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# The implementation of an international project: advances of REALMed in Portugal



through sample collection, acorn analyses, multiple actors  
networking, outreach material design.

## PURSuing AUTHENTICITY AND VALORIZATION OF MEDITERRANEAN TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS

REALMed is an international scientific project, where North- and South Mediterranean countries will collaborate over a 3-years period to add value to Mediterranean traditional products, namely Iberian Pig, Truffles, Argan Oil, Mountain Lamb and Kid Meat.

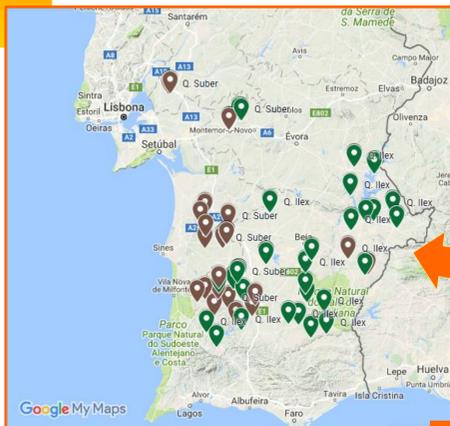
**AUTHENTICITY AND VALORIZATION** will be addressed by applying the most recent technologies (i.e. stable isotope analyses) while merging not only **PRODUCT QUALITY**, but also the **PRACTICES** put in place to achieve them (traditional perspective) and the importance they play in local economy's potential (social perspective and innovation).

The project will focus on **4 PRODUCTS**, merge the activities of **9 RESEARCH GROUPS**, active in **6 COUNTRIES**, and has to deal with local and international stakeholders: **FARMERS, PRODUCERS, POLICY MAKERS**. A project of this kind implies science carried on in different fields, and outreach activities at different levels.

## ECOLOGY

### AIMS

The ecological perspective in which the Portuguese team is involved is related to the origin of the acorns on which the Iberian Pig fed. A stable isotope signature of acorns from different locations will be obtained and ground further for authenticity purposes, to be coupled with results in pig's fat.



## 1-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS

### ACORN SAMPLING

Massive acorn sample collection: 82 sites, 110 and 64 acorn samples of *Quercus rotundifolia* and *Q. suber*, respectively (each sample represents an individual tree)

### IBERIAN PIG SAMPLING

Pig fat sample collection: 3 samples from independent pig herds from different black "Alentejano" pig producers (each sample represents 30% of a pig herd)

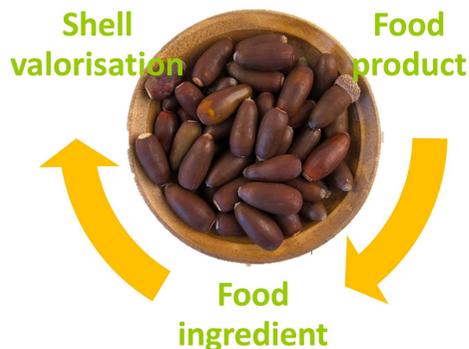
**STABLE ISOTOPE ANALYSES:** planned Autumn 2018



## AIMS

To add value to **ACORNS**, an underexploited Mediterranean food product!

- Characterize acorn flours & starch → New food ingredients (e.g. thickeners)
- Explore acorns as a raw material for cooking oil extraction
- Recover bioactive/functional compounds from acorns and by-products → New health-promoting food products/ingredients or to other industrial applications beyond the food industry



## FOOD SCIENCE

## 1-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS

### POSTHARVEST HANDLING

- Exploring optimal postharvest storage conditions
- Estimating whole acorns shelf-life

### TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSING

- Modelling and optimization of drying variables of acorns
- Improving peeling operation by drying methods – Texture profiles
- Processing impacts on nutritional and bioactive composition
- Exploring the technological suitability for different food applications



## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

## AIMS

Besides science, the management of an international project requires time allocated to diverse activities as:

- Organisation of meetings among partners
- Reporting to national and international funding bodies
- Preparation of outreach material
- Organisation of tailored events for stakeholders
- Participation in national and international stakeholder's event to promote the project approach and achievements

Integrating Science and Knowledge  
to Boost Mediterranean Traditional  
Products: The REALMed Pilot Study

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**Keywords:**  
Mediterranean biodiversity • Truffle • Iberian black pig • Argan oil • Mountain lamb and  
kid • REALMed

## 1-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS

### INTRODUCTORY PAPER

- The project presented to a scientific audience

### STAKEHOLDER'S EVENT

- National: Feira do enchido e do presunto; I Conferência Ibérica sobre a bolota

### WHITE PAPER

- A publication in a pure commercial style to reach companies, traders and consumers



**WHITE PAPER**  
SCIENCE AND TRADITION  
TO BOOST MEDITERRANEAN ECONOMY:  
understand how  
a multi-actor project work  
to be part of it

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