



The **Observatory for a Culture of the Territory (OCT)** is a Civil Society Organisation for the study and reflection the use and transformation of land and landscape in society. OCT is based in Spain but has a wide area of international operation, with collaborators and scientific committee members in the UK, Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, United States among others. OCT's core mission is the better integration of human societies with their land and its resources, principally by increasing dialogue between different social domains and communities in the territory such as scientists and policy makers, farmers and consumers, rural and urban dwellers. Key areas of work include:

- Land and natural resources planning
- Rural development appraisal and evaluations
- Geographical modelling and analysis
- Agroecology
- Heritage, tradition and landscape

Research experience

OCT has been involved in, or is currently involved in, the following European research projects:

1. Time Geographical Approaches to Emergent Sustainable Societies (TiGreSS), EU 5th Framework Programme (2003-2006)
2. Integrative Systems and the boundary problem (ISBP), EU 6th Framework Programme (2006-2009)
3. Knowledge Based Climate Mitigation Systems for a Low Carbon Economy (COMPLEX), EU 7th Framework Programme (2012-2016 - ongoing).

OCT has carried out numerous projects at national level, for example:

1. *Ecós del Tajo* (Ecological agriculture as a model of sustainable development in the Tagus basin) funded through the National Rural Network (Ministry of Agriculture and Environment).
2. *Participatory strategy for the cattle trails of Baja Alcarria - Know your past*, for the Cattle Trails Area (D.G. Environment, Regional Government of Madrid. (2010)
3. *Modelling land use dynamics in the Spanish National Parks Network and its environment* (DUSPANAC); in collaboration with the University of Alcalá, funded by the Autonomous Body for National Parks (Ministry of Agriculture and Environment). (2010-2013)
4. *Appraisal of the use of pasture and livestock management in the municipality Hermandad de Campoo de Suso (Cantabria)* for the Association País Románico.
5. *Qualitative evaluation of farmers' perceptions about agrarian practices in Madrid* (IMIDRA, Regional Government of Madrid, 2013-14)

Observatorio para una Cultura del Territorio

Calle Duque Fernán Núñez, 2-1º. 28012, Madrid

e-mail: oct@observatorioculturayterritorio.org

Síguenos en Nuestra Web - www.observatorioculturayterritorio.org

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