



**WELCOME
To the 13th
European Academy for Sustainable Rural
Development**

**“Volunteering and Sustainable Rural
Development”**

by

**Fouli Papageorgiou
President**

Who we are



- ❖ A network of universities, training organisations, NGOs, research institutes, planning consultancies, local authorities, social partners
- ❖ an interdisciplinary group of individuals,
- ❖ Carrying a commitment to help in a practical way the sustainable development of rural areas through capacity building
- ❖ Having the legal status of a non-profit association set up in the beginning of 2004

Who do we address

Individual actors who have a role in rural development. We help people to increase their knowledge and readiness to take initiatives, learn from others and cooperate with them

- ❖ **Organisations** both within and outside government, responsible for policy making or policy implementation in rural areas. We aim to strengthen their ability to conceive, fund and manage rural development programmes.

How do we promote capacity-building of rural development stakeholders?

- ❖ Exchange of experience**
- ❖ Transfer of good practice**
- ❖ Learning**
- ❖ Networking and cooperation**

Capacity building activities

- ❖ **Summer Academies** organised annually. Since 2002, 12 summer academies have been successfully held in 9 different countries (SE, GR, PL, HU, FI, ES, IT, SI, EE) focusing on different aspects of rural development
- ❖ **website and social media**
- ❖ **seminars and conferences**
- ❖ **Project – based European-wide partnerships**
- ❖ **Research** on sustainable rural development issues
- ❖ **Publications:** “Thematic Guides” to complement the summer academies; research reports and project reports

Summer academies

The Euracademy's approach to capacity building is demonstrated in the summer academies model



- ❖ Lectures
- ❖ Panels of experts
- ❖ Workgroups
- ❖ Plenary discussions
- ❖ Study trips
- ❖ networking opportunities

Integrated approach to rural development

- considering all the different sides of development and the different routes it can use to achieve a sustainable future:

Rural Tourism / Information society /

Diversification of Rural Economies / Social Capital /

Education and LLL / Culture / Environment /

Agriculture / Social Innovation / Local Governance /

Landscape / Creative Industries / Volunteering



Research activities and project work

- ❖ Adapted the Euracademy Thematic Guides on Rural Tourism and ICT to the needs of small rural businesses
- ❖ Created an Observatory of ICT- assisted learning in rural areas accessible at www.euracademy-observatory.org / www.e-ruralnet.eu
- ❖ Researched the impact of lifelong learning on social inclusion in rural areas www.ll4inclusion.net
- ❖ Researched the cultural heritage of rural areas (CULT RURAL project) www.cultrural.net
- ❖ Focused on European policies and especially the ELC aiming to make it better understood by the ordinary people



The European Masters Programme for Rural Animators EMRA

A two-year MA delivered online by 7 EU universities, utilising the material collected in the summer academies and published in the thematic guides

Starting on 1 December 2014, led by the University of Valencia



www.euracademy.org