

Winter 2023-2024

In 2023, Euracademy experienced a year filled with activity. We organised two comprehensive 4-day training academies: the Summer Academy held in Gyor, Hungary, and the Winter Academy hosted in Karditsa, Greece. Moreover, Euracademy actively engaged as a partner in five EU-funded projects, contributing our expertise and resources to advance initiatives focused on sustainable development across Europe. We dedicated time to updating our website and refining our Facebook strategy, ensuring that our digital presence remains informative and updated. Finally, we participated in multiple events focused on promoting capacity building and sustainable development in rural areas.

Summer and Winter Academies



The **20th Summer Academy** was held in Gyor, Hungary, in August, and was organized by Euracademy in collaboration with Széchenyi István University. The focus was on “Changing farming practices to address the climate crisis”, highlighting innovative approaches to sustainable farming, with a focus on regenerative agriculture. The programme of the Summer Academy accommodated a “training of trainers” session dedicated to the Erasmus+ project REGINA. The Academy brought together 35 participants from 9 countries and 15 diverse institutions across Europe. They engaged in discussions, exchanged views, shared best practices, and participated in study visits to regenerative agriculture initiatives in the rural area surrounding Gyor. [Link](#)



For the first time, Euracademy organized a **Winter Academy**, the 21st in the series of Academies, in collaboration with the University of Thessaly, Department of Forestry, Wood Sciences, and Design. The Winter Academy dealt with the theme of “The Green Transition of Rural Communities” and was held in the context of the CO-GREEN project funded by the EU-CERV Programme. Taking place in Karditsa, Greece, in November, the Academy brought together over 60 participants from 8 European countries. Noteworthy contributions were made by CO-GREEN trainers and partners from Poland, Italy, Croatia, and Greece, enhancing the depth and variety of the discussions. The Academy included training sessions, plenary discussions, interactive workshops, and engaging study tours in the wider area of Karditsa. Under the thematic umbrella of 'Community-Based Action for the Green Transition of Rural Communities,' the event highlighted the need for community participation in sustainable development. [Link](#)

Join us at our next Summer Academy!

The 22th Summer Academy of Euracademy will be held from 16th to 20th June 2024 in the coastal town of Rafina, near Athens, focusing on the theme of Responsible Food Production and Consumption. An official announcement will be soon published in our website www.euracademy.org

Current Projects Update

Com4AgriPlant



Com4AgriPlant is a **new** project for Euracademy, born from the joint effort of six partners from five European countries (Slovenia, Greece, Italy, Spain and Lithuania), and developed within the Erasmus+ programme. The 2,5 year project with the title **Comics for Promoting Plant-Based Agriculture** started in January 2023 and aims to create an open and alternative adult learning pathway on

plant-based agriculture and consumption through the use of comics and graphic novels. The learning pathway will become a toolkit full of teaching materials and will be made available to everyone via an e-learning platform, which can be constantly updated and improved. In addition, a training course will be developed and tested with adult trainers, educators and agricultural consultants and promoters in the field of the agri-food chain. The partnership has conducted a research on promotional strategies, stakeholders, and lifelong learning opportunities in the field of plant-based farming and diets in the partner countries and the EU level; the research findings are compiled in a joint synthesis report available at the [Com4AgriPlant website](http://www.euracademy.org/com4agriplant). Currently, the partnership is working on the [Com4AgriPlant learning methodology](http://www.euracademy.org/com4agriplant) that will guide educators on how to use comics as a learning tool for adults, including the advantages of visual learning and the benefits of using comics, best practices from each country and a guide and tips for its practical application and integration in formal and informal learning contexts. Moreover, we are currently developing the [Com4AgriPlant innovative toolkit](http://www.euracademy.org/com4agriplant), which will include 30 comics exploring a variety of topics such as the benefits and challenges of plant-based farming and steps to make the transition, the nutrition of plant-based diets and the marketing of plant-based products, among others. More info: <https://www.euracademy.org/com4agriplant/>

EuroCluster Rural Tourism



This project, initiated in September 2022 and supported by COSME, aims to assist micro and nano SMEs in the tourism sector. Euracademy managed to attract 42 applications in the first call for SMEs, launched in July 2003 and 25 applications in the second call for SMEs, launched in December 2003. After evaluation of all applications by an experts' committee, 22 applications were approved in the first call – all of which have been contractualised,

and 18 applications were approved in the second call, whose contractualisation is underway. Euracademy is already offering technical support through its approved Assistance Service Providers in the countries of origin of the applicants, nearly Croatia, Greece, Ireland, Montenegro, and Slovenia,

aiming to improve their green, digital and social skills capacities. Prior to commencing the technical support to SMEs, Euracademy organised a “training-of-trainers” event in Loutraki, Greece, addressing Assistance Service Providers (ASP) for SMEs, in which 16 ASPs took part in person and more than 20 took part online. 10 further face-to-face and online events were organised in the above listed countries, which reached the selected ASPs and SMEs interested in taking part in the project. A number of documents explaining the process for providing support to SME, including training materials, were created by Euracademy and are available at the repository created by the project: <https://www.euroclusterruraltourism.eu/en/tools/>

