

REPORT ON LEARNING TEACHING AND TRAINING ACTIVITY

Learning Teaching and training Activity (C1): Summer School RUR'UP 2022

Hosting organisation: **University of Thessaly**

Dates of the event: **17-23/07/2022**

Venue of the event: **Mouzaki Karditsa, Greece**

1. The description of the LLTA

RUR'UP Summer School - Sustainable development of peripheral rural areas in the EU

The Summer School was located in the Peripheral Rural Area (PRA) of Pindos in Greece. 23 students and 12 teachers participated from 7 HE partners, while 5 local stakeholders were involved in the field studies.

The main objective of the Summer School was to provide tools and skills to students in relation to stakeholders engagement and participation of local actors. The intensive course built upon learning provided in the project e-course (IO2).

The programme consisted of 7 days of intensive work structured around 6 main themes (elements of the participatory innovation processes). It combined in-class and field activities that took place along the mountainous area of Pindos: Mouzaki, Plastiras Lake, Kalabaka and Meteora. Activities were further framed under 7 focal questions in relation to stakeholders identification, engagement of stakeholders, challenges and needs for PRAs and comparisons between international cases.

List of activities:

Activity 1. Mind map and vision

Activity 2. Stakeholders identification and needs

Activity 3. Vision for Pindos PRA

Activity 4. Interview

Activity 5. Innovations and comparative analysis

Activity 6. Synthesis discussion and final submission

For the duration of the course, the students were grouped in 6 internationally mixed groups, each with one or more students from Greece (host team). Thus they were challenged to work with people from different cultures, personal and professional backgrounds, as well as to practice work in English. Such challenges exposed students to put into use and improve skills that contribute to the main objective of the project such as observation, visioning, participation and dialogue/communication skills.

Activities 1, 2 and 3 focused on the assessment and envision of Pindos PRA, taking into account different stakeholders' perspectives. During activity 1, Greek students made a presentation of the main socio-economic and environmental characteristics of Pindos PRA. In their group work, students



developed a mind map of Pindos PRA. Students compared the mind map with their home country case and assessed the similarities and differences of PRAs among the countries. They presented their results in a lively plenary outdoors, accompanied by a discussion facilitated by a responsible teacher. Students commenced to understand the complexities that are linked to visioning and assessing future sustainable development goals for PRA, for instance, biases that might interfere from early stages of the proposal and limitations that might not be possible to cover during the process.

For activity 2, the participants of the Summer School visited the premises of KENAKAP Development Agency and attended the presentation of KENAKAP's work. Students were involved in a Q&A session, where topics such as the challenges in the implementation of innovations, sources of funding and other stakeholders' engagement interested the most. Students acknowledge the difficulties and gaps between theory and practical implementation of the PRA sustainability programmes and initiatives. Under a "role play" approach, each student had to envision the future of Pindos PRA through the lens of a potential stakeholder assigned to him/her. A second visit took place in the surroundings of UNESCO World Heritage Meteora Monasteries, an area linked to agrotourism. The trip gave an opportunity to also "read" the landscape around Meteora, as an example of high nature value farmland undergoing transition. Once students acquired an understanding of Pindos PRA, activity 3 focused on envisioning future scenarios for the area. Students presented their visions and objectives required to move towards such scenarios.

Activities 4 and 5 focused on innovations. The participants of the Summer School received a visit from three organisations: i) Gralista farm, Ellinopyrgos; ii) Greek Short-horn Breeders of Cattle and iii) Terra Thessalia. In a plenary session, students were able to put into practice their competences acquired so far through the course by interviewing the representatives of the organisations in relation to their experience and the innovations that were carrying out. Students repeatedly were exposed to the understanding of other stakeholders' perspectives, prioritizing observation over judgments. Finally, each group combined all innovations that could contribute towards the sustainable development of Pindos PRA based on their home case studies and Pindos case study. Results on the innovations were exposed to a voting system.

For the last activity, the teacher team facilitated a highly interactive discussion synthesizing over the course learning and issues that remained unclear or underexploited in the course. This helped to pool the combined learning in a clear and succinct manner (recorded on flipcharts) as well as put the course into a broad perspective of sustainability, also globally. Evaluation was based on the final portfolio that included: documentation of each activity outcome in images (team work), 7 focal questions (team work) and a final personal reflection on the learning acquire during the course (individual work).

The programme included other enriching activities such as dinners at Hallili Agricultural restaurant dinner and other social activities to promote local.



2. The intellectual outputs covered:

- ⇒ The assessment of the education needs and gaps for the sustainable development of the EU peripheral areas
- ⇒ E-learning course
- ⇒ Bank of Case-studies
- ⇒ Digital Teaching Platform and Digital Learning Resource
- ⇒ Syllabus and materials for Intensive Study Activity
- ⇒ Reflective report on the approach and methodology adopted

3. The hosting and participating organisations:

The hosting organization was University of Thessaly, represented by 3 team members (Dimitra Gaki, Georges Vlahos, Serafim Felekis) who organized the C1 and have assured that the agenda was followed.

The participating organizations were:

- 1) University of Thessaly
- 2) Centre international des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes - Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen de Montpellier
- 3) Helsingin YLIOPISTO
- 4) Atlantic Technological University
- 5) Universitatea de Stiinte Agricole si Medicina Veterinara CLUJ NAPOCA
- 6) University of National and World Economy
- 7) Sveuciliste Josipa Jurja Strossmayera U Osijeku

4. The venue of the meeting

The C1 took place at Mouzaki Karditsa from 17.7.2022 at 23.07.2022

5. The numbers of local and international participant

There were 34 participants (22 students and 12 teachers/researchers) in total.

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