



#### URBAN PLANNING ACTIONS

-  C1 Urban Design Solutions Catalog
-  C2 Strategic Plan for Ecological Infrastructures: Special Biodynamic Plan
-  C3 Detailed Planning of Residential Climate Comfort Zones (ZCCR)

#### DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES

-  C4 Hardwoods
-  C5 Energy Crops
-  C6 Souto. Chestnut trees of traditional varieties
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Project partners:



# LIFE Lugo + Biodinámico

At the forefront of sustainable urbanism

## Establishment of a chestnut plantation (Souto) with traditional Galician selected varieties



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**LIFE Lugo + Biodinámico** is a European project promoted by the Concello de Lugo, pioneer in eco-sustainable planning in medium-sized cities, taking advantage of the use of own natural resources and boosting the green economy. Among the measures to be developed are the construction of the first public building built with Galician wood, the design of the first multi-ecological neighbourhood in Spain and the elaboration of a catalogue of sustainable urban solutions, exportable to other European cities.

In addition, informative spaces will be created for the scientific community and society in general with plantations of tree species and autochthonous shrubs that demonstrate their potential for the development of sustainable urbanism.

**Souto:** land populated by chestnut trees.

In the industrial estate of As Gándaras (Lugo), a Souto (chestnut plantation of grafted trees) with a surface area of 3,6 ha and a plantation density of 100 trees/ha is established in 2017. Five different Galician varieties (**De Parede, Ventura, Negral, Branca e Garrida**) are grafted on hybrid rootstocks resistant to "ink disease".



The Souto of As Gándaras (2017)

## The Soutos of chestnuts

The chestnut tree (*Castanea sativa*) is a very long-lived deciduous tree that can live up to 1000 years, and grows to a height of about 25-30 m.

These species grows well in temperate climates, from sea level to 1200-1300 m altitude. It can withstand intense winter colds but is very sensitive to late spring frosts and soil waterlogging.

When it is planted for wood production, its trunk is straight and long, and its crown is narrow; otherwise, when it is planted for fruit production, its trunk is shorter and its crown is dense and wide.

Chestnut trees remarkably improve soil conditions wherever they live.



## Uses

The chestnut, a staple food in Galicia for centuries, is a fruit of autumn from which a variety of products can be obtained: flour, liqueurs, jam... and has its own party, the *Magosto*.



Its wood, of excellent quality, is used in construction, in carpentry and for the manufacture of furniture.

From its leaves dyes are obtained, and bees suck in their inflorescences (candles) to produce honey, food of a high energy value and widely used as a home remedy for coughs or colds.



In the Soutos we can find numerous species of edible mushrooms such as boletus (*Boletus edulis*), chantarelle (*Cantharellus cibarius*), beefsteak fungus (*Fistulina hepatica*) and even, in the areas of Mediterranean climate, the precious *Amanita caesarea*.