Project Number:

Project Acronym: OLIWA

Project title: Repurposing **OLI**ve **WA**ste in circular economy solutions for feeds, additives, packaging, and biogas

PRESS RELEASE

OLIWA Project Kicks Off to Revolutionize Olive Waste Repurposing in the Mediterranean

June 3rd , 2025
Online Meeting

This project is part of the PRIMA programme supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme.

The OLIWA project,"Repurposing **OLI**ve **WA**ste in circular economy solutions for feeds, additives, packaging, and biogas" is set to hold its **online kickoff meeting** on **June 3rd, 2025**.

This innovative initiative aims to transform olive by-products into valuable co-products, championing a circular economy and zero-waste approach across six Mediterranean countries.

Led by the University of Torino (UNITO) in Italy, OLIWA brings together a diverse consortium of 25 leading partners, including research institutes, SMEs, and NGOs, from Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Algeria, and Tunisia.

The project's overarching objective is to conduct comprehensive research activities to support the sustainable repurposing of olive waste to coproducts in a circular economy approach for feeds, functional ingredients, packaging, and biogas, demonstrating the feasibility and sustainability of the circular value chain.

The OLIWA project embodies a crucial step towards a more sustainable future for the Mediterranean olive industry. By applying the Circular Economy and zero-waste principles, OLIWA aims to develop a sustainable and innovative model for olive by-product repurposing that not only reduces waste but also creates new value chains.

The research will explore several key areas, including:

- Leveraging olive by-products in insect rearing to produce high-quality insect meals for animal feeds.
- Investigating olive natural extracts (NE) for use as feed additives and functional ingredients.
- Developing sustainable food packaging materials from olive by-products and insect-derived components to enhance preservation and minimize food losses.
- Producing biogas from animal and insect manure, as well as olive waste, to create alternative energy sources.

Oliwa's ambition extends to demonstrate the feasibility and sustainability of this circular value chain in real-world scenarios across the participating Mediterranean locations.

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The project also targets a minimum 25% reduction in food losses and waste, aligning with broader sustainability goals.

About OLIWA (Repurposing OLIve WAste in circular economy solutions for feeds, additives, packaging, and biogas) is a research and innovation project funded under the PRIMA Programme. Its mission is to develop a sustainable and innovative model for repurposing olive by-products into valuable co-products for various industries, fostering a circular economic approach in the Mediterranean region.

About PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) program is a significant Euro-Mediterranean cooperation initiative designed to tackle critical regional challenges such as climate change, food security, and water scarcity. It unites 20 participating states under a shared research and innovation strategy, aiming to build capacity and develop sustainable solutions for agro-food systems and integrated water management. Funded by contributions from both participating states and the EU's Horizon 2020 program, PRIMA seeks to foster inclusive, healthy, and prosperous Mediterranean societies by promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and economic growth.

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