



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (KEY ACTION 2)

RUR'up Project: *“Innovative education for sustainable development in peripheral rural areas RUR'UP”*

under the Agreement n° **2020-1-EL01-KA203-079121**

## **Intellectual Output 4**

**“Digital Teaching Platform and Digital Learning Resource”**

**Final report**

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Lead Partner : Atlantic Technological University

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**Digital Badges x3 and Digital Badge Protocol:** Digital badges were designed for the RUR'UP course and integrated into the online learning platform, CPDlearnonline. Digital badges are a validated representation of skills or achievements of learners that can be displayed on a range of online platforms and online CVs e.g. LinkedIn. The RUR'UP digital platform (CPDlearnonline) user was guided through how digital badges can be used to communicate learner's achievements and strengths following completion of e-learning learning activity. A digital badge protocol for creating, issuing and validating proposed badges in RUR'UP based on established standards was created. Guidance on metadata requirements (badge description, issuer, date of issue, badge award criteria, etc.) attached to RUR'UP digital badge images were also created by Atlantic Technological University.

A public blog on the digital badges used in the RUR'UP project and feedback from students on using digital badges within the online learning platform of the course (IO4) was made open access on EPALE. This blog can be viewed here:

<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/erasmus/rurup-innovative-education-sustainable-development-peripheral-rural-areas/rurup-use-digital>

The digital badge protocol for the RUR'UP project, including the integration of badges on the online course and summer school (IO5) was made open access on EPALE and can be found here:

<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/erasmus/rurup-innovative-education-sustainable-development-peripheral-rural-areas/rurup-digital>

**CPDlearnonline:** This is an online learning platform containing a range of digital resources that enhanced the online delivery of RUR'UP e-learning modules was created by the Teaching and Learning Department in Atlantic Technological University, Ireland. This online learning platform called CPDlearnonline is managed by the ATU Teaching & Learning Centre (Galway-Mayo) and is hosted by Higher Education Authority Network, Ireland.

The RUR'UP digital learning platform (CPDlearnonline) incorporates the virtual Bank of Case Studies on innovative rural development in peripheral regions, including those of high nature value farming (IO3). The learning resources within the CPDlearnonline platform were categorized by Case Study location within each module. CPDlearnonline also stores and presents the database of digital resources to complement the delivery of the e-learning course (IO2). The main target groups of the RUR'UP course were universities and higher education institutes delivering programmes in applied sciences (in particular, programmes related to agriculture, sustainable development and environment), together with professionals (farmers, advisors, trainers, NGOs) working in this field and seeking continued professional development to improve their competencies.

### **EPALE:**

The Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE) platform was used to make the deliverables from IO2 (the database of digital resources to complement the delivery of the e-learning course ) and IO3 (The virtual Bank of Case Studies on innovative rural development in peripheral regions, including those of high nature value farming) openly available to adult learners across Europe. This Open Access website was chosen to make RUR'UP educational material available to the public because EPALE is a European, multilingual, open membership community created for adult learning professionals, including adult educators, trainers, guidance and support staff, researchers and academics, and policymakers. EPALE is funded by the Erasmus+ programme. This open access resource has made the online learning and training process of adults living in the EU peripheral rural areas (implementation stage of the project) available. IO4 has utilized the EPALE electronic platform for adult learners to disseminate the range of digital content developed as part of the RUR'UP project. This public platform allows the RUR'UP course materials freely available through an open access repository on 'EPALE' for teachers, educators, trainers, and researchers; students; professionals and advisors; decision-makers etc.

### **RUR'UP YouTube Channel:**

Another public and open access resource produced from the RUR'UP project under IO4 was a YouTube channel. The channel is public and currently has 1046 number of total views across 18 videos. The YouTube videos are integrated throughout the digital learning platform CPDlearnonline (IO4). By hosting the videos through YouTube, subtitles can be autogenerated across all the videos. This was an important feature in the RUR'UP project videos as different accents from the narrators/presenters in the videos may be difficult for learners to understand if English is not their first language or if they had hearing disabilities. Hosting the RUR'UP video resources through YouTube also allowed project partners and RUR'UP learners to share the open access videos on other platforms, including Email, LinkedIn, Microsoft Office suite e.g. PowerPoint presentations, Word Documents etc.

