

## INVEST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE



### First and foremost, a look back at spring and summer.

Announcements of all five bachelor specializations starting September 2022.



**Developing Viable Communities,** Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia.



**Sustainable Communities in Energy Transition,** Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Finland.



**Integrated Environmental Management towards Sustainable Landscape Development,** Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands.



**European Sustainable Leadership in Regional Development,** University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Plovdiv, Bulgaria.



**Society 5.0 and Digital Transformation,** University of Thessaly, Greece.



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



### Top news of the season.

INVEST Alliance midterm report from 01/11/2020 to 30/04/2022.

INVEST Alliance critically contributes towards:

- A higher level of enhanced cooperation between the partner institutions.
- High Quality, performance, attractiveness, and international competitiveness.
- A cooperation model for quality assurance system, and evaluation.
- Sustainable Regional Development.
- The promotion of common European values, a strengthened identity, and the safeguarding of the European identity.
- Further development of European education.
- Student mobilities.

INVEST Stakeholders  
from 01/8/2021 to 30/06/2022.

"Our Stakeholder engagement methodology plan has succeeded to initiate more than 40 collaborations with the INVEST Alliance. These collaborations are from diverse societal fields such as trade, market, education, investors, regional educational organizations, various cooperatives, business associations, regional and local governments, municipal authorities, agencies, policymakers, policy advisers, NGOs, diversified citizen groups, ethnic minority groups, and research institutes."

Maryia Gabriel



### Message from the commissioner.

Maryia Gabriel the European Commissioner (2019- 2024) for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, and Youth, congratulates and supports our joint venture.

At our summer school organized by the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development at Plovdiv, Bulgaria, she wished all members and teachers to continue their inspiring work as this nourishes young talented learners to follow their dreams and encourages them in all their future endeavours, and achievements, and feels positive that there will be many more to come.

[Read more](#)



## Student testimonials.

"The INVEST Summer School was a new horizon for me and allowed me to learn new skills by spending time with people from all over Europe." **Invest summer school student.**

"Working in a diverse team works best when you can throw around creative ideas and finally gather them together as a united whole. INVEST provides a great opportunity for this. It also offers a huge number of experiences of success, increases students' self-confidence, and provides a safe environment for interaction." **Miili Mähönen Invest Summer school student.**

Check out the photos here and also on our social media!

## 2022 Summer school photos.



Prof. Marianna Ivannova, Rector of the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, at the Invest Summer school award ceremony.



Student field trip, Damascena rose picking, an endemic product.



Summer school ceremony moments.



Student group project presentations.

## Summer school, May 29/June 4, 2022.



A Warm Welcome was extended from leading experts and the Rector of the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Marianna Ivannova.

Our second summer school had a hybrid approach, virtual and in-person. Due to its specific theme **"Enduring quality of public services in sustainable regional development"** learners gained a solid grounding in the subject matter but also had the opportunity in smaller classes and groups to present purposeful and meaningful ideas which could be realized in the outside world.

For all partakers, it was a rewarding experience and both teachers and students alike were pleased with the results. The course was comprehensive with:

- Expert lectures in Quality assurance in education
- Expert lecture on social innovation and sustainable regional development
- Workshops: Living labs and field studies
- Field trips, case study cultural and environmental trips
- Student group presentations
- Jury decision
- Focus groups
- Award ceremony

Karelia University of Applied Sciences, June 10, 2022.

INVEST Training of trainers workshop at Karelia UAS, was successfully delivered with inspiring speeches, worked on finalizing the INVEST specialization studies and Living Labs, tested the Virtual Campus, and discussed a common direction for student management and mobility.

Images from the ToTs at Karelia UAS.





## The Newsletter

A Warm Welcome was extended from the Mayor of Skiathos Mr. Thodore Tzoumas quoting the event as his first ever "SMART" one, adding "that people are going to leave even smarter".

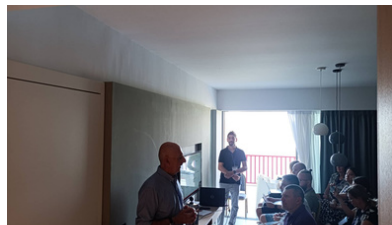


## ToT and CSUM conference instances.

Check out the photos here and also on our social media.



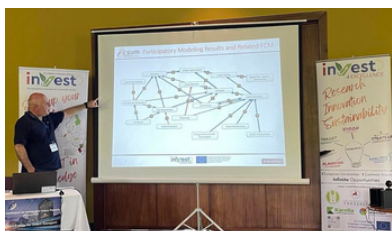
Invest speakers at work, preparing for the special sessions at the dedicated Trainer of the Trainers event.



Prof. Nicholas Samaras and Lefteris Papadopoulos, Web designer, presenting "Virtual campus" at the dedicated ToTs event.



Prof. Marianna Ivanova, presenting at the INVEST Special Session of the CSUM conference. Asst. Prof. Omiros Iatrellis, presenting at the INVEST Special Session of the CSUM conference.



Dr. Konstantinos Kokkinos presenting at the INVEST Special Session of the CSUM conference.

