

Bio-Xplore Project

BioXplore is headed by Hadassah College Jerusalem, coordinating a Consortium formed by the Biodiversity and Environmental Research Center, the Palestinian Authority, Leitat Technological Center, Spain and the Hellenic Regional Development Center, Greece. Other associated partners participating in BioXplore include US based, Rutgers University, in New Jersey and North Carolina State University, and from Spain, the Centre Tecnològic Forestal in Catalunya.

BioXplore's objective is to identify endemic plants in the Mediterranean area with potential active compounds to be valorised into marketable products in the pharma, food and cosmetic sectors. This project will also promote social and financial development in the Mediterranean region.

One of the Activities of the Project will be to create the Mediterranean Branch of the Global Institute for Bio-Exploration (GIBEX-MED). GIBEX Centers (<http://www.gibex.org>) are now active in Africa, America and Asia and encourage international research and development activities. These common activities promote the development of biological products based on natural endemic resources in the associated countries, that can improve health and environment in these developing areas.

During the BioXplore project, available fast and easy to use screening kits developed by GIBEX, will be used to screen the Mediterranean flora in search of potential candidates for marketable product development. These screening efforts will be coordinated by Hadassah College throughout the participating regions. Moreover, new kits will be developed to assess other biological activities that can lead to the identification of new plants with potential marketability in the pharma, food and cosmetic sectors.