

# Book of Abstract



Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo





**SESSION XII**

**SOCIAL INSECTS AND APIDOLOGY**

**Life VAIA: Valuing Afforestation of damaged woods with Innovative Agroforestry.**

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The LIFE VAIA project (Valuing Afforestation of damaged woods with Innovative Agroforestry) stems from the need to restore forest areas and increase the ecological, economic and social resilience of forest ecosystems damaged by extreme climate events, such as the VAIA storm that hit North East Italy in October 2018. The objectives of the project, to be pursued in 16 pilot sites (of about 2.5 hectares each) in Italy, Spain and France, are in line with the European Union's environmental strategy aimed at protecting forests from damage caused by climate change, strengthening local ecosystems and protecting biodiversity. With a duration of five years and a total budget of €6 million, of which €3 million has been allocated by the European Commission, the LIFE VAIA project aims to develop an innovative approach based on the application of "temporary" agroforestry measures (15/20 years). This strategy makes it possible to invest in the production of sustainable and low-impact products, increasing biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources. The main actions financed by LIFE VAIA concern the reproduction and cultivation of wild blueberries and other "wild" small fruits, food and medicinal plants in forest ecosystems, as well as the enhancement of beekeeping production in forest areas destroyed by storms and other extreme climate events. The forestry strategy pursued by the project will make it possible to limit the economic damage suffered by local communities and to develop innovative silviculture and value-added products.

**KEY WORDS:** Environmental restoration, extreme climatic events, beekeeping.

**POSTER**