The [RUR'UP YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ITugauQegk8ujzkZg0Yg/featured) (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ITugauQegk8ujzkZg0Yg/featured>) was crucial for providing video guides on [registering for the digital learning platform \(CPDlearnonline\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzPjmKbuMHA&t=175s) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzPjmKbuMHA&t=175s>) and how to use the CPDlearnonline platform via a

'User Guide' video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALCZGsxl1KY&t=2s>).

The User Guide video demonstrated how to use the multiple features on the RUR'UP online learning platform (CPDlearnonline) such as navigating the Overview Slides, downloading PowerPoint presentations and their transcripts, selecting Case Studies and using Discussion Boards to interact with other RUR'UP learners across Europe. Video guides were also uploaded to YouTube to demonstrate to both project partners and RUR'UP learners how assessment and submission of the final portfolio was to be carried out via '[RUR'UP Grading Portfolios](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GX8iDavEP8&t=14s)' video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GX8iDavEP8&t=14s>).

### Links

- Link to RUR'UP YouTube Channel: [RURUP Course - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ITugauQegk8ujzkZg0Yg/featured) (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ITugauQegk8ujzkZg0Yg/featured>)
- Link to RUR'UP EPALE Group: [RUR'UP: Innovative Education For Sustainable Development In Peripheral Rural Areas | EPALE \(europa.eu\)](https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/group/171142) (<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/group/171142>)



- Link to CPDlearnonline: [CPD Teaching & Learning Online Courses \(cpdlearnonline.ie\)](https://www.cpdlearnonline.ie/) (<https://www.cpdlearnonline.ie/>)
- Link to video guide on how to register as a member of RUR'UP Course on CPDlearnonline (necessary to view the online course): [registering for the digital learning platform \(CPDlearnonline\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzPjmKbuMHA&t=175s) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzPjmKbuMHA&t=175s>)
- Link to overview video of the digital learning platform (CPDlearnonline): [User Guide' video.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALCZGsxj1KY&t=2s) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALCZGsxj1KY&t=2s> )
- Link to information on the use of Digital Badge in RUR'UP: [RUR'UP Use of Digital Badges in Education for Sustainable Development | EPALE \(europa.eu\)](https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/erasmus/rurup-innovative-education-sustainable-development-peripheral-rural-areas/rurup-use-digital) (<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/erasmus/rurup-innovative-education-sustainable-development-peripheral-rural-areas/rurup-use-digital>)



## ANNEXES





## How to register on CPDlearnonline

Step 1: Click on the following link:

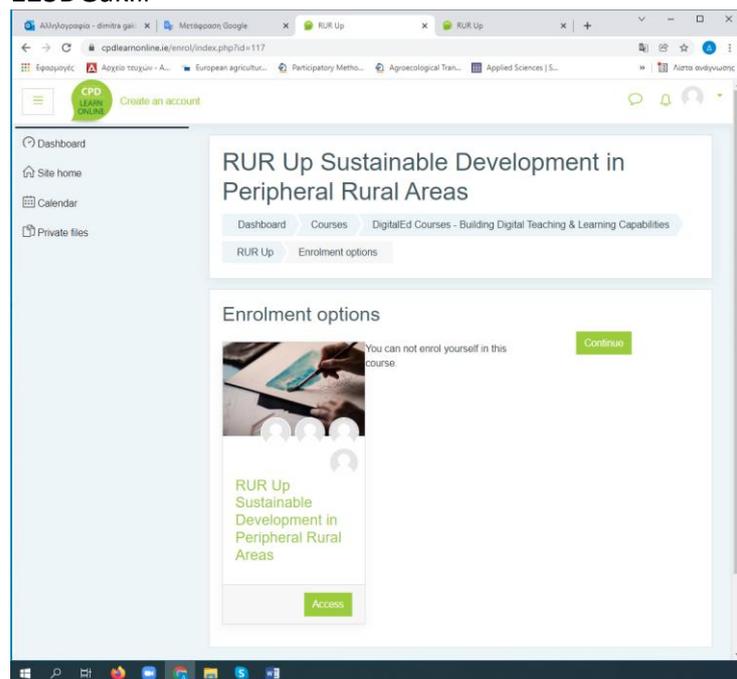
<https://www.cpdlearnonline.ie/course/view.php?id=117>

