

# HEI-PLADI Project

## Higher Education Innovation in PLAnt Diversity

Flexible learning paths for emerging labour market

*Kick-off meeting  
January 15th, 2016*

# Argotti Resource Centre, UoM

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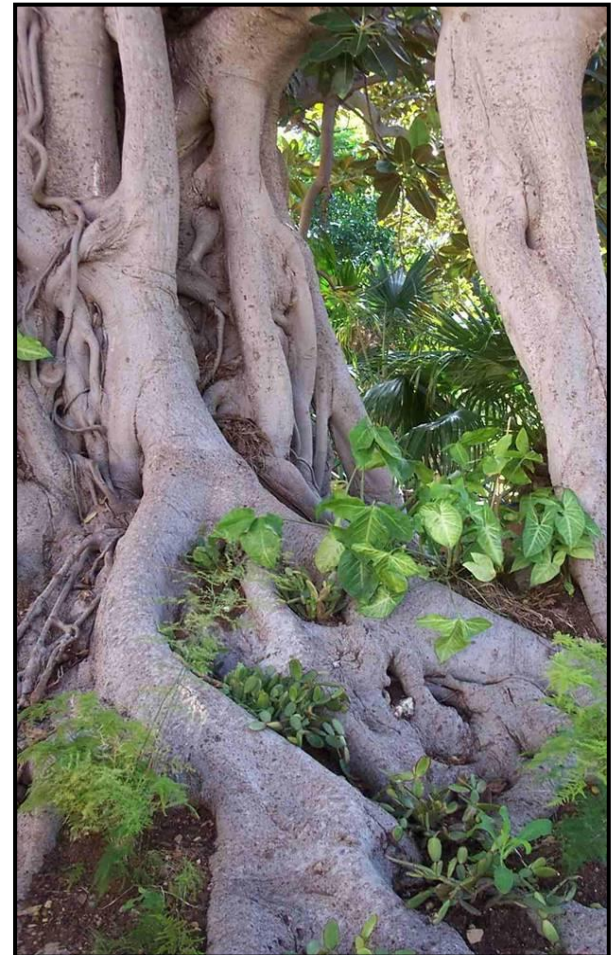


# Argotti Gardens, Resource Centre and Department of Biology

- The Argotti Gardens were set up as botanic garden in 1855 but enjoy a history going as far back as 1740.
  - Its main focus on collections of Mediterranean-type plants.
  - It offers support for various types of research efforts mostly related to plant conservation, phytochemical extracts and bioactivity testing.
  - Recently it has been given the status of a resource centre making it an independent entity.
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- The Department of Biology offers first and postgraduate degree courses, and carries out research in the biological sciences.
  - There are seven full-time members of academic staff, as well as other visiting and part-time members.
  - The department of biology forms part of the faculty of science which in September 2015 celebrated its 100 years.



# Argotti Gardens Highlights





# Argotti Gardens Highlights





# Villa Argotti Museum & Visitors' Centre



# Team

- Lecturers in plant diversity, physiology and ecology at the department of biology.
- Technical staff at the University Section of the Argotti BG.
- Gardening Staff
- Graduate student demonstrators who assist with field work and lab practicals.
- Occassional lecturers who give input in specific areas and thesis supervision.
- Volunteers with a range of backgrounds.



# Open Days – Guided Tours of the Garden





# Field Work – Undergraduate Students

## Maquis & Coastal Garrigue Habitats





# Public Lectures & Landscape Reading Classes

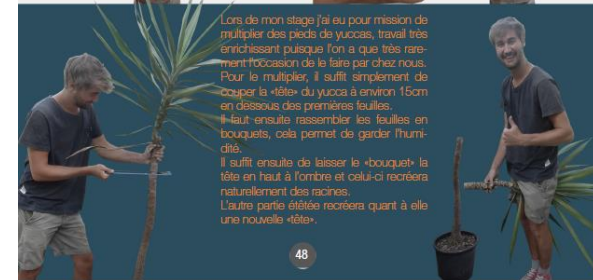
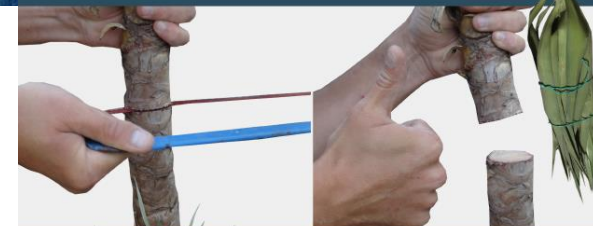
- HSBC Climate Champions – Plants for Carbon Sequestration
- Bonsai Society Malta – Malta's Indigenous Trees
- Malta Heritage Society – Monumental Trees
- ST Microelectronics – Year of the Soil Lecture



# Internships and Volunteers



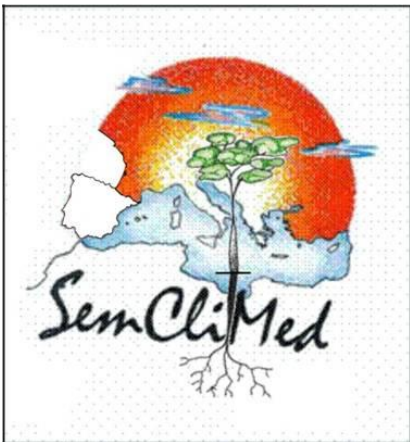
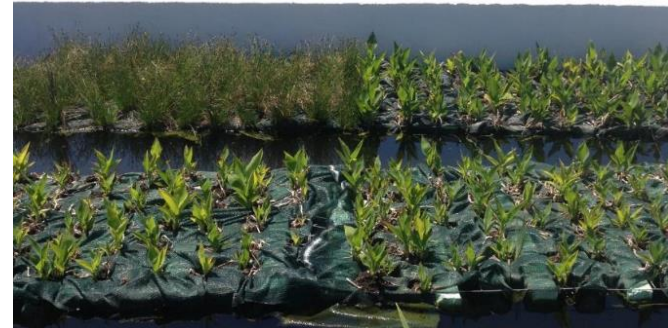
## La multiplication du yucca





# EU or Locally Funded Projects

- Semclimed – Interreg IIB
- Gardmed – Italia-Malta Regional Fund
- HORTES I and II – ESF for Refugees
- Neptune – MCST funded
- SuWaNu – FP7 Project



# Expertise

- Teaching, research and fieldwork
- Extraction of natural products and bioactivity testing.
- Plant Propagation by conventional and micropropagation
- Conservation of endangered species and rehabilitation of degraded environments.
- Phytoremediation.
- Herbarium practice.
- Seed bank maintenance.
- Microalgal culture.
- Public lectures, guiding of botanical walks (adults) organised tours (school children) to popularise awareness of plant diversity.



# Herbarium circa 10,000 specimens



# Phytochemistry Lab





# Greenhouses for Propagation





# Micro-propagation, Micro-algal culture & Seed Storage





# Target Students

- BSc Biology (Single Hons.) – 3 year course
- BSc Biology and Chemistry (Double Hons.) – 4 year course
- Masters by research (FT or PT)
- Masters by taught course (FT or PT) (projected to start October 2016)
- Ph.D by research (FT or PT)