



Erasmus+

RUR' UP

Innovative education for sustainable development in peripheral rural areas

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Consortium

- University of Thessaly, GR
- Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, IRL
- CIHEAM-IAM, FR
- University of Helsinki, FIN
- University of National and World Economy, BG
- University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, RO
- University of Osijek, HR



- **Peripheral rural areas** = regions affected by **structural weakness due to the agri-environmental constraints** created by mountain, HNV, natural park or Natura 2000 sites;
- **30 %** Europe's Agricultural Areas (15% agricultural holdings);
- Critical for EU **"Farm to Fork"** Strategy;
- Important for achieving **UN's Sustainable Development Goals**
SDG8 *Decent Work and Economic Growth*
SDG15 *Life on Land*
SDG13 *Climate Action*
- Important for tackling rural **depopulation**, **biodiversity** loss and **heritage** preservation;
- Multidisciplinary approach is critical for empowering **scientists, consultants, decision makers, local producers** and **actors** (H2020, HNV Link Thematic Network);



Project Aim

“The Development of **New Knowledge** concerning **Sustainable Development of Peripheral Rural Areas**”

- 1) build understanding on the specific skills and competencies needed by the **labor market** and societal needs in such regions
- 2) support curricula development to ensure learning for the **skills and competencies**
- 3) strengthen **collaboration** between HE and potential regional and cross-regional employers
- 4) support **professional competencies** of the HE educators in such regions
- 5) contribute to the international pool of **open educational resources (OER)**.



Deliverables – Intellectual Outputs (IO)

- IO1** The assessment of the education needs and gaps for the sustainable development of the EU peripheral rural areas
- IO2** E-learning course
- IO3** Bank of Case Studies
- IO4** Digital Teaching Platform and Digital Learning Resource
- IO5** Syllabus and materials for Intensive Study Activity
- IO6** Reflective report on the approach and methodology adopted

Intellectual Output 1

“The assessment of the **education needs** and **gaps** for the sustainable development of the EU peripheral rural areas”

- In **Mainstream Higher Education** little is done on sustainable development of peripheral areas;
- Lack of **Basic Agricultural Education** focusing in EU’s peripheral areas and lack of personalized consultancy to peripheral areas producers;

Tasks

- Review **current syllabus** in EU tertiary education system;
- Expand understanding of **education and skills needs** of professionals in peripheral areas
- **Identify** and **report** education gaps

Intellectual Output 1

“The assessment of the **education needs** and **gaps** for the sustainable development of the EU peripheral rural areas”

1. Review **current syllabus** in EU tertiary education system

Methodology:

Review the on-line information about bachelor and master programs in 7 MS;

Expert opinion about the existing concordance between the content of the program and a set of predefined knowledge targets / skills

Intellectual Output 1

“The assessment of the **education needs** and **gaps** for the sustainable development of the EU peripheral rural areas”

1. Review **current syllabus** in EU tertiary education system

Methodology:

I. Competencies targeting SDGs :

1. Decent work & economic growth: graduates learn to improve economic resilience of farm & territory through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, focusing on high-value added and labour-intensive products & sustainable tourism based on local culture and products;

2. Life of Land: graduates have classes about sustainable use of resources and halt the biodiversity losses;

II. Skills (Korn Ferry, Competencies development guide):

1. Self-direction; 2. Organisation; 3. Co-operation. 4. Negotiation 5. IT&C; 6. Project management; 7. Practical knowledge; 8. Teaching; 9. Legislation; 10. Acting in a multicultural environment.

Intellectual Output 1

“The assessment of the **education needs** and **gaps** for the sustainable development of the EU peripheral rural areas”

2. Expand understanding about **education and skills needs** of professionals in peripheral areas;

Methodology:

- On-line local Focus Groups (FG)

1. Farmers & small industry; 2. Local action groups or AgroClusters & farmers' associations representatives; 3. Advisory services, educators, or training providers. 4. Employed and/or resident in rural areas; 5. NGO representatives and 6. Governmental bodies

- **On-line survey;**

Intellectual Output 1

“The assessment of the **education needs** and **gaps** for the sustainable development of the EU peripheral rural areas”

Country	Programs targeting peripheral rural areas	Level of study Bachelor (BAC+3/4) Master (BAC +5/6)	Main topics
Bulgaria	No program	-	-
Croatia	15 programs	9 Bachelor 6 Master	Agriculture and tourism in peripheral areas
Greece	No program	-	-
Finland	Data not available yet	-	-
France	7 programs	7 Master programs	Mountain, HNV, natural park, Natura 2000
Ireland	Data not available yet	-	-
Romania	4 Programs	4 Bachelor	Mountain areas



Intellectual Output 1

Country	Decent work & economic growth	
	University syllabus	Practitioners needs
Croatia	<p>General production and economic concepts.</p> <p>Diversification through tourism.</p>	<p>Adapted knowledge for peripheral rural areas (from production to sales);</p> <p>Use the available resources without affecting biodiversity and innovations;</p>
Greece	<p>General production and economic concepts.</p> <p>Specific lectures for mountain areas and agritourism;</p>	<p>Diversification (touristic services; small processing capacities);</p> <p>Collective marketing actions;</p>
Finland	Data not available yet.	<p>Diversification (touristic services; small processing capacities);</p> <p>Marketing of farm products;</p>
France	<p>Specific lectures for mountain areas; Product diversification and certification;</p>	<p>Collective marketing actions;</p> <p>Diversification (touristic services; small processing capacities);</p>
Romania	<p>Specific lectures for mountain areas; Product diversification and tourism;</p>	<p>Certification of products/regions and tourism / agrotourism accommodation structures;</p> <p>Management of producer groups and cooperatives;</p>



Intellectual Output 1

Country	Life of Land	
	University syllabus	Practitioners needs
Croatia	General production and environmental protection knowledges.	In depth understanding of interaction between land use, environment and economy;
Greece	General production and environmental protection rules. Specific lectures for mountain areas;	In depth understanding of interaction between land use, environment and economy; Environmental protection & stop biodiversity losses;
Finland	Data not available yet.	Environmental protection & stop biodiversity losses;
France	Specific lectures for mountain production and environmental protection rules.	In depth understanding of interaction between land use, environment and economy;
Romania	Specific lectures for mountain areas;	Techniques for sustainable resources use and halting the biodiversity losses; Resource vulnerabilities and biodiversity values; Techniques for small-scale production.



Country	Skills
	Needs identified by practitioners
Croatia	1. Practical knowledge; 2. Trust and organisation; 3. Communication and social skills;
Greece	1. Self-direction; 2. Practical knowledge; 3. Organisation; 4. Co-operation; 5. Legislation;
Finland	1. Self-direction; 2. Co-operation; 3. Organisation; 4. Negotiation; 5. Project management;
France	1. Self-direction; 2. Organisation; 3. Co-operation; 4. Project management; 5. Practical knowledge; 6. Negotiation;
Romania	1. Practical knowledge; 2 Project management ; 3 Organisation; 4 Co-operation; 5. Educational 6. Negotiation and Empathy and the ability to listen.

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