

# INVEST SUMMER SCHOOL 2023



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## BOTTOM-UP PLANNING PROCESSES – HOW TO ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS

### Course introduction

The course will introduce the importance and ways of involving stakeholders in planning processes, whether it is planning the use of natural resources, new ICT applications for citizens, health care services, other infrastructure, etc. The focus is on private actors, for example, associations, companies, co-operatives but not forgetting the viewpoint of public organisations either.

After completing the course, you will have a working knowledge of participatory methods and how to engage the community and stakeholders in your planning processes. You will be able to design stakeholder engagement plans and implement them. You will understand the challenges and advantages of involving stakeholders in your planning processes.

In addition, you will be able to utilise multidisciplinary expert networks, creative thinking and various technologies for problem solving. Your communication and interaction skills will have improved.

**The course is organised by Karelia University of Applied Sciences.**

### DETAILS

#### When

- Preliminary phase (online)  
1.5.- 26.5.2023
- Onsite in Finland  
29.5.-5.6.2023 (including  
Saturday and Sunday)
- Post phase (online)  
6.-11.6.2023

#### Where

Online and in Nurmes and Joensuu, Finland

#### For students from

- BSc, MSc and PhD programmes
- the partner universities
- any field of study

#### Extent of course

5 ECTS

#### Language of the course

English

## Educational approaches

The course will employ student-centered approaches combined with interaction with real-world stakeholders. It will build the theoretical foundation for learning during the preliminary phase. The theory will be put into practice in the onsite phase. Students will work with regional organisations to formulate a stakeholder engagement plan, with examples of meeting agendas and participatory methods for different stakeholder groups and ages.

The course will have:

- short, recorded lectures during the preliminary phase
- facilitated workshops, group work together with regional organisations, site visits, cultural and freetime activities, and group presentations during the onsite phase

## Competences

The competences gained during the course will prepare you for your future career and include:

- Competences in the field of sustainable regional development
- Problem solving competences
- Transdisciplinary competences
- Communication and social interaction competences
- Intercultural competence field, including cultural awareness, multilingual and internationalization
- Competences on self-managing, personal development, intrapersonal skills, digitalization
- Transversal competences

## Course content

- Identification of stakeholders and target groups
- Importance of stakeholder engagement
- Different levels and steps of stakeholder engagement
- Examples of public and community participation processes
- Participatory methods
- Design and implementation of multistakeholder meetings
- Communication and dissemination to different stakeholders

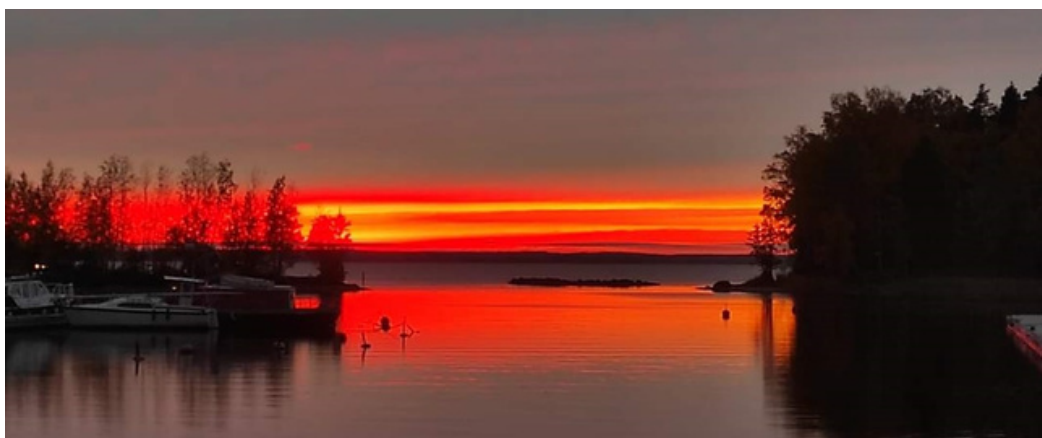
## EXPERIENCES FROM PREVIOUS INVEST SUMMER AND WINTER SCHOOLS

"My experience was amazing! Even though it was tiring and it had quite a few difficulties, this program has taught me so many things and I will be forever grateful for the experiences I gained."

"Amazing, wonderful and irreplaceable. One of the greatest weeks for my life."

"The whole experience was unique. Informative, interesting, time consuming, sometimes stressful but totally worth it. Great first impression and would participate again."

"It's a very important platform for young students to go beyond the comfort zone and get in touch with a different environment"



## Costs and funding

INVEST project will cover the travel, accommodation and meal costs of the students.

## Accommodation

Accommodation during the programme will be in holiday apartments, each accommodating max 7 students. The apartments in Nurmes have fully equipped kitchens, sauna, washing machines and Wi-Fi. The apartments in Joensuu have a fully equipped kitchen and Wi-Fi.

## Partners and contact persons in each university

- Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Kaija Saramäki, [kaija.saramaki@karelia.fi](mailto:kaija.saramaki@karelia.fi) and Sini Rantanen, [sini.rantanen@karelia.fi](mailto:sini.rantanen@karelia.fi)
- Slovak University of Agriculture, Michal Cifranic, [michal.cifranic@uniag.sk](mailto:michal.cifranic@uniag.sk)
- University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Miglena Kazashka, [mkazashka@uad.bg](mailto:mkazashka@uad.bg)
- University of Thessaly, Vasilis Kyriatzis, [kyriatzis@uth.gr](mailto:kyriatzis@uth.gr)
- Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Jannet Lavalette, [jannet.lavalette@hvhl.nl](mailto:jannet.lavalette@hvhl.nl)

## Additional information

The course is part of the INVEST (INNoVations of Regional Sustainability: European University Alliance) project funded by Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The teaching language is English. Applying to the course is also considered as consent to participate in the research carried out in the project. Assignments, online discussions and other material produced during the course can be used as research material. The identities of the participants cannot be identified from the research reports. Part of the course assignments can be published.

## More information about the content and practicalities

Kaija Saramäki ([kaija.saramaki@karelia.fi](mailto:kaija.saramaki@karelia.fi)) and Sini Rantanen ([sini.rantanen@karelia.fi](mailto:sini.rantanen@karelia.fi)). When contacting us, please email both Kaija and Sini.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications by **31.3.2023** at  
<http://bit.ly/3SI3hK3>

The application should include a short motivation letter explaining why you want to participate in the course, what you expect to learn from it and how you think you will benefit from it in your future career.

The motivation letter can be in the form of text or video.

### Minimum criteria

- English language level B2 or higher
- BSc students: completed at least two years of studies
- MSc and PhD: any year

Each partner university can admit 6 students to the course.

**The course is open for students of the INVEST partner universities only.**



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

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