



## close-up on... Three projects supported in 2012



### THERAPEUTIC DOGS PROJECT WINS FRENCH MAYORS' PRIZE IN 2012

WESTERN FRANCE /

At the annual Exhibition for Mayors and Local Authorities, a not-for-profit organisation called Compagnon d'Un Jour, Compagnon de Toujours, based in Marennes on the Island of Oléron, won the French Town Halls' "judges' favourite" award. Founded in 2010 by Leslie Bergeron, a young woman who is herself disabled, the organisation carries out visits to elderly people, children and severely disabled adults with specially trained dogs. The therapy has proved itself extremely beneficial, especially for people suffering from Alzheimer's disease.



### WOOD SALVAGING SCHEME PROVIDES WORK OPPORTUNITIES

BRITTANY /

Inspired by a research project completed by a student working as an intern, the not-for-profit organisation KOAD Énergie Verte developed a local initiative linking professional integration and the development of the timber sector in the Lorient region. The Lorient region has many suburban districts which have remained largely rural, rich in hedgerows and trees that homeowners have to maintain pruned. The resulting scrap wood is normally incinerated along with household waste, discharging its carbon. So why not recover it and transform it into wood chips, logs and mulch for local authorities and private customers? This idea was the start of a project to create platforms for salvaging and transforming scrap wood from tree pruning throughout the Lorient region. The project has provided work opportunities for people suffering from social exclusion, with the creation of jobs with no threat of relocation.



### AN INNOVATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR SMALLHOLDERS

SOUTH OF FRANCE /

BEDE is an international not-for-profit organisation that helps to protect and promote smallholder farming. This project consists in working with a local smallholder cooperative in the Minervois region to install three model irrigation managing systems for training purposes, adapted to the irregular rainfall of the region. They are economical and easy to replicate. Installed in Gimios, Mailhac and Azillanet, they will accommodate training workshops for around fifty smallholders per year, in conjunction with partners from the world of agriculture: the chamber of agriculture, the Upper Languedoc natural park, Bio Civam, etc. During summer droughts, it will be possible to take advantage of any storms that do occur.