



## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Euracademy Association invites you to take part in the**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Summer Academy**

**including. the Final Conference of GOODFOOD Project**

On

***“Responsible Food Production and Consumption for a sustainable future”***

**to be held in the wider area of Rafina, Greece from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

*The theme: How can rural communities contribute to the challenges of global food systems, by focusing on healthy and local “good food”?*

### **Background and aim**

Euracademy is delighted to announce its **22<sup>nd</sup> Summer Academy**, dedicated to the crucial theme of sustainable food production and consumption. As the EU prioritizes sustainability in its agenda, it is evident that conventional agriculture poses significant environmental challenges, including greenhouse gas emissions, soil and water pollution, and the depletion of natural resources threatened by human activities and climate change. Evidently, sustainable farming methods should be prioritised, to ensure the medium and long term high quality, healthy and sustainable food choices.

In alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production, there is a critical need to promote sustainable practices to mitigate the effects of climate change. Additionally, addressing the current food paradigm in Europe, characterized by overconsumption, waste and a preference for highly processed foods, is essential in combating lifestyle-related health problems.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Summer Academy is organised in the context of the GOODFOOD project, which is funded by Erasmus+ and implemented by a transnational consortium of organisations led by the AGENCIA ESTATAL - CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS (CSIC) of Spain. Euracademy is a member of this consortium.

Recognizing the pivotal role of families and schools in shaping young people's lifestyles and behaviours, initiatives like GOODFOOD aim to address the totality of school communities – students, teachers and parents. By integrating scientific knowledge with practical experiences, delving into ingredient choices, traditional and innovative recipes and combining them with knowledge on the environmental impacts of food production, GOODFOOD seeks to empower the school communities, and through them the wider hosting communities, with the tools and resources necessary to make informed, responsible food choices.

Rural areas can play a pivotal role in promoting healthy and local "good food" that not only nourishes communities but also contributes to environmental conservation and economic vitality. Rural communities, with their close ties to the land and traditional farming practices, are uniquely positioned to champion sustainable agricultural methods that prioritize soil health, biodiversity, and the preservation of natural resources. On the other hand, urban communities form the bulk of food consumers, imposing their choices on food farmers and dictating through consumption and demand the “rules of the game” for food production. Drawing on the urban-rural linkages debate, there is now an

invigorated interest on the topic, which has evolved from a recognition of the flaws of the concept of rural-urban divide to a discussion on rural-urban transformations and a reframing of the urban-rural linkages, taking on board food security as a prominent issue.<sup>1</sup> The issue has been recently included in the EU Cohesion Policy, through a number of pilot projects<sup>2</sup>; while it has been since long ago a revisited issue in the UN publications.

Through interdisciplinary collaboration and transnational engagement, the Summer Academy will explore how a transformed relationship between urban and rural communities can play a vital role in shaping a more sustainable and equitable food future. Join us at the Summer Academy as we delve into the complexities of sustainable food production and consumption, explore innovative solutions, and work towards building a healthier, more resilient future for generations to come.

### Discussion topics

Questions to be addressed by this year's Summer Academy are grouped under three main themes:

#### 1. Understanding sustainable food consumption:

- What are the key components of a sustainable food consumption system?
- How can we redefine our relationship with food to prioritize sustainability and health?
- What are the benefits of consuming local and seasonal foods?
- How can communities promote and support local food systems?

#### 2. Fostering sustainable food systems and enhancing food security:

- How can we integrate sustainable practices into food production, distribution and consumption?
- What are the economic implications of transitioning to more sustainable food systems?
- How can policy frameworks support and incentivize sustainable food consumption patterns?
- What strategies can be implemented to reduce food waste at the consumer, retailer and producer levels?

#### 3. Empowering communities through education:

- Who are the key stakeholders in educating consumers about sustainable food choices?
- What is the role of school education in shaping responsible food consumers and producers of the future?
- What educational initiatives have proven effective in promoting sustainable food consumption?
- How can technology and innovation help in raising awareness about sustainable food issues?

### Target group

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Summer Academy welcomes participants from all over Europe, who are working in the field of rural development and education, with a special emphasis on school education. For this year's Summer Academy, we are specifically targeting educators and administrators from educational

---

<sup>1</sup> Buerkert, A., Schlecht, E. Rural–urban transformation: a key challenge of the 21st century. *Nutr Cycl Agroecosyst* **115**, 137–142 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10705-019-10008-1>, Tacoli, C. and Vorley, B. (2015). *Reframing the debate on urbanisation, rural transformation and food security*. . available at <https://www.iied.org/17281iied>

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/policy/what/territorial-cohesion/urban-rural-linkages\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/what/territorial-cohesion/urban-rural-linkages_en), <https://unhabitat.org/topic/urban-rural-linkages>



institutions (including schools, colleges and universities), educational authorities, advisors and consultants working with food producers and rural communities, individual farmers and farmers' associations, managers and staff of Local Development Agencies, LEADER LAGs and NGOs working in rural areas, local and regional authorities or similar organisations, policy and decision makers in the fields of food production and rural development, as well as researchers, academics, students and experts in related fields.

