

Coordinating beneficiary



Associated beneficiaries



Co-financier



Building deconstruction
and the restoration of ecological functioning
in the coastal systems of La Pletera

The project **Life Pletera** is co-financed by the LIFE Programme, the EU's financial instrument for supporting environmental conservation in Europe.



Total budget: 2.528.148 €
European Union's financial contribution:
(75%) 1.896.111 €



Start of project: July 2014
End of project: July 2018
Duration of project: 48 months

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Ajuntament de
Torroella de Montgrí

The aim of the Pletera Life Project is to deconstruct the built-up areas of La Pletera (L'Estartit) and restore the ecological functioning of the area. This implies the elimination of the unfinished promenade, streets, services, infrastructures, breakwater and piles of rubble, and the return of this coastal system to its original state. This innovative project is at the forefront of similar renaturalization projects currently being carried out in Europe.



The saltmarshes of La Pletera harboured a series of lagoons that were drained in 1987 in order to build an almost 1-km-long promenade and six apartment blocks, of which only one was ever finished. Tons of rubble were dumped in the saltmarshes before the project was abandoned at the beginning of the 1990s. Since then, the area has become even more degraded.

The deconstruction and restoration of this site will regenerate the coastal saltmarshes and their typical natural structure: parallel strips of coastal dune, dunes slacks, saline lagoons and saltmarsh vegetation.

The project aims to demonstrate that, even in an area where there is great demand for building land, it is possible to restore altered areas and re-establish their full ecological functioning.

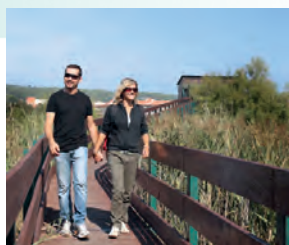


Great environmental value

La Pletera is part of the marshes of El Baix Ter, included in the Montgrí, les Illes Medes i el Baix Ter Natural Park (2010). They are also protected as a Partial Natural Reserve and were included on 8 February 2005 into the Natura 2000 Network, the most important European political project in the sphere of wildlife conservation.

Ecotourism

The project will restore the ecological values of La Pletera and convert it into an area with great possibilities for ecotourism: the sand dunes will be restored, vehicular and pedestrian access to the beach will be reorganized, and trails and observation points will be set up.



Mains actions

- Deconstruction of urban infrastructure (promenade, streets, services, piles of rubble, etc.)
- Creation of lagoons
- Restoration of the saltmarsh vegetation
- Restoration of the dune systems
- Removal of the embankment alongside the Fra Ramon lagoon
- Creation of parking areas
- Removal of stands of reeds
- Creation of walking trail
- Construction of observation points
- Reorganization of public access to the area
- Monitoring of ecological indicators

Improvement of the habitat of the Spanish toothcarp

The restoration of the saltmarshes of La Pletera will also benefit the Spanish toothcarp. This endangered fish is endemic to the Mediterranean region and breeds in the waters of the saline lagoons that remain in the area.

Reduce the effects of climate change

Another of the project's aims is to provide an adequate response to climate change, which foresees a rise in sea level and more frequent and more serious gales and storms. The restoration of these coastal marshes will also help increase the area's capacity to fix CO₂ and reduce carbon emissions.

