



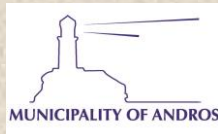
LIFE TERRACESCAPE

Employing Land Stewardship to transform terraced landscapes into green infrastructures to better adapt to climate change

(LIFE16 CCA/GR/000050) www.lifeterracescape.aegean.gr



UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN



MUNICIPALITY OF ANDROS



GREEN FUND



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens



HELLENIC AGRICULTURAL
ORGANIZATION - DEMETER



With the financial support of the European Commission

With the contribution of the Green Fund

Aim

For centuries, **drystone terraces** allowed the cultivation of marginal island areas with poor and particularly dry soils and supported local farming communities, as well as ecosystem services by improving the rainwater percolation, reducing the soil erosion and wildfire risk, and favoring local biodiversity.

The **aim of the project** is the restoration and re-cultivation of drystone terraces, to demonstrate the benefits (economic, cultural, ecological) and create “green infrastructures” resilient to climate change impacts, by adopting the Land Stewardship approach.

The project is being implemented in Andros Island since July 2017.



Objectives

- ✓ Demonstrate climate adaptation of island landscapes to highlight the significance of terraces as key green infrastructure elements.
- ✓ Introduce the Land Stewardship approach in Greece under an organized and effective manner.
- ✓ Produce climate-smart added-value products, by establishing a smart local cluster of farmers, food and tourism businesses.
- ✓ Increase awareness of target groups and stimulate behavioral changes towards climate responsible attitudes.



Expected Results



- ✓ Strategic Adaptation Plan for the agricultural sector of small Aegean island ecosystems.
- ✓ **Establishment of the first Land Stewardship Organization in Greece -introducing the Land Stewardship approach- to make contracts with the landowners and manage cultivation and restoration of terraces.**
- ✓ Establishment of an agro-nutritional Cooperation and a smart local cluster to promote certified climate-smart local products.
- ✓ Propagation of local crop varieties, to be cultivated at project terraces.
- ✓ Organization of the Andros Drystone-Wall School, with workshops and training seminars.
- ✓ Good Practice Guide and Decision Support Tool for climate-smart agriculture.
- ✓ Extensive awareness campaign.

Land Stewardship

Land Stewardship is a strategy for nature and biodiversity conservation that involves landowners and users (farmers, shepherds, etc.) through voluntary agreements with land stewardship organizations.

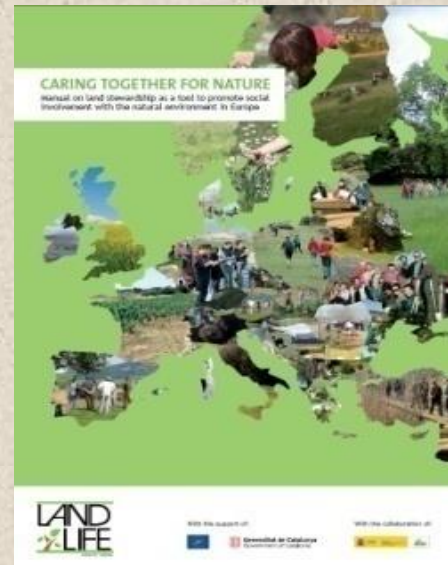
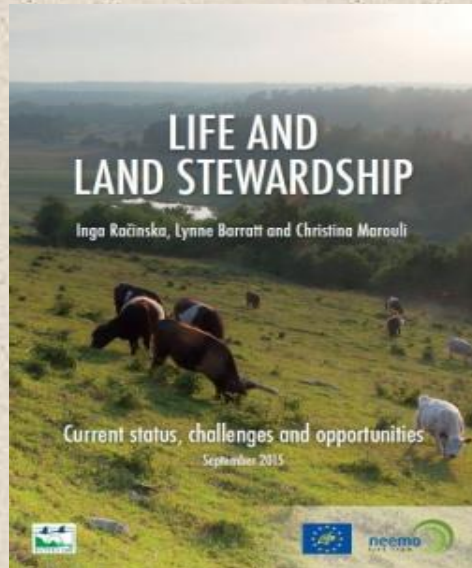
- ✓ provides an effective means to **engage local stakeholders** in the direct implementation of core nature conservation policies.
- ✓ strategic tool to **preserve the values of the landscape and the environment** as a whole, by prioritizing the functional restoration of agro-ecosystems, the capacity to respond to environmental disturbance, and the preservation of biodiversity.

