTE Website:

[reinwaste.interreg-med.eu](http://reinwaste.interreg-med.eu)

REINWASTE Deliverables Database

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