

INVEST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE



First and foremost, a look back at winter.

INVEST's five new bachelor specializations start in Autumn 2023.



"Sustainable business development", Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, and University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Plovdiv, Bulgaria.



"Forestry adaptation to a changing environment", Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Joensuu, Finland.



"Regional food-system transitions & environmental quality", Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Velp, the Netherlands.



"Sustainable agriculture", University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Plovdiv, Bulgaria.



"Adapting land and water management to climate change" University of Thessaly, Greece.

Top news of the season.

On November 28, a series of strategic meetings to submit the new INVEST proposal of the European Alliance began at SPU in Nitra.

The main focus of the event and following meetings were to set new goals and directions of development, based on the vision of the European INVEST Alliance, and, following that, the preparation of work packages.

The meeting was also attended by external project managers who mainly covered the methodological part of the preparation of the new proposal.

The strategic meeting event brought together rectors, vice-rectors, and local coordinators from five countries - Slovakia, Finland, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, and Greece, as well as the new partners from the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne and the University of Bicocca in Milan, who joined the European Alliance only recently.

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Meetings with the European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel.



Message from the commissioner.

Mariya Gabriel the European Commissioner (2019-2024) for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, and Youth, met with delegates from the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development at Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Rector Mariana Ivanova and from the University of Thessaly, Greece, Dr. Konstantinos Kokkinos. The Commissioner expressed her strong support for the European University Alliance INVEST and was pleased to hear about our achievements in common pedagogical approaches and European Higher Education

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 Invest in Sustainable Business	Master programs	Sustainable technologies in medium-size enterprises	Sustainable Urban Development
	Bachelor programs	European Sustainable Leadership in Regional Development	Developing Viable communities
 Invest in Sustainable Business	Bachelor Specialization	Adapting land and water management to climate change	Sustainable Communities in Energy Transition
		Regional food-system transitions & environmental quality	Society 5.0 and Digital Transformation
 Invest in Sustainable Business	Bachelor Specialization	Integrated Environmental Management towards Sustainable Landscape Development	Sustainable agriculture
			Sustainable business development
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Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



CREATING A CULTURE OF INNOVATION FOR FUTURE EDUCATION

Living Lab Meeting at Soil and Water Resources Institute, Sindos, Thessaloniki.

On 24th November 2022, a Living Lab (LL) meeting in the presence of the project's team members Marcel Rompelman (VHL), Casper Zoete (VHL), and Asst. Prof. Omiros Iatrellis (UTH) and stakeholders, were held at the Soil and Water Resources Institute-Land Reclamation Department in Sindos. For more click on the image.



2022 Winter School photos.

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



First days of Winter School. Student induction.



Students visited the Agrobiotech research center. There they had the opportunity to participate in the production of non-alcoholic beer, which they tasted at the award ceremony.



Winter school ceremony moments.



Final memorable moments of the Winter School.



Winter School, November 1 - 28, 2022, at the Slovak University of Agriculture, in Nitra.

The theme of our second Winter School was "Potential of Sustainable Tourism in Community Development".

Learners immersed in and gained a solid understanding of the subject matter on "Sustainable Tourism" and had the opportunity to work on a real case, allowing groups to work with primary data in cooperation with local stakeholders. Students participated in an informal cultural event aiming at an intercultural exchange, enabling participants to experience Slovak culture, traditions, and local history. It was a rewarding experience for all partakers, and both teachers and students alike were pleased with the results. The course was comprehensive with:

- Expert lectures on sustainable tourism and regional development
- Workshops: Living labs and field studies
- Field trips, case study cultural and environmental trips
- Student group presentations
- Jury decision
- Award ceremony



UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY

INVEST Alliance announces and meets its 3 New Partners at the project management meeting.

INVEST European University Alliance becomes stronger with three new major partners. The University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France, the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, and the University of Cordova, Spain, join the INVEST consortium to enhance their capacity to provide an even broader range of studies and research opportunities to future generations that seek innovation, inspiration, and employability.



UNIVERSIDAD DE CORDOBA

Images from the strategic project management meeting at SUA



van hall larenstein university of applied sciences



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The Newsletter

Mariya Gabriel, the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, and Youth



Mariya Gabriel the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, and Youth invited representatives of 44 European University Alliances as leading examples of institutional change which have become deeply embedded in this pan-European innovation ecosystem.

"Initiatives like this, directly support the New European Innovation Agenda, which is working to transform Europe into a global, deep-tech innovation powerhouse," said Mariya Gabriel.

We were proud that Invest European University Alliance was presented by our delegate, the Rector of the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development of the Regions Prof. Dr. Mariana Ivanova, at this new calling aimed at boosting innovation in higher education.

Prof. Mariana Ivanova upon meeting and exchanging ideas with the other delegates felt that this initiative is the only way to unlock the potential, skill, reskill and upskill the younger generations to meet the demands of a newly forming world around them.

Today, more than ever, such collaborations of higher education institutions of innovation and change are needed to achieve the goals of the European Higher Education Strategy.



Looking into past and future events.....

INVEST at the 44 European University event in Brussels .



From January 17th to 20th, a meeting was held in Leeuwarden, Netherlands at the Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences premises, discussing and evaluating all Summer and Winter Schools, organized by INVEST.