Land Stewardship can be adaptive, based on traditional management tools to meet changing needs. Recognizing that land management requires not only social will but also relevant social skills, the Land Stewardship approach includes training for direct resource users and decision makers in the public and private sectors.

Land Stewardship

Land stewardship has international impact and application. In Europe, it can assist to create opportunities for nature conservation in individual Member States and regions and contribute to biodiversity conservation across Europe by directly involving people.

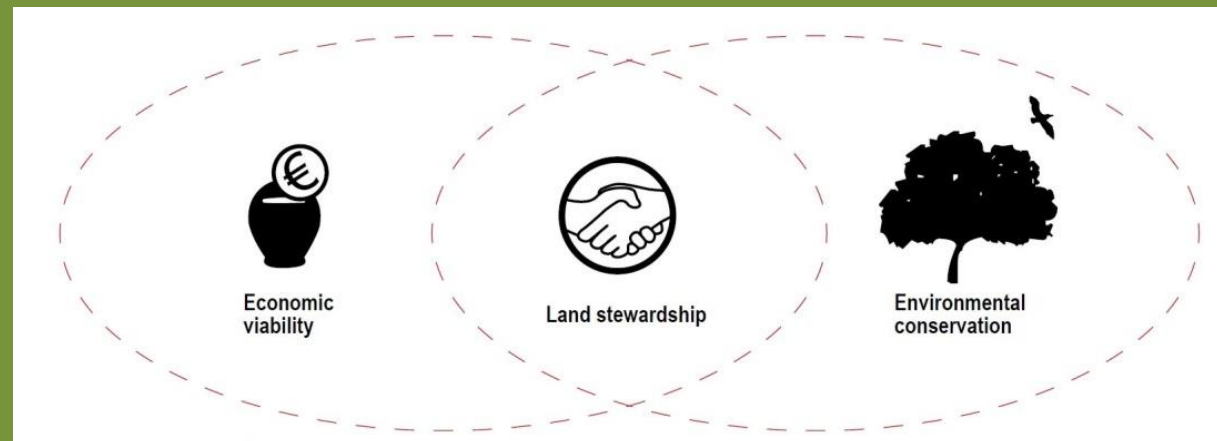
Many European organizations are active in the Land Stewardship network, such as the Catalonian XCN (Xarxa per a la conservacio de la Natura), a collaborator of the TERRASCOPE project.



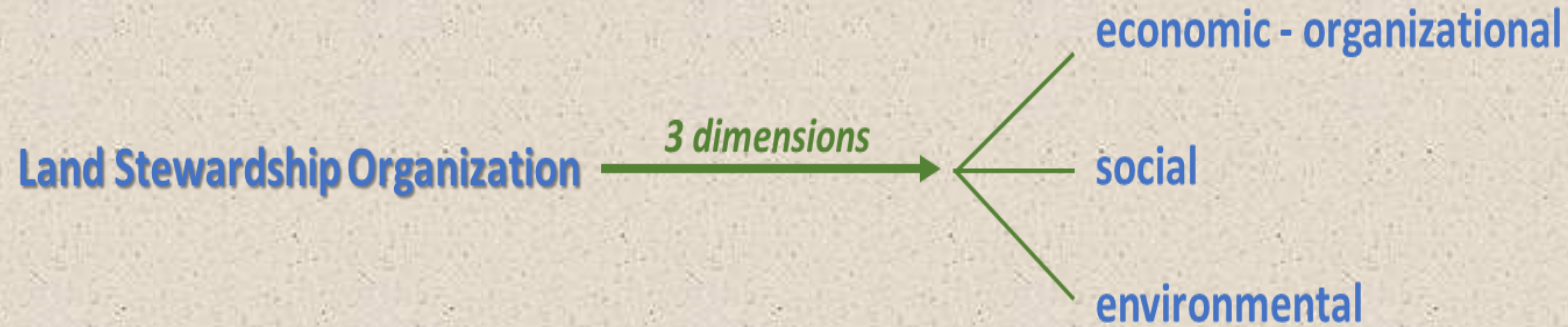
Land Stewardship Organization (LSO)

The Land Stewardship strategy is based on the establishment of a **Land Stewardship Organization** in which all interested farmers and landowners, as well as other professionals, participate and work together to restore the landscape.

