

## **OLEA Initiative**

The University of Jaén is located in the **province of Jaén** (Spain), which is the main producer of olive oil in the world.

In order to foster the joint participation of researchers, SMEs, public administrations, universities and research institutes in R&I project proposals on the olive sector, the UJA International Projects Office (OFIPI) has created the so-called **OLEA Initiative**, which started in Brussels on 29th June **2017** ([OLEA R&I Project Info & Networking Event](#)) with the help of the [SOST Office](#) and is implemented with the collaboration of the [UJA Institute of Research in Olive Groves and Olive Oils](#) (plus the expertise of the [UJA Advanced Research Center in Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences](#)).

Following the success of this first meeting, the UJA hosted a second meeting on 25th January **2018** ([OLEA R&I Project Development day](#)) with over 100 participants. In **2019**, a [meeting with enterprises from the province of Jaén](#) was also hosted at the UJA in December. Furthermore, the **International Olive Council** endorsed this Initiative after a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) was signed between the UJA and the IOC on 13th January 2020.

Due to COVID-19, a III OLEA International Project Networking Event took place online. This virtual event was divided into two sessions: [Session 1](#) (26th, 27th, 28th May **2020**) & [Session 2](#) (October 2020 - April **2021**).

In year **2022** a new OLEA meeting ('[Fighting the climate change in the olive sector](#)') was held at the premises of the International Olive Council in Madrid on 24th May.

Recently, the UJA welcomed in **2023** a representative from [Western Sydney University](#) (Australia), which was named *number one in the world for its social, ecological and economic impact* in 2022 (THE).

**Welcome!**