Step 2: Click 'Create New Account'

Step 3: Fill out your personal details and click 'Create my new account' when finished

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## To view the RUR'Up Online Course

Step 1: Follow this link: <https://www.cpdlearnonline.ie/course/view.php?id=117>

Step 2: Log into your CPDlearnonline account

Step 3: Click My Courses -> RURup in the menu on the left hand side of your screen





## RUR'UP Digital Badge Protocol:

### **Introduction:**

Digital badges, also known as 'micro-credentials' are a method of recognising learning. Digital Open Badges offer a way to communicate your achievements and strengths from a range of learning environments, including traditional classrooms, online courses and modules and workshops. The type of activity/behaviour/learning that can be recognised with Digital Open Badges is unlimited.

A key aspect of digital open badges is that they are easily shared across various platforms. When a digital badge is received, the badge earner can present their badges as part of their Curriculum Vitae or e-portfolio. Badge earners can also embed their badges on a professional online profile, on an e-Portfolio, e.g. LinkedIn, or personal websites. Employers can then access detailed information on how the digital badge was earned and the skills which were attained.

An open standard was developed by the Mozilla Foundation, which sets out a framework for creating, issuing and validating the badges. An element of this standard approach is that the digital badge contains meta-data along with the image of the badge. This meta-data contains information such as:

- A description of the badge
- Who issued the badge
- When it was issued
- Who it was issued to
- What criteria the recipient had to meet in order to obtain the badge

This validates the badge and ensures that only someone who has truly earned the badge can obtain and display it.

### **How the badges are to be used:**

Digital badges in the RUR'Up course are used to validate key milestones within the online course and the associated knowledge/skills that students have obtained to reach this stage of the course content.

The digital badge is presented in the form of an online certificate. This contains important metadata detailing the name of the badge, a description of each badge and a criteria page. The description field is the place where badge creators write descriptions of their badges. The criteria page details the skills, achievements or competences needed for a student to receive each individual badge.

The issuer of the RUR'Up badges is responsible for creating the requirements that are needed for a student to earn a digital badge. The badge issuer is 'RUR'Up' and is set up as a sub-organisation – this allows all project partners to be listed.

Once a student has completed the requirements to earn a badge, access to a URL on [Open Badge Factory](#) is made available. Students enter their name and email address. The student then receives an email containing a unique URL to the student's individual badge. This URL can be shared to online Curriculum Vitae and websites such as LinkedIn to demonstrate learning achievements, whilst also promoting the RUR'Up course.





### **When the badge is to be used:**

There are three RUR'Up digital badges in total: two as part of the online learning course and one for completion of the summer school.

#### Badge #1 - 'RUR'Up Explorer' badge:

Awarded following completion of Module 3.

Purpose: To create a milestone in reaching the halfway mark in the online course. To encourage continued progress through the remainder of the online course. To inspire continued work towards the next badge; the 'RUR'Up Graduate' badge.

#### Badge #2 - 'RUR'Up Graduate' badge:

Awarded upon submission of the portfolio in Module 6 and completion of the online course content.

Purpose: To validate a student's completion of the online course and submission of their portfolio of work to their country's teacher/point of contact.

The award of this badge is dependent on review of the student's work/portfolio by an assigned teacher/lecturer. The grading of the portfolio is up to the assigned teacher/lecturer for each country. As grading standards vary across universities and countries, it was decided amongst project partners that the grading protocol for RUR'UP portfolios 2022 was not standardised. It was decided that teachers follow the grading standards from their university, as these would be the standards that their students are familiar working with.