The landowners' participation procedure is simple and involves the signing of voluntary agreements so that their land can be made productive. In this way, Land Stewardship contributes not only towards environmental protection and landscape conservation, but also provides those who are involved with economic, social and cultural benefits.

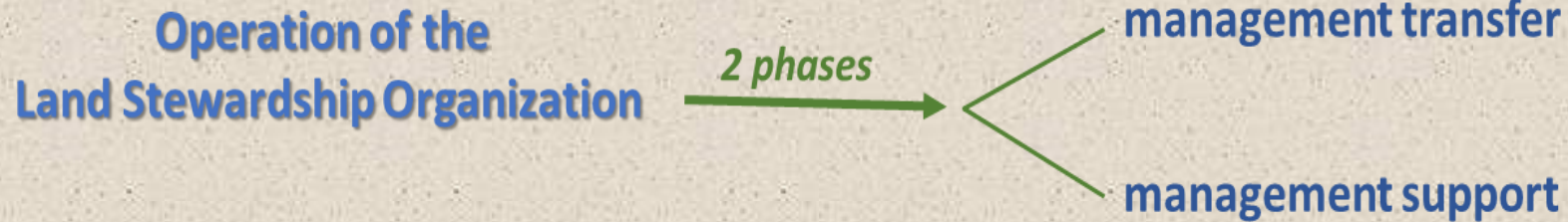


Land Stewardship Organization (LSO)



- **Economic-organizational:** the LSO creates an organizational framework for effective operation, ensuring the effective management of the infrastructure and the equipment
- **Social:** the LSO creates and exploits local social capital, assimilates local knowledge, and manages human resources during and after the end of the project
- **Environmental:** the LSO suggests interventions that are compatible and mitigates the impact of climate change, using wherever possible local varieties for cultivation, and preserving the diverse rural landscape of the island

Land Stewardship Organization (LSO)



- Management transfer: the LSO signs agreements with landowners and re-invests the income derived from selling farm production for the LSO purpose
- Management support: the LSO makes agreements with active farmers to set the management actions for maintenance, committing to the terms, conditions, and duration

➤ **After the end of the project the LSO is expected to become a financially self-sustained organization**

It will be supported by revenues derived from high value local production, investing this income to further land to be entered to the system.

LSO Establishment

Planning and establishment of the first LSO in Greece under the auspices of the Green Fund turned out to be a challenging action due to administrative and legal issues.

Having explored the relevant legal framework in Greece, taking into account the enabling of Green Fund's contribution and after consulting the European Manual for Land Stewardship, incorporating XCN's experience and advice, and examining possible alternatives, the legal form of a **Social Cooperative Enterprise (KOINSEP)** was decided to be the most suitable and effective choice for establishing the LSO under the umbrella of a public entity.



LSO Establishment

International Land Stewardship Workshop

April 23-25, 2018
Athens-Andros

- ✓ XCN's guidance
- ✓ visit selected fields
- ✓ meetings with stakeholders
- ✓ exchange views
- ✓ explore possibilities to better achieve the goals of the project, especially related to the LSO



LSO Establishment

Field trip
September 12-14, 2018
Catalonia, Spain

- ✓ opportunity to learn from the XCN experience
- ✓ opportunity to learn from other examples of LS application



Land Stewardship Project

GOAL
Recover abandoned crop areas

Benefits

- ↑ of biodiversity
- Landscape maintenance and planning
- Economic dynamism
- ↓ fire risk
- Promotion of agroecology

Mediator
increase trust

Natural Park

Agreements of transfer of management

Owner

Farmer

Agriculture land stewardship:
an alliance between the agrarian and the environmental

economic viability

environmental conservation

STEWARDSHIP

social recognition

Espai d'Interès Natural de les Gavarres

El Parc de les Gavarres

El Parc de les Gavarres, Espai d'Interès Natural

LSO Establishment / “Aegean Farmers” KOINSEP



A KOINSEP:

- promotes innovation and sustainable development activities
e.g. protection and restoration of natural environment and sustainable farming
- pursues social purposes and collective benefits
- follows collective and democratic decision-making process

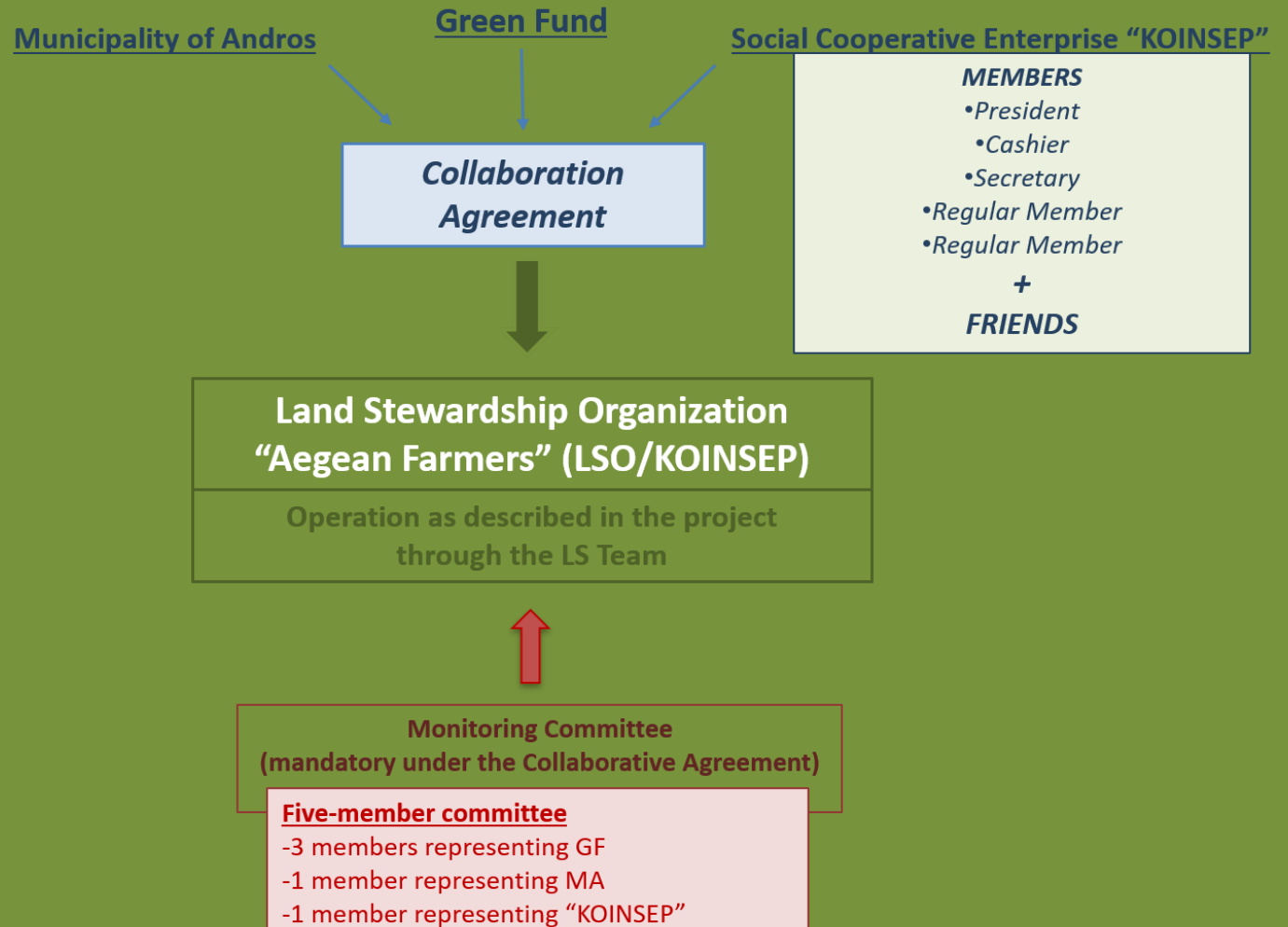
In addition, allows for signing a contract with a public entity, in order to fulfill a common purpose. This provision enables the Green Fund (as well as the Municipality of Andros) to sign a Collaborative Agreement with the KOINSEP in order to describe mutual commitments.