## August - September events.

### CSUM conference, August 31/September 2, 2022.



**INVEST alliance special session on "Urban Sustainability" at the CSUM Conference in Skiathos, Greece.**

At the INVEST special sessions, 9 speakers, from all five partner universities, delivered insightful presentations on the current methodologies to address the area of sustainable urban development and the processes that increase urban resilience to natural and environmental hazards.

A city's effective and highly functional public transportation is determined by using a set of characteristics that were addressed:

- An infrastructure based on technology.
- Environmental initiatives.
- Confident and progressive city plans.

**INVEST Training of trainers workshops.**

The cornerstone of INVEST "Virtual Campus" was presented in the ToT as the inter-university digital ecosystem which consists of several modules and offers applications that support: (a) Public users / Visitors, (b) Teachers (c) Administrative Staff, (d) Students and (e) Prospective Students. A thorough presentation of Virtual Campus included components such as:

- Front-end application/portal with publicly available content to visitors regarding INVEST studies.
- Back-end applications for registered users of INVEST based on various roles and policies.
- System for managing principals and providing authentication service.
- Shared database for all application modules.

INVEST Alliance's "Virtual Campus" was presented by Lefteris Papadopoulos and, Prof. Nicholas Samaras, from the University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece.

EDUC8EU Academic advising tool was presented by Dr. Omiros Iatrellis from Univ. of Thessaly, Greece as a fundamental cohesive retention strategy of the INVEST alliance. EDUC8EU provides students with personalized guidance streamlining the advising services with a higher level of informed recommendation. The system provides support and guidance to students at key decision points or exceptional situations while increasing the flexibility of the learning processes. EDUC8EU provides an emulation of an academic advisor's role, within a unique execution methodology where, new knowledge is created and utilized in educational reasoning processes.

**Vision Statement, by the European University Alliances supporting the Startup Village initiative by the European Commission.**

On the 6th of September 2022, in Salamanca Spain, INVEST University European Alliance together with, E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup>, Europäische Hochschule für Technologie, UNI Green Alliance, European Bioeconomy University, and EU Green Alliance, delivered a Vision Statement to Mariya Gabriel (European Commission) in support of the Startup Village Initiative. Proud to be part of such European-level recognition.



UNIVERSITY OF  
THESSALY



<https://www.invest-alliance.eu/>

## The Newsletter

### More about September 2022.

**INVEST alliance at the 86th Thessaloniki International fair.**

The character of this fair is guided by the changes in the global economy, the health and energy fields, and technology developments. It faithfully serves its multidimensional character and its timeless presence. It hosts over 1500 Greek and worldwide exhibitors.

The TIF is a driver of growth in the broader region. It underlines development in Greece, and innovative ideas which are also brought from the world of education.

Check out the photos below and also our social media.

### Thessaloniki International Fair instances.



Top image: the Minister of Education and Religious affairs of Greece, Niki Kerameus, Prof. Zisis Mamouris, the Rector of UTH, in the center, Prof. Nicholas Samaras, coordinator of INVEST on the right.

Below are images from the TIF mainly featuring INVEST Alliance's presence at the TIF.



## Continuing...

September 13-16, The EAIE, the European center for expertise, networking and resources in the internationalization of higher education.

In the sessions, our three INVEST Alliance speakers, **Dr. Liisa Timonen, Dr. Konstantinos Kokkinos, and Dr. Norbert Floris**, shared concrete examples and good practices from the INVEST University Alliance's approach to internationalisation strategies, and showed how INVEST can develop sustainable and responsible internationalisation opportunities for all.

TOPICS included

- Learning, teaching & curriculum
- European-funded programmes



### INVEST Fellowship programme opens in Autumn 2022.

The Invest Fellow programme will provide many opportunities for training and competence development to the academic and administration staff within the INVEST partner universities.

The programme includes inspiring courses, webinars, training events, reading materials on a variety of topics such as pedagogical skills, ICT, project management and sustainability and responsibility – among many other.

### Current Fellow programme.



Join our webinar series  
**Sustainability and responsibility  
in higher education**  
Starting in 28th October 2022



## Winter calling, looking ahead.

**Winter school, November 1 - 28, 2022, at the University of Agriculture, in Nitra, Slovakia.** Our 2nd winter school-themed "Potential of Sustainable Tourism in Community Development".

Learners will immerse and gain a solid understanding of the subject matter and have the opportunity to work on a real case which will allow groups to work with primary data in cooperation with local stakeholders. Students will also participate in an informal cultural event aiming at intercultural exchange, thus enabling participants to experience Slovak culture, traditions and local history. Applications are accepted till the 21st of October.



**Our Alliance is growing, Invest is proud to announce its new partner University.**

The University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne is a multidisciplinary training and research university positioned and recognized nationally and internationally in the bio-economy field. INVEST will broaden its interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary fields.



### A Message from INVEST.

As the education landscape across Europe and globally is changing, INVEST Alliance is advancing knowledge, providing creative solutions and striving toward solving global problems.

#### Aspirational values:

- Excellence
- Creativity
- Impact

#### Core Values:

- Equality, diversity, inclusion
- Social and environmental justice
- Academic freedom

#### Guiding principles:

- Working together
- Opportunity to succeed
- Responding to current and future challenges.



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