#### Badge #3: 'RUR'Up Summer School' badge:

Awarded upon completion of the Summer School in Thessaly, Greece. This includes student participation in all classroom assignments, group learning and presentations, attendance to guest speaker events and fieldtrips.

Students receive access to this digital badge via CPDlearnonline and therefore we thought this would be a good opportunity to include the feedback/review form online and once students give course feedback, they will receive their badge for the summer school.

Some students that attended the Summer School 2022 did not have access to CPDlearnonline. For these students, the URL to access the 'RUR'UP Summer School' digital badge was also made available on a private Google Drive folder used to share content throughout the summer school.





### **Badge details:**

#### **Badge #1 - 'RUR'Up Explorer' badge:**

Description: To achieve the RUR Up Explorer Badge, the learner has gained an understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals and how they relate to peripheral rural areas. The learner has also become more familiar with a peripheral rural area case of their choice, its social, environmental and economic characteristics, its past and present as well as strengths and vulnerabilities in the context of sustainable development. Finally as part of the explorer badge, the learner has learnt the basics about innovation and specifically of the participatory innovation process in the context of the peripheral rural areas.



Criteria: To achieve this badge, the learner must have met the following criteria:

1. To get acquainted with classmates, teachers and the learning environment of the course.
2. To become familiar with the course objectives, content, process and assessment, and case-study material bank that will be used during the course.
3. To be able to define peripheral rural areas (PRA) and to identify possibilities for their sustainable development.
4. To outline the sustainable development goals, targets and indicators.
5. To summarize the social, environmental and economic characteristics of peripheral rural areas.
6. To identify the main strengths and vulnerabilities of PRAs.
7. To learn to use mind mapping as a method of exploring a complex case.
8. To get acquainted with innovation process and the principles of the participatory innovation process.
9. To recognize the role of participatory visioning and importance of actors in the territorial development.
10. To identify innovation needs in a specific PRA case study.

Tags: Agriculture, Development, Rural, Sustainable

#### **Badge #2 - 'RUR'Up Graduate' badge:**

Description: To achieve the RUR Up Graduate Badge, the learner has engaged with all modules and completed individual and collaborative work activities as part of the online RUR UP course. The learner has gained a broad understanding of social, environmental and economic characteristics of peripheral rural areas and learned how to identify vulnerabilities of these areas. The learner has demonstrated understanding of the innovation process and the visioning process and can identify and implement innovations relevant to their case study, as well as in other examples across the EU. As a result, the learner has gained an area-specific expertise in a peripheral rural area of their choice. The learner has reflected on their personal learning throughout the course through the submission of a personal learning portfolio and from peer-feedback on their work submissions. The portfolio highlights that the learner has proven their knowledge of sustainable development goals and policies, engagement with the innovation process, especially in their peripheral rural area case study.





Criteria: To achieve this badge, the learner must have met the following criteria:

1. To identify key elements of an innovation process of relevance to your case area.
2. To evaluate an innovation process on its success and limitations.
3. To identify barriers and limitations in the innovation process.
4. To work with synergies between innovations.
5. To recognize the role of innovation transfer and dissemination.
6. To become aware of innovation examples from online repositories.
7. To reflect on personal learning.

Tags: Agriculture, Development, Rural, Sustainable



Badge #3: 'RUR'Up Summer School' badge:

Description: To achieve the RUR Up Summer School Badge, the learner has graduated from the online RUR UP course "Sustainable development of peripheral rural areas in the EU" and also completed a follow-up in-field summer school programme. Completion of the RUR UP Summer School demonstrates that the learner has applied the obtained knowledge from the online course in practical activities, field research, presentations and group collaboration as part of transnational groups with actors.

Criteria: To achieve this badge, the learner must have met the following criteria:

1. Completion of the e-learning RUR UP course "Sustainable development of peripheral rural areas in the EU" in a participating Higher Education Institution.
2. Participated in collaborative work in groups, field research and presentation of results throughout the RUR UP Summer School.
3. Submission of RUR UP course feedback.

Tags: Agriculture, Development, Rural, Sustainable