LSO Establishment / KOINSEP

- ✓ The Steering Committee of a KOINSEP is a five-member committee. All members have right to vote.
- ✓ Every single farmer/owner/businessman can become a **“Friend”** of the KOINSEP, enhancing the participatory character of the organization. “Friends” can voluntarily help, strengthen and encourage the KOINSEP activity.

The LSO/KOINSEP
“Aegean Farmers”
Organogram

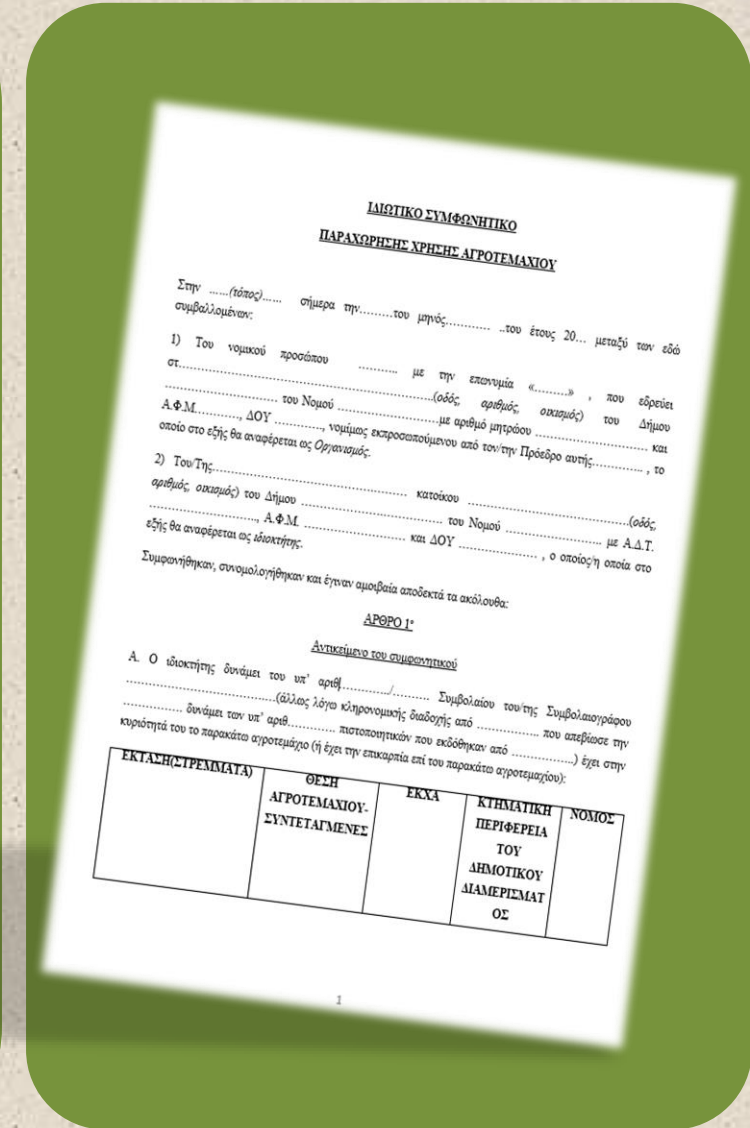


LSO / Private Agreements

The private agreements describe objectives, commitments of the organization and the landowner, special conditions, expenses, duration etc.

Duration of the private agreements is 6 years.

- ✓ Meetings with the landowners
 - ✓ Collection of the necessary documents (contracts, site plans, tax declarations where needed, etc.)
 - ✓ Legal processing, dealing with any peculiarities, such as incomplete or inaccurate supporting documents
 - ✓ Private agreements preparation
- **Building trust and strengthening the social network, as well as communicating a clear and inspiring vision for the landowners before signing the agreements is crucial for the effective and successful operation of the LSO.**



Signing of
Private Agreements



LSO Operation

In September 2020 the LSO/KOINSEP “Aegean Farmers” proceeded with the first transaction, by selling the year’s yield.



