



# 5th International Conference of Forestry Training Centres

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## Training on Non-Wood Forest Products: the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, from wild collection to handicraft production

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**Non wood forests products (NWFPs)** are an important but sometimes forgotten income from rural and mountain areas of Europe.

It is necessary to find sustainable economic opportunities to people still living there, to preserve the population, the natural heritage, the biodiversity and the natural resources. In addition, **Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs)** wild harvesting is still needed to provide raw material to medicinal, cosmetic and perfumery industry.

Anyway, the **wild harvesting activity** has to be done properly, following sustainable good practices and focusing sustainable economic enterprises in order to fix the social success.

Moreover, the Mediterranean area, characterized by mountainous areas, is plenty of **small-scale farms**. Many entrepreneurs have seen MAPs as an alternative crop to be implemented there, but small productions are not enough to bulk-selling to wholesalers, and decide to elaborate products to sell directly to consumer, becoming **herbal craftsmen**. So they have to deal with different manufacturing, legal and marketing aspects that go far beyond those simply producing herbs.

So **training** on these topics is very important and tools have to be implemented properly.

2 projects related to adult education have been addressed to fulfill these training needs:

- PLANT WILD - Forest Plant Wild Harvesting Learning in Europe. GRUNDTVIG Livelong Learning Program (2009-2011) <http://plantwild.wordpress.com>
- HERBARTIS – Adult Training on Handicraft Production of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Strategic Partnership Key Action 2. Erasmus+ program (2015-2017). <http://herbartis.wordpress.com>.



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