More info: <https://www.euroclusterruraltourism.eu/>

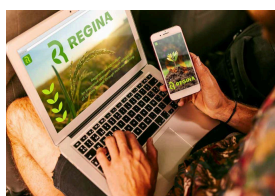
Co-Green



This project started in December 2023. Over the past year, the Co-Green project has organized 15 events in Greece, Poland, Italy, and online, all aimed at fostering community engagement in the sustainable development of rural areas. The project's focus is on training and motivating local green activators to lead initiatives focused on the green transition in their communities. In collaboration with the Municipality of Karditsa, Euracademy conducted numerous on-site focus groups, round tables, and public presentations, involving over 150 local stakeholders. Our participatory approach includes comprehensive stakeholder

mapping, focused questionnaires, and interviews to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness. Additionally, transnational online webinars and on-site research workshops in Poland and Italy facilitated the exchange of best practices and ideas to enhance EU-wide impact. As part of the Winter School, 40 stakeholders and 21 Green Activator trainers attended the training session organized by Euracademy. Currently, we are providing specialized local training for Green Activators, covering theoretical knowledge, seminars, and hands-on experience, and we are developing a comprehensive handbook and syllabus that will serve as guides for future initiatives. For more information, visit: <https://www.euracademy.org/co-green/>

REGINA Project



REGINA Project started in November 2021 and is an Erasmus+ Cooperation partnership project in the universities strand. The project focuses on the topic of Regenerative Agriculture, by addressing the crucial need to transform current agricultural and food systems. The overall aim of the project is to create learning material in the form of courses that can be taught to agronomy students (and related fields of study) at university level, to vocational secondary

education students of agriculture (and related fields) and to farmers and farmers’ advisors. During the last year, REGINA Partners in 5 countries were working on an adaptable learning methodology and learning modules, introducing an online REGINA platform, allowing interaction between teachers, students and other users, in order to accommodate the learning products and encourage the exchange of experiences. The learning methodology and the modules were also presented in the framework of the “Training of trainers” event that was organised in Gyor in August 2023, in the context of the 20th Summer Academy. More info: <https://www.euracademy.org/regina/>

GoodFood



[GOODFOOD – Education to become responsible food consumers](#)

started in November 2022 and is an Erasmus+ Cooperation partnership project on school education, based on the cooperation of research centres, academic institutes and secondary education schools from 3 Mediterranean countries – Greece, Italy and Spain. The project aims to develop an innovative learning methodology, tools and material to help schools introduce the theme of healthy and sustainable eating,

and to help create an active community of stakeholders to raise awareness and promote responsible school education on the theme of GOODFOOD. At the start of the project, the partnership conducted a survey on the learning needs of teachers and students in secondary education in relation to the theme and innovative learning approaches, and the survey findings from each country were reported in a Synthesis Report and guided the design of the GOODFOOD Learning Methodology. The GOODFOOD Learning Methodology, based on the Inquiry-Based Learning approach and the STEAM framework, has been developed and has guided the creation of 11 Learning Units dedicated to topics under 4 thematic: [Sustainable Food Production](#), [Sustainable Food Supply and Food Selection](#), [Sustainable food waste management](#), and [Nutritious and Healthy Food Consumption](#). The Learning methodology and Learning Units are currently pilot-tested at the partner schools in the project countries; through participating in the GOODFOOD school projects, the students are expected to produce sustainable and healthy recipes that will be collected in the GOODFOOD Recipes Library. A GOODFOOD European competition will also be launched soon, inviting students of secondary education.

More info: <https://www.euracademy.org/goodfood/>

Other news

In 2023, we launched a new user-friendly website for Euracademy, <https://www.euracademy.org/>, which now features dedicated pages for every ongoing project. Additionally, there's a special section where you can find materials (handbooks, programs, presentations) from all our Summer Academies, as well as a dedicated section with all our thematic guides publications. For real-time updates on our projects and initiatives, follow our regularly updated Facebook page. Stay informed by following us at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064520206996>