Land Stewardship Web Platform

The web-platform is one of the most important tools to introduce Land Stewardship to nature conservation stakeholders and the public.

It includes:

- a helpdesk for technical, financial, and legal information and advice
- a forum for a visitor to interact and cooperate with other stakeholders

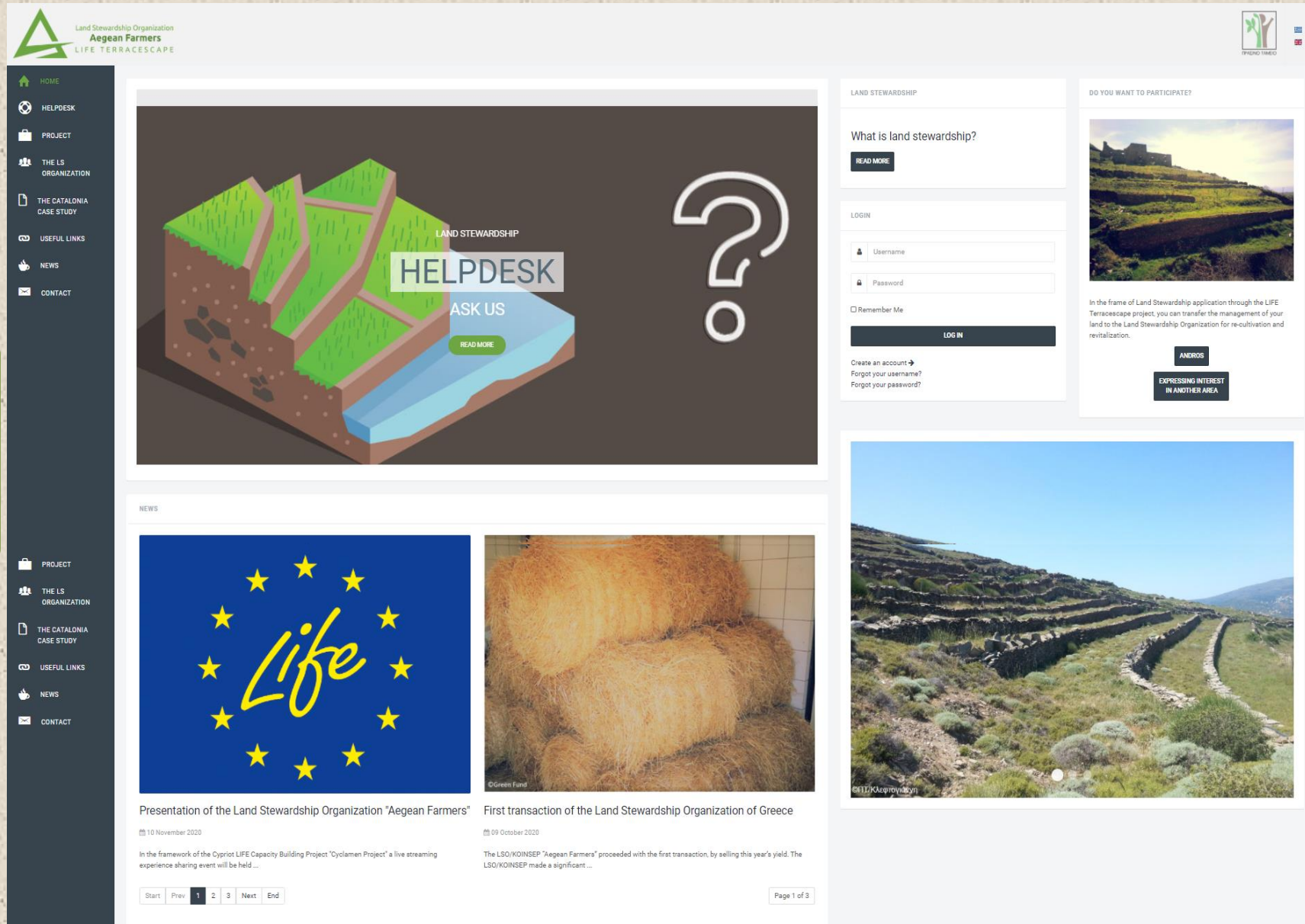
The web-platform offers the possibility to stakeholders to express interest about the LIFE Terracescape project by completing a relative form.

