Farm 4SD

Small and Medium Farm Holders as Agents of Sustainable Change in Agriculture

Result 2: The Farm4SD - Modular Training Course

Based on the "Methodological Framework", that was published in March, and aims **to improve the capacity of VET institutions and trainers to understand farmers' needs**, the Result 2: Farm4SD Modular Training Course was developed.

R1 Methodological Framework on the Pillars of Sustainable Agriculture

The course consists of four modules, addressing EU farmers. Each module has been divided into face-to-face training, self-directed learning (asynchronous) and synchronous online training.

1 The pillars of Sustainable Agriculture

The learners will get introduced **to the European pillars of sustainable agriculture in Europe**: The Agenda 2030, the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Biodiversity Strategy, and the new CAP. Furthermore, they will get to know the basics of sustainable agriculture and adjusted farming management practices. They will gain the ability to critically reflect on the sustainable agricultural sector, considering its social, ecological, and economic aspects, enhance value chains and processes, adapt to market dynamics, and embrace both tradition and innovation in the sector.

2 Entrepreneurial Skills for the Sustainable Farmer

At the end of the module, the learners will have gained the **knowledge and skills to be able to develop a sustainable long-term business strategy**.

3	Financial literacy and funding for the Green Transformation

4	Essential Soft Skills for the Sustainable Farmers

The learners will be able to act as financially literate entrepreneurs, ensuring that their agricultural businesses can last over the long term, by **applying the basic principles of managing finance and identifying public and private sources of funding.**

At the end of the module, the learners will be able **to apply soft skills such as communication, critical thinking, teamwork, creativity, agility, and networking that are essential for acting as entrepreneurs**, thus ensuring the long-term viability of their agricultural business.

After the completion of the pilot trainings in each partner country, farmers will be able to access an electronically sealed certificate or acquire micro-credentials, having the form of European Credentials for Learning.

How Farm4SD contributes to Sustainable Agriculture

We are very happy that you have been following this project up until this point, showing interest in our activities and results. Within this section, we want to give more insights into how we intend to achieve our project's goal of contributing to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector. The training course provides farmers with insights regarding the most relevant regulations, plans and initiatives of the EU, to ensure that they are compliant to the above-mentioned, while decreasing their negative environmental impact, and **guarantees that farmers can take advantage of support mechanisms in place.**

One of the key elements in our course is the emphasis on entrepreneurship. Encouraging farmers to explore agricultural entrepreneurship, not only creates new opportunities but also contributes to the long-term sustainability of the EU agricultural sector. *By nurturing innovative ideas and providing necessary support, this project enables aspiring entrepreneurs to develop and implement*

sustainable practices, leading to more efficient and environmentally friendly agricultural operations.

Access to funding for sustainable purchases of equipment and renovations is another crucial aspect of this project. Recognizing the financial barriers that often hinder the adoption of sustainable technologies and infrastructure, **the training course teaches farmers how to access financial assistance.** This support will allow them to invest in eco-friendly equipment, such as energy-efficient machinery, precision farming tools, and sustainable irrigation systems. Additionally, **funds can be allocated for renovating existing infrastructure to meet modern sustainability standards,** reducing waste, and optimizing resource management.

The project also places great importance on enhancing soft skills among agricultural entrepreneurs. It recognizes that technical knowledge alone is not sufficient for success in

the agricultural sector. By providing training in areas such as communication, time management, networking, and agility, participants gain a well-rounded skill set necessary to navigate the complexities of the modern agricultural industry. **These soft skills are essential** for entrepreneurs **to effectively communicate their sustainable practices,**

build partnerships, and create market demand for their environmentally friendly products.

In conclusion, this project's holistic approach is an exciting step towards a more sustainable agricultural sector. By aligning closely with the EU's pillars of sustainable agriculture, it ensures that the project's impact is in line with broader regional sustainability goals.

TPM in Poland and LTTA in Slovenia

On 25.05.23, the third transnational partner meeting (TPM) took place in a hybrid form. Many of our partners were warmly welcomed in Warsaw by the Polish Farm Advisory, while some had to join online, as they were unable to travel. Overall, the meeting was very productive! We managed to push forward on the project results and establish common decisions for the next steps. The meeting gave us new motivation for the next months, and **we are already looking forward to seeing each other again at the next partner meeting in Greece, in the coming year in January.**

Before our next transnational meeting, we have yet another get-together that is planned for September 2023: The Joined Staff Training Activity (LTTA). The Farm4SD LTTA has the aim to bring together vocational educators/trainers, and staff or associates of the partner organizations in order to reskill and upskill on: the pillars of the sustainable agriculture;, on key competences regarding agriculture entrepreneurship; and

funding opportunities. The aforementioned topics are covered in the four (4) modules of the Result 3-Traine-the-Trainers Program for VET Educators, which we have developed over the last months, aiming at preparing the VET trainers to support farmers in their sustainable transition. Further, **we want to recap on advanced VET learning methods and techniques and the implementation of the updated ECVET, ECTS and Micro-credential approach in validating the newly acquired qualifications.**

In addition, there are some further **next steps**, we want to highlight: Within the next weeks, we will finish Result 3, and exploit it during the LTTA. Moreover, we are working on Result 4 - Farm4SD Multifunctional and Interactive Platform. *The platform will be populated with the developed learning materials, that will be freely available in English, French, German, Greek, Polish and Slovenian.*

Where can you find us?

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