

## Regeneration of the landscape and archaeological Park of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento,

Archaeological and Landscape Park of the Valley of the Temples of Agrigento  
Department of Cultural Heritage and Identity of Sicily

The landscape regeneration project is the result of co-operation between public and private partners within the exceptional setting of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997, the Valley of the Temples hosts one of the Mediterranean's major archaeological complexes, surrounded by an agricultural landscape of rare beauty, mainly composed of centenary olive and almond trees. To further the sustainable development of the park resources, park authorities have co-ordinated the actions of public and private partners, recreating high-quality traditional products and using ancient agronomic practices of Sicilian tradition. Their aim was to combine production, protection and enhancement of the territory, thanks also to the refurbishment of important infrastructure such as the old temples railway. The project thus combines knowledge, co-operation, development, protection and enhancement.



The Committee of Ministers conferred a special mention for “Sustainable development and social reintegration” of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention, for the 5th Session of the Award 2016-2017 to the organisers of the project. “Regeneration of the Landscape and Archaeological Park of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento” is an excellent example of a link between the enhancement of archaeological features recognised at international level and the development of an innovative agrarian economy, based on age-old knowledge. Using the restored access paths, both the local community and the many visitors may profit from this outstanding site, appreciating its landscape and the high quality of the local products.