In addition, visitors have the option to express interest in applying Land Stewardship to other areas of Greece through another form.



Land Stewardship Web Platform

<http://www.landstewardship.gr>



The screenshot shows the website interface for the Land Stewardship Organization "Aegean Farmers".

- Header:** Land Stewardship Organization "Aegean Farmers" LIFE TERRACESCAPE. Includes a logo and a "FRIEND TIME" icon.
- Navigation Menu (Left):** HOME, HELPDESK, PROJECT, THE LS ORGANIZATION, THE CATALONIA CASE STUDY, USEFUL LINKS, NEWS, CONTACT.
- Main Content Area:**
 - Hero Section:** "LAND STEWARDSHIP HELPDESK ASK US" with a "READ MORE" button and a large question mark icon.
 - LAND STEWARDSHIP Section:** "What is land stewardship?" with a "READ MORE" button.
 - LOGIN Section:** Username and Password fields, "Remember Me" checkbox, and "LOG IN" button. Includes links for "Create an account", "Forgot your username?", and "Forgot your password?".
 - DO YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE? Section:** A photo of a terraced landscape with a "READ MORE" button and text: "In the frame of Land Stewardship application through the LIFE Terracescape project, you can transfer the management of your land to the Land Stewardship Organization for re-cultivation and revitalization." Includes a button: "EXPRESSING INTEREST IN ANOTHER AREA".
- NEWS Section:**
 - News Item 1:** "Presentation of the Land Stewardship Organization 'Aegean Farmers'" dated 10 November 2020. Includes a photo of the Life logo and text: "In the framework of the Cypriot LIFE Capacity Building Project 'Cyclamen Project' a live streaming experience sharing event will be held ...".
 - News Item 2:** "First transaction of the Land Stewardship Organization of Greece" dated 09 October 2020. Includes a photo of hay bales and text: "The LSO/KOINSEP 'Aegean Farmers' proceeded with the first transaction, by selling this year's yield. The LSO/KOINSEP made a significant ...".
- Footer:** A large photo of a terraced landscape with a stone wall. Page number: "Page 1 of 3".



The screenshot shows a website for the LIFE Networking Event Cyprus. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following items: Home, 1:1 Meeting FAQs, How to register, Guest speakers, and Contact. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text "LIFE Networking Event, Cyprus" and a "Register now" button. Below the banner, there is a paragraph of text: "The Department of Environment, through the LIFE Cyclamen Project, is hosting a Networking Event, which will be held in the form of:" followed by a list of two items: "1. A live streaming experience sharing event, on Thursday November 19th 2020 (11:00 - 12:30 EET), and" and "2. Bilateral virtual meetings (from November 19th until December 31st, 2020)." To the right of the text, there is a "Register now" button with the text "Open until 31 December 2020" below it. At the bottom right, there is a section titled "ORGANISED BY" with logos for LIFE Cyclamen and the LIFE program.

19 Nov 2020 - 31 Dec 2020

**LIFE Networking Event
Cyprus**

Find your Perfect LIFE Match
and empower your green idea
with EU funding!

online live event
19 November 2020
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Home 1:1 Meeting FAQs How to register Guest speakers Contact

LIFE Networking Event, Cyprus

The Department of Environment, through the LIFE Cyclamen Project, is hosting a Networking Event, which will be held in the form of:

1. A live streaming experience sharing event, on Thursday November 19th 2020 (11:00 - 12:30 EET), and
2. Bilateral virtual meetings (from November 19th until December 31st, 2020).

Register now
Open until 31 December 2020

ORGANISED BY

LIFE Cyclamen

Book a meeting to be further informed about the Land Stewardship approach

Together we can explore the possibilities and alternatives
for more effective implementation of Land Stewardship



Thank you!



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