

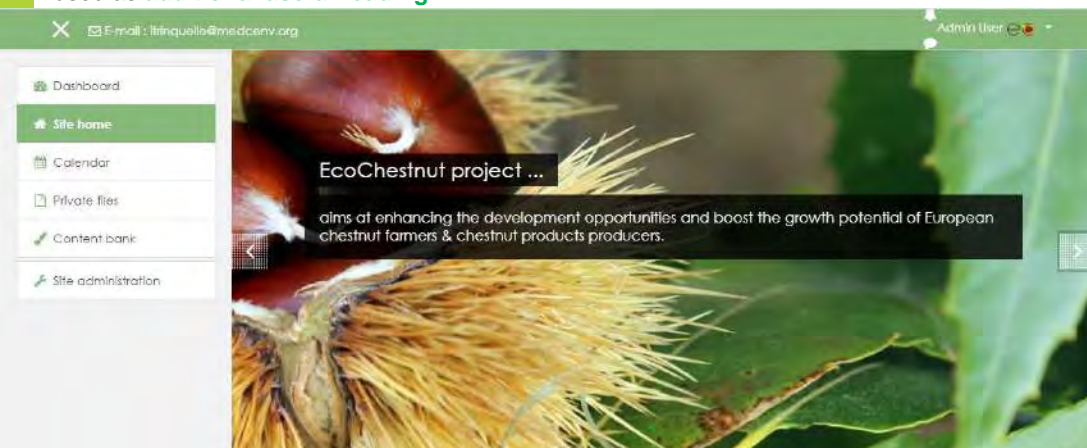
NEWSLETTER No2

The online training program



EcoChestnut project supports farmers and producers in developing their potential for production and promotion of organic chestnuts & chestnut products. The main tool for this support is an online educational program on organic chestnuts farming & chestnut products manufacturing. The courses answer questions of four crucial axis, regarding the production of organic chestnuts, the biological and biodynamic treatments in chestnut farming, the commercialization and marketing in chestnut farming and the organic chestnut farming as a driving force for rural development in Europe.

The online training is offered through a **moodle platform**, where the student – farmer is able to choose the topic he is interested in to follow. He has the opportunity to enrich his **theoretical knowledge** on this matter, read examples of **best practices** and **case studies**, watch relevant **videos** and see **photos**, practice some **activities**. In the end he can take a **level test**, to get an understanding of his knowledge on this topic, the level he has reached and find out where he needs to improve. All content is downloadable for future reference. Apart from the bibliography used, there is also a further list of articles and videos that can be used as **additional useful reading**.



Visit the new website of the
project EcoChestnut !

www.ecochestnut.eu



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Researchers from the School of Forest Engineering of the Campus of Pontevedra (University of Vigo) have developed a methodology to detect and quantify plantations of new chestnut trees of reduced dimensions.



Even though the majority of chestnut forests are quite ancient in multiple parts of Galicia, there are also plantations of new chestnut trees, in many cases of reduced dimensions, and therefore, more complex to detect and account for. In this context, researchers from the School of Forest Engineering of the Campus of Pontevedra (University of Vigo) have developed a methodology to detect and quantify this

type of plantation. The methodology uses official cartographic sources of free access and images taken by Sentinel satellites of the European State Agency and uses an algorithm that can locate plantations on private farms based on the particular geometry of chestnut trees with a very well-defined crown that makes their identification possible. The suggested methodology has an accuracy of 90%, according to the article that researchers Julia Armesto and Laura Alonso have published in the scientific journal *Remote Sensing* together with the teacher and director of the school, Juan Picos, and the researcher Guillermo Bastos.

Brezhanichestnut, a chestnut festival at the village of Brezhani, in Simitli Municipality, in Blagoevgrad Province, in southwestern Bulgaria.

The village of Brezhani is located on a steep hill on both sides of a river valley with an altitude of 500 to 700 m. The village is part of a pleasant route that climbs the southern slopes of Pirin Mountain and passes through picturesque and hospitable villages. The road is well known to mountaineers, lovers of natural beauty, people looking for peace, delicious food and hospitality of rural houses.

The Brezhanichestnut differs in taste from other types of chestnuts. It is smaller and much sweeter. The Association "People and Traditions" from Brezani realizes many initiatives in order to focus the public attention on the Brezani chestnut by organizing various cultural initiatives, art workshops, initiatives for chestnuts planting and the most delicious autumn holiday, that of the Brezani chestnut. The Brezani Chestnut Festival takes place every year on the Saturday around October 20 and is organized by the "People and Traditions" Association. The event takes place on the village square, where a wide stage is built. The locals prepare a big culinary exhibition and celebration with music, songs and folk dances. Guests can taste various recipes with chestnuts, pies and other pastries as well as can learn the recipes from the women who personally present their dishes. Chestnuts and apples of different varieties can be bought at the unique market in Brezani.



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