

## About Euracademy

We are a multi-national, inter-disciplinary team of university teachers, researchers, consultants and managers of rural development, established in 2003 as a non-profit NGO of European coverage. The core vision of Euracademy - The European Academy for Sustainable Rural Development, is to promote capacity building in rural areas; and mobilise animators and managers of rural development by offering them the opportunity to improve their skills, widen their experience and expand their professional qualifications, starting a personal itinerary of lifelong learning in our summer academies. Ample space for networking and cooperation is also provided by summer academies, seminars, conferences and European projects.



## Welcome to this newsletter

This Newsletter heralds a new era for Euracademy, which is marked by rich new activity and ample possibilities to reach out to new audiences and territories in many thematic sectors, such the green transition of rural communities, supporting the greening of rural SMES, exploring the advantages of alternatives forms of agriculture that address the climate crisis, demonstrating the links between producers and consumers in a common effort for high quality healthy food etc. In addition, we are very glad to announce that in 2023, a face-to-face summer academy will take place in Hungary, following a period of solely online activity, during the pandemic.

## Our next Summer Academy will be soon announced!

The 20<sup>th</sup> Summer Academy of Euracademy will be held during the last week of August in Gyor, Hungary, on the theme of: “Changing farming practices to address the climate crisis”. This theme complements earlier and current activities of Euracademy, namely the Webinar of March 2021 and the online Summer

Academy of October 2021 on “Regenerative Agriculture”, drawing also content and expertise from the REGINA project on the same theme (see below). An official announcement will be soon published in our website [www.euracademy.org](http://www.euracademy.org)

## Current Projects Update

### EuroCluster Rural Tourism



This project, launched in September 2022, supported by COSME, aims to help micro and nano SMEs in the tourism sector through the structure of a Eurocluster. Traditionally based on local or regional demand, rural tourism SMEs have now the opportunity to expand their markets by working together on a transnational basis in the Eurocluster Rural Tourism project. Building on the longstanding work and experience of partners like Ruraltour and Euracademy in the field of transnational networking, information exchange and training, the project combines individual support to SMEs for upgrading and greening their operation with an effort to promote clustering at European level. The partners of this project include a variety of organisations across 6 countries: VENETIAN CLUSTER SRL (IT)–Coordinator, Euracademy (GR), RURALTOUR Federation Europeenne de Tourisme Rural (FR), Asociatia de Dezvoltare Intercomunitara Harghita (RO), Národní klastrová asociace (CZ), Asociacion Cluster de Turismo Sostenible De Aragon (ES). More info: <https://www.euroclusterruraltourism.eu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/eururaltourism> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/eu-rural-tourism/>

### Co-Green



This project, launched in December 2023 and supported by CERV-2022-CITIZENS-CIV, aims to further stimulate the growing interest of civil society and associations in discussing climate and green issues and proposing solutions to decision makers. CO-GREEN aims to develop an intervention model that supports community development in the process of ecological transition, incorporating the values, principles and sustainable practices that characterise the Green Deal. A varied partnership from 4 countries join forces to implement this project: CAL Association (PL) – Coordinator, Nikolaus Copernicus University (PL), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Rijeka (HR), Udruga Zmergo (HR), National Forum of the Third Sector (IT), Universita Degli Studi Di Roma Tor Vergata (IT) Euracademy (GR), Municipality of Karditsa (GR). More info:.....

<https://www.euracademy.org/co-green/>



REGINA project started in November 2021 and is an Erasmus+ Cooperation partnership project. The project places an emphasis on Regenerative Agriculture that can offer substantial results for sustainable farming by enhancing biodiversity “above and below the ground surface”, thus contributing to increased water and nutrient use efficiency and to improved and sustained crop production. A varied partnership from 5 countries join forces to implement this project: Széchenyi István University (HU) – Coordinator, Slovenian Association for Conservation Agriculture (SL), Euracademy (GR), Forestry and Wood Technology School in Postojna (SL), South and East Cork Area Development CLG (IE), Veres Péter Secondary Vocational School (HU), GYMSM Farmers’ Association (HU), University of Florence (IT). More info: <https://www.euracademy.org/regina/>

## GoodFood



GOODFOOD started in November 2021 and is an Erasmus+ Cooperation partnership project. GOODFOOD develops a Methodology and Learning Modules for secondary schools, on topics related to the food chain and the food nutritional value, fostering an integrated STEAM approach, inquiry-based learning and the integration of Art in audio-visual forms. The partners of this project include organizations from 3 countries: CEBAS Research Institute (ES) – Coordinator, Institute of Bio-Economy IBE-CNR (IT), PRISMA Centre for Development Studies (GR), Euracademy (GR), Association Maieutiké (IT), General Lyceum of Rafina (GR), Monte Miravete Secondary School (ES). More info: <https://www.euracademy.org/goodfood/>

## Com4agriplant



Com4agriplant started in January 2023 and is an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership project, aiming to create a new consciousness on sustainable behaviours and fight climate-change through the promotion of plant-based farming and consumption. Plant-based farming includes a large range of different practices such as crop rotation, soil conservation, optimizing water use and many other organic and sustainable cultivation practices. What makes Com4agriplant particular, is that learning is shaped through a series of comics, enhancing it and making it attractive to persons who are not usually inclined to take up lifelong learning. The project is led by GEOSS Educational Centre (DI), partnered by Euracademy (GR), Association Caminos (ES), Xwhy Agency of Understanding (LT), Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (SI) and Land Social Enterprise (IT). More info: <https://www.euracademy.org/com4agriplant/>



## Other news

### Networking

EURACADEMY is now a partner of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) Community. The New European Bauhaus supports a movement of sustainable communities, inclusive dialogues, and purposeful activities. Partners are organisations with a significant outreach capacity who are trusted members of their communities. The New European Bauhaus promotes the core values of the European Union: human rights: freedom, democracy, equality and rule of law. More info: [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en)

### In memory of Michel Dower

With great sadness we learnt about the death of Michel Dower last November. Michael has been a founding member of Euracademy, then an honorary member all his life and a great friend, having helped us with most of our summer academies until his health allowed him. But Michael has been much more than that: an inspiration for all of us, our mentor of how to put sustainable local development into practice, an always sharp but friendly and kind critic, offering food for thought to take our thinking even further. We will never forget his lucid lectures on sustainable rural development, his brilliant comments in our discussions and his warm human side, taking part in all happy moments and celebrations. Michael will always be alive in our minds and hearts.



Michael in action, in the 13<sup>th</sup> summer academy of Euracademy, at Szombathely, Hungary, 2014

***Do you have something to share with our network? Please send your news and updates to be included in the Spring newsletter by 15 May 2023!***