The main point of the meeting was to jointly evaluate all four completed courses and at the same time to summarize the experiences and knowledge gained from several actors of W/S Schools such as teachers, lecturers, organizers, and, of course, primarily students.

The meeting also included the preparation for the upcoming Summer School, which will take place in Finland. During their stay, the participants of the meeting had the opportunity to visit the new research workplaces located at the university, as well as the extended research facility Dairy Campus, with which the faculty cooperates in the field of cattle research.



INVEST announced its student engagement with RES-Q Living Lab, conducted in Thessaly, Greece.

Students from the University of Thessaly and the University of Vah Hall Larenstein consulted relevant bibliography and dissertations on "risk and disaster management" available at the University of Thessaly. They are currently conducting interviews with professionals related to stakeholders' awareness, perception, and preparedness.

The next steps of the LL members are to:

- Seek feedback from communities, researchers, and other experts on risk disaster management.
- Finalize the RES-Q software system to recommend and orchestrate post-disaster response plans.



SUA
Slovak University
of Agriculture
in Nitra



UNIVERSITY OF
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van hall
larenstein
university of applied sciences

- Prepare and publish research papers or book chapters in reputable academic journals and conference proceedings on risk and disaster management.

INVEST students at the kick-off meeting at the University of Thessaly on the 29th of March, 2023.



Upcoming Invest Summer School, 1st of May to 5th of June, 2023, at Karelia University Joensuu, Finland.



The Summer School will allow students to:

- acquire a working knowledge of participatory methods and how to engage the community and stakeholders in the planning processes.
- be able to design stakeholder engagement plans and implement them, understanding the challenges and advantages of involving stakeholders.
- strengthen their multi-professional working life skills.
- extend their professional and personal networks.
- acquire 5 ECTS.

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The Newsletter

Announcement of important events

INVEST Alliance will host a series of national and international events.

The nature of these events would mostly be informative, to present the successful trajectory of the Alliance and to reinforce its key role in an ever-changing world.

Full details of all the events will be provided in the next newsletter.

On the 25th-26th of May, 2023, INVEST will hold its International Event in Brussels.

Dates for the national events:

1. On the 25th -27th of April 2023, the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Plovdiv, Bulgaria will hold its National Event together with the Manager's and Rector's Assembly.
2. On the 22nd -23rd of June, 2023 the University of Thessaly, Greece will hold its National Event on the premises of the Medical schools of UTH, titled "INVEST in the European University of the Future".
3. On the 19th of September 2023, Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Joensuu, Finland, will hold its National Event, titled "INVEST - education and skills for a sustainable future".
4. On the 3rd -5th of October, 2023, Van Hall Larenstein, University of Applied Sciences, in the Netherlands, will hold its National Event, titled "Symposium transition Pathways".
5. On the 13th-16th of October 2023, the Slovak University of Agriculture, in Nitra, Slovakia, will hold its National Event, together with the Management meeting.

INVEST European University Alliance participated at the meeting of coordinators of European Universities with representatives of the European Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) that took place on March 6, 2023, in the premises of the DG EAC in Brussels.

For more click on the image



Continuing...

INVEST Fellowship program progress.

The first of the 4-part Project Management and Process Facilitation series was delivered on February 22nd by UTH Emeritus professor, Pandelis Ipsilandis.

Participants were introduced to Project Cycle Management (PCM) management principles, and approaches to realize the benefits of PCM in ensuring that projects are relevant to an agreed strategy and handling problems of target groups with conflicting interests.

This first part of the series is intended to show how PCM strengthens the project life cycle by focusing on a well-organized system that has proven results. The approach to organizing the project work during its life cycle in phases that are laid out for clarity, objective goals and expectations, and universal practice, was presented. Each phase works much like a chapter of a book, to be started and completed before moving on to the next phase. This ensures better quality outcomes and meeting agreed project expectations.

The Project Management and Process Facilitation webinar series will continue in the months of March through June with 3 more training in the following topics:

- Project, result, and transition. Indicators, monitoring approaches and tools (March 22)
- Project management in INVEST project (April)
- Finance and administration (May)



INVEST Fellowship programme continues.

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 has been running since autumn 2022.
- So far, we have delivered almost 20 webinars/trainings. Most of the trainings are recorded and we are collecting the recordings for the e-library (Fellow Programme's Youtube channel) so the trainings will be available for staff to use in the future.



and looking ahead.

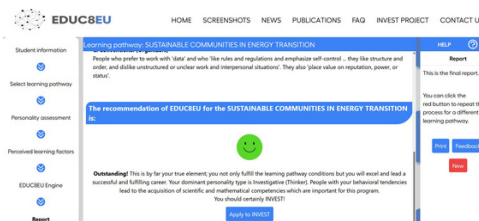
For the current Fellow Programmes Click on the image



Invest University Alliance is pleased to announce the final version of its brainchild, EDUC8EU. This integrated platform is an innovative, reliable tool, the springboard, and the bedrock for a student's personal guidance of learning pathways.

EDUC8EU is utilized to emulate advising services and provides support and guidance to students at key decision points or exceptional situations that require appropriate modifications/reconfigurations of a student's academic plans, thus increasing the flexibility of the learning processes.

Sample of student's pathway results
click on the image for more



Our message

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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