

This year came with big challenges and lots of changes that affected our society in many ways. Hoping that these difficulties have been able to strengthen our values of sharing and cooperating, #FASTERH2020 sends its warmest wishes for a New Year filled with joy, peace, prosperity and, above all, many ambitious objectives to be fulfilled.

May the arrival of 2021 bring conciliation, strength, wisdom and a great desire to seek research excellence for a better society and future!



RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Specializing in Research Excellence

FASTER held its first specialized training last November. The online event was led by 7 CREAM experts and had a participation of 30 people. The training had the objective to strengthen the research and knowledge transfer capacity of INRGREF and associated Tunisian partners on innovative management of land and water in view of climate change. Some of the most important topics tackled in the training were landscape management, water management policy analysis, among others. Check out the full article [here](#).



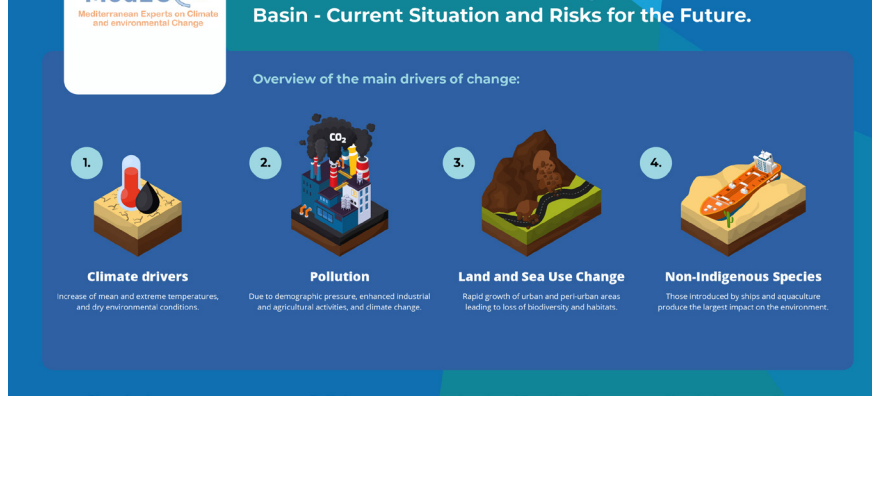
FASTER collaborates on First Mediterranean Assessment Report

With the participation of FASTER partners Dr Sihem Jebari (INRGREF) and Dr Enrique Doblas (CREAF), [the independent network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change](#) (MedECC), gave birth to the 1st Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR) "Climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean basin - Current situation and risks for the future".

Read the news [here](#).

The experts have contributed to this report with their knowledge and practice as two of the main authors of Chapter 2: Drivers of Change. The main drivers of change found by the report are the **climate drivers, pollution, land and sea use change** and the **Non-Indigenous species**. This work contributes to the promotion of the 1.5 Global Goal of the Paris Agreement in the region.

The release of the report earned MedECC the 2020 [North-South Prize of the Council of Europe](#) who recognized its potential of collaboration between states and societies to face the challenges of climate change and environmental sustainability, as well as their response to the need of scientific and expert cooperation to produce knowledge-based analysis as a sound basis



FARM ADVISORY SERVICES

The FAS Living Lab Factsheets virtual experience

FASTER [Living Lab](#) aims to exchange knowledge about strategies that help adaptation to climate change between researchers in the field of water, soil and forest management, and professionals who participate in the Agricultural Advisory System in Tunisia (FAS). As a result of COVID-19, last November, the living lab has transformed its face-to-face methodology into a virtual meeting to attract an increased number of participants and engage them in different activities such as video projections, Q&As and different presentations to highlight the main methods and tools of the Living Lab.

Participants were involved in a co-creation process to produce a set of factsheets highlighting urgent issues for adaptation in the Tunisian agricultural sector. Each Living Lab working group was able to start the drafting process of their factsheet, under the practical and scientific guidance of the FASTER Living Lab Committee and we will soon reap the rewards of this combined work.

Do you want to know more? Take a look at the [article!](#)



NETWORKING

Boosting Innovation in the rural areas through excellence in research

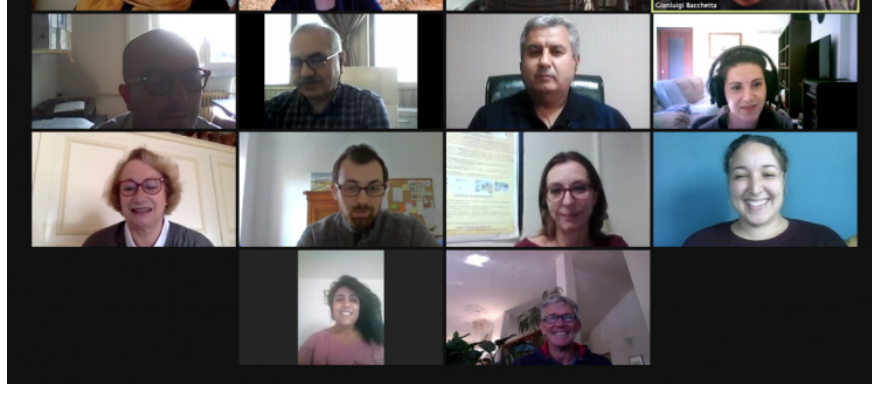
Last November 20th in the frame of the 14th Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders, MedaWeek Barcelona, FASTER presented its first brokerage event titled "[Rural Development Boost through Transfer of Research Excellence](#)".

