

Welcome to the GMIT Sustainability Sessions 2021

National Green Week

8-12 March 2021

#greenGMIT

#GREENWEEK2021



An Taisce



NATIONAL FORUM
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Points to note

All presentations will be recorded, edited and disseminated to a wider audience via the green GMIT playlist on the GMIT YouTube channel.

No recording of discussion, chat or Q&A will take place for wider dissemination.

'Attendance' will be taken to elicit feedback the talks at a later stage.

Any queries, please contact
greencampus@gmit.ie



NATIONAL FORUM
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Agriculture Education for Sustainable Development

PEOPLE FOOD AND NATURE

The GMIT Sustainability Session 2021



MOUNTBELLEW
AGRICULTURAL
COLLEGE



NATIONAL FORUM
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION





Erasmus+



*Innovative Education for sustainable
development in peripheral rural areas*

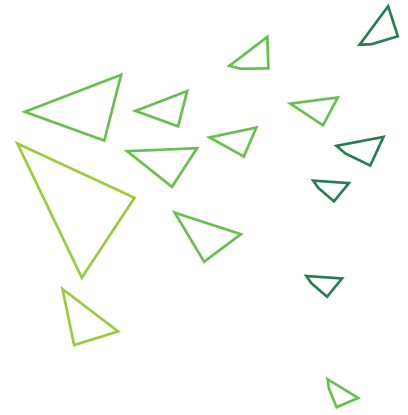
James Moran

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology



Outline

- Introduce RUR'UP
- Education for sustainable development
- Scale of challenges
- Educators enabling the “change makers” for a better future



The Consortium

- University of Thessaly, GR
- Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, IRL
- CIHEAM-IAMM, FR
- University of Helsinki, FIN
- University of National and World Economy, BG
- University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, RO
- University of Osijek, HR





Project Objectives

*“The Development of **New Knowledge** concerning **Sustainable Development** of **Peripheral Rural Areas**”*

- 1) Build understanding of the specific skills and competencies needed by the **labor market** and societal needs in such regions
- 2) Support curricula development to ensure learning to meet the required **skills and competencies**
- 3) Strengthen **collaboration** between HE and potential regional and cross-regional employers
- 4) Support **professional competencies** of the HE educators in such regions
- 5) Contribute to the international pool of **open educational resources** (OER).

What is education for sustainable development (ESD)?

September 2015: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by UN General Assembly

17 SDGs covering major development challenges for humanity

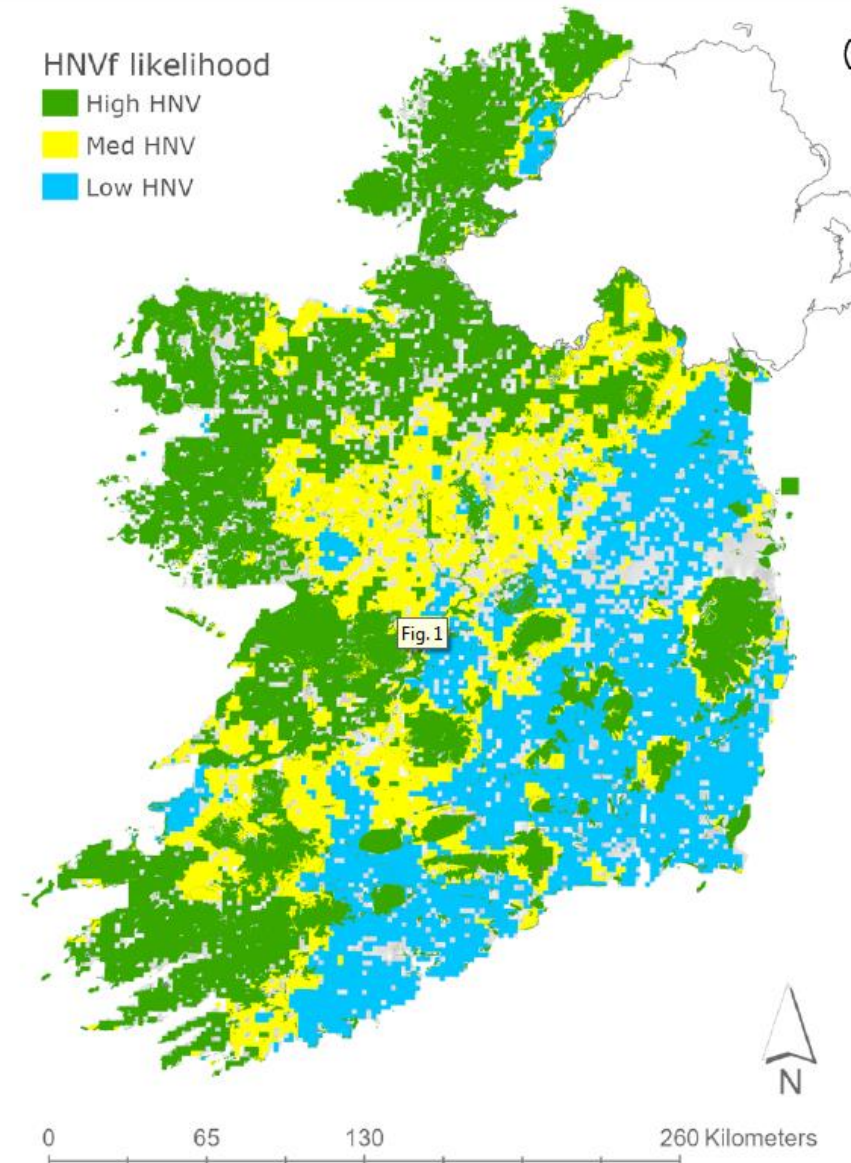
“Education for sustainable development empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations” (UNESCO 2017)



Source: UNESCO (adapted)

Peripheral Areas

- **Defined** as rural area facing natural constraints & limitations and occurring in specific areas like mountains, HNV, national parks or Natura 2000 sites
- **30 %** Europe's Agricultural Areas
- Multidisciplinary approach is critical for empowering **scientists, advisors, decision makers, local producers and actors**



“The assessment of the **education needs** and **gaps** for the sustainable development of EU peripheral rural areas”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG2: Zero hunger; SDG4: Quality education; SDG8: Decent work and economic growth; SDG13: Climate action; SDG15: Life on land



Education for sustainable development (ESD): “empowers graduates to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations.”

Scale of Challenge

Interactions / cause-effect feedbacks



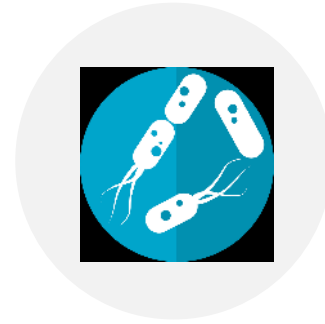
**Changing
Climate; summer
droughts, winter
floods**



**Habitat Loss
and
Pollution**



**Land conversion,
intensification and
abandonment**



**Invasive
Species and
disease**



**Farms economics
and viability**