The event is designed for around 60 participants, who are invited to share their experiences, to acquire new knowledge and skills and to benefit from the wide networking opportunities offered by Euracademy. Participants should have a reasonable command of English.

### **The format**

The summer academy includes lectures; discussion groups in the form of workgroups of up to 8 participants following each lecture; study trips to the rural areas surrounding the summer academy venue, focusing on specific local development issues related to sustainable food production and consumption; study trip reports which the participants prepare and present; panel discussions and special-topic workshops. Collective work is strongly promoted during the summer academy on the principle that all participants learn from one another, equally sharing knowledge and experiences.

We adopt a strong emphasis on “problem solving - finding solutions” and give a high profile to the study visits and great importance to meetings with the communities. Thus, following initial lectures and panel sessions with expert lecturers, the study trips will be designed as topic-specific case studies to investigate real community-based challenges. The participants will be tasked to explore these challenges and identify and present real potential solutions during the summer academy. In this way, we hope participants will be able to develop their skills of community-based investigation/appraisal, analysis and solution/action plan presentation.

### **The Programme**

This summer academy will benefit from the experience of 21 previous Academies held in an equal number of different locations around Europe, on different themes relating to sustainable rural development. We are using all our previous experience to organise a similar event this year and bring you an equally strong experience.

Moreover, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Summer Academy benefits from the **GOODFOOD project** on healthy and sustainable food consumption, which will enrich the programme with lectures, workshops and examples on the topic, with a special focus on education. Initiatives like GOODFOOD, which empower students and teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed food choices, can serve as catalysts for change within rural communities. By strengthening the connection between schools and local farms, GOODFOOD not only educates future generations about the importance of sustainable food production but also fosters a sense of pride and stewardship towards local food systems.

Following the arrival of participants in the evening of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024, an international dinner is planned to warm up the group and give opportunities for participants to meet and discuss in a relaxed environment. The next day (Monday) is devoted to lectures and workshops, as well as project presentations and the Award Ceremony of the GOODFOOD Competition. The following day (Tuesday) is dedicated to Thematic Study Trips. Each trip covers a specific area and includes practical examples on the chosen study theme. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day (Wednesday) Study Trip reports are prepared and presented in plenary by participants, communicating their experiences and making proposals. After the presentation of the study trip reports, conclusions are drawn and an evaluation of the summer academy is conducted. On the 4<sup>th</sup> day, the participants meet local food producers and other good food stakeholders for discussion and networking. The participants are free to depart in late morning or afternoon of Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June onwards.

## Location and organisation

### Rafina – Nea Makri

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Summer Academy will take place in Hotel Nireus, in Nea Makri, near Rafina, Greece. Rafina is a port town, located at the eastern coast of Attica, in Greece. It has a population of 12000 people and is surrounded by an agricultural area and summer resorts. Farming in the area is typified by the production of wine and vegetables, while the resorts gather mostly second home owners from Athens. Located at a distance of 30 km from the centre of Athens, Rafina is also a popular destination for one-day excursions during the summer, attracted by the swimming beaches that are located in front of and near the town. The area has a long history, dating back to antiquity, featuring important archaeological sites and more recent monuments, from the byzantine era and Modern Greek history. An important feature of the area is the river Mega Remma, which crosses the city and creates an estuary when it reaches the sea, with an interesting and significant ecological profile. The port of Rafina serves the Aegean islands and is growing fast, having been rated as the 2<sup>nd</sup> most important port of Attica.



Students walk along the Mega Remma



The summer academy venue



The wider agricultural area of Rafina



## Course Support

Course materials are provided during and after the Summer Academy in electronic format. They include a Participants' Handbook, containing practical information and the methodology that will be used in the Summer Academy, as well as tasks for participants to prepare before joining the Summer Academy. Administrative and tutorial support will be offered by Euracademy Association. Lecturers and facilitators are recruited among Euracademy members and other experienced professionals in sustainable rural development.

A Thematic Guide on "Responsible Food Production and Consumption for a sustainable future" will be published after the event, which will draw on the lectures, the discussions and the conclusions of the summer academy, as well as on the research carried out prior to the summer academy by Euracademy members and other experts.

## Participation Cost

The cost of attending the Summer Academy is kept to a minimum. There is no attendance fee, but only a charge to cover accommodation and full board for 4 days, and travel for the study tours. The cost is **400 Euro** per participant for accommodation and meals, in a single room. For a shared room (2 people) the cost is **350 Euro** per person. A number of scholarships (200 Euro each) are available, covering part of the participation cost.

## Registration

In order to participate in the Summer Academy and Final Conference, please fill in the online Registration Form, or alternatively fill in the Registration form (text file) you will find in the website of Euracademy [www.euracademy.org](http://www.euracademy.org) and return it to us. **The deadline for registration is 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024.**

*Please, register here (click on the link below):*

[Registration Form](#)

**We look forward to your participation!**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
EURACADEMY ASSOCIATION  
EMPEDOCLEOUS 17, 11635 ATHENS GREECE,  
TEL +3-2107525080 E-MAIL: [euracademy.association@gmail.com](mailto:euracademy.association@gmail.com)  
WEBPAGE: [www.euracademy.org](http://www.euracademy.org)