The meeting, moderated by Annelies Broekman, CREAM researcher and FASTER partner, had great participation with a total of 143 people registered and 300 views. The speeches of our guests stimulated relevant discussions on topics such as higher education and research as a tool for the development of the Mediterranean region, densely populated by university students, and the importance of the Research Excellence for development of global cultures, based on new observations and interpretations in order to try to solve complex problems of our societies.

Check out the full article [here](#).



Yielding results from learnt skills at FASTER: the MEDLENTISK PROJECT

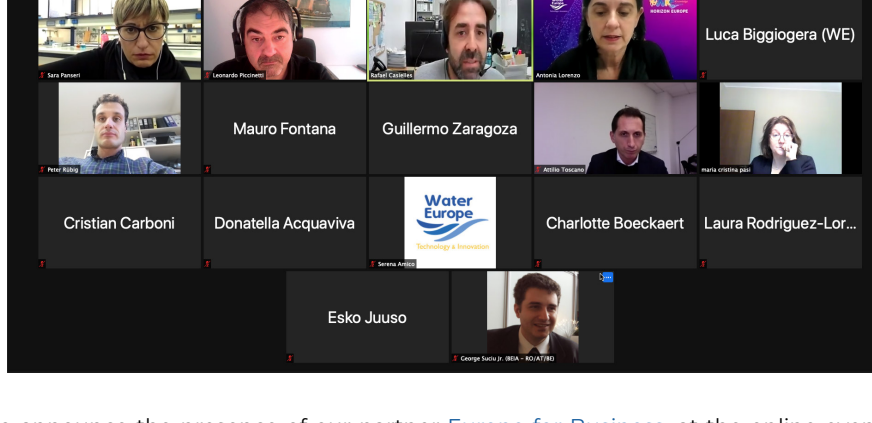


Mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change has always been the main objective of FASTER, and for this, it carries out various activities and pieces of training that are offered to boost the development of the human resources and building capacity of scientific staff within [INRGREF](#).

A materialisation of all of this positive impact can be seen in the initiative of [the MEDLENTISK project](#): a Mediterranean partnership to improve and exchange scientific and practical knowledge on lentisk tree oil. INRGREF, [Boutheina Siliti](#) and [Faten Mezni](#) -partner and researchers behind this outstanding proposal- have been actively involved in various activities of the FASTER project, from where they have been able to share and exchange knowledge and tools, that have been then put into practice in this initiative.

Are you interested in knowing more? Check out this [article!](#)

Sharing knowledge on wastewater reuse



FASTER is pleased to announce the presence of our partner [Europe for Business](#), at the online event organized by [Water Europe](#), in order to debate the status of the white paper on the regulation of water reuse, with the aim to exchange information, initiatives, strategies and opportunities for successful exploitation of water innovation in the marketplace by creating business disclosure cases.

The event was also the occasion to present the work plan to achieve the objectives and give some ideas about the tentative white paper on the impact of the new regulations for the implementation of water reuse in the agri-food value chain and the strategies for adoption.

Read the summary of the event [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

NEW SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

"Spatiotemporal analysis of landscape patterns and its effect on soil loss in the Rmel river basin, Tunisia"
by Sana Bouguerra, Sihem Jebari, Jamila Tarhouni

Understanding the changes in land use and land cover (LULC) and its environmental impact is important to help project future changes to the LULC and to investigate more appropriate policy interventions to achieve better land and water management.

To learn more, read the [publication](#) or access the dedicated section of [FASTER Website](#).

USEFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

EFIMED's December 2020 Newsletter

In this edition, you can have an overview of topics such as the Green Economy, EU-Level policy framework for forest ecosystem services and you can learn more about the [MySustainableForest](#) project.

Wreiana Conference 2021

WREIANA-2021 will be held in Susa, Tunisia, from March 25 to 27, 2021. The biannual scientific conference focuses on the knowledge of water resources, climate change, green chemistry, geological resources, engineering, policymakers and Smart Technology. The conference aims to provide a single multi-stakeholder platform where experts, policymakers and decision-makers from around the world can work together to find joint solutions capable of significantly helping to the region in its efforts to achieve sustainable development goals and a roadmap to water security.