

# Project MarginUp! kicks off to raise the biodiversity and productivity of marginal lands



Consortium visit to the Spanish use-case in Mérida in January 2023.

MarginUp! has launched to raise the potential for biodiversity and the production of bio-based industrial feed stocks on marginal lands. The project will develop sustainable and circular value chains to produce bio-products and biofuels from natural raw materials grown on marginal lands. By introducing climate resilient and biodiversity-friendly non-food crops on marginal and low-productivity lands, MarginUp! will increase farming system resilience, enhance biodiversity, and promote stakeholder participation.

As Dr Philipp Grundmann, Head of Research Group Sociotechnical Systems and Institutional Change at ATB and coordinator of MarginUp! said, ***“The MarginUp! Project was set up to achieve a breakthrough in the development of circular bioeconomy enterprises that valorise marginal lands while promoting biodiversity and social participation.”***

This 48-month-long project began officially in December 2022. The official launch of the project took place in Mérida, Spain, during January 23-25/ 2023. The MarginUp! Consortium came together for the first time to discuss the work ahead.

The project has received a total grant of just under seven million euros from the European Commission within the Horizon Europe’s “Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors” programme ([CORDIS](#)). The project is coordinated by the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB) and brings together 29 partners from eight different European countries and two international partners (Argentina and South Africa) from across the agriculture and bioeconomy sectors. ATLANTIIS Environment & Innovation is leading the Environmental and Socioeconomic impact assessment and the Exploitation Tasks.

For more information please visit the project’s website [www.margin-up.eu](http://www.margin-up.eu) or contact Charalambos Panayiotou, ATLANTIS, ([c.panayiotou@atlantis-consulting.eu](mailto:c.panayiotou@atlantis-consulting.eu)), Dr. Philipp Grundmann, ATB, Project Coordinator ([pgrundmann@atb-potsdam.de](mailto:pgrundmann@atb-potsdam.de)) or Marisol Castro Rey, Greenovate!, Communication Coordinator at [m.castro@greenovate-europe.eu](mailto:m.castro@greenovate-europe.eu).

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