

### **Workshop 3**

#### **Poster presentation**

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## **AQUATIC PLANT PRODUCTION FOR WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECTS IN THE VALENCIAN COMMUNITY**

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The Valencian Community, at the eastern part of Spain, is home to wetland ecosystems of great importance included in 17 regional SCIs (Sites of Community Interest). Despite their importance some of them are badly degraded as a result of a long-term human intervention and require restoration of their plant communities. To achieve this goal the Generalitat Valenciana set out a program of aquatic plant production and of establishment of 1997. So far a total of 78.599 plants from 75 different vascular plant species — 14 floating and submerged hydrophytes, 15 emerged hydrophytes and 46 helophytes — have been produced in specially designed greenhouses. In the framework of two successive LIFE projects, 82 ha of wetland habitats have been restored or even recreated in former paddy fields. The results have allowed the establishment of sexual and vegetative propagation protocols for aquatic plants and a tested methodology for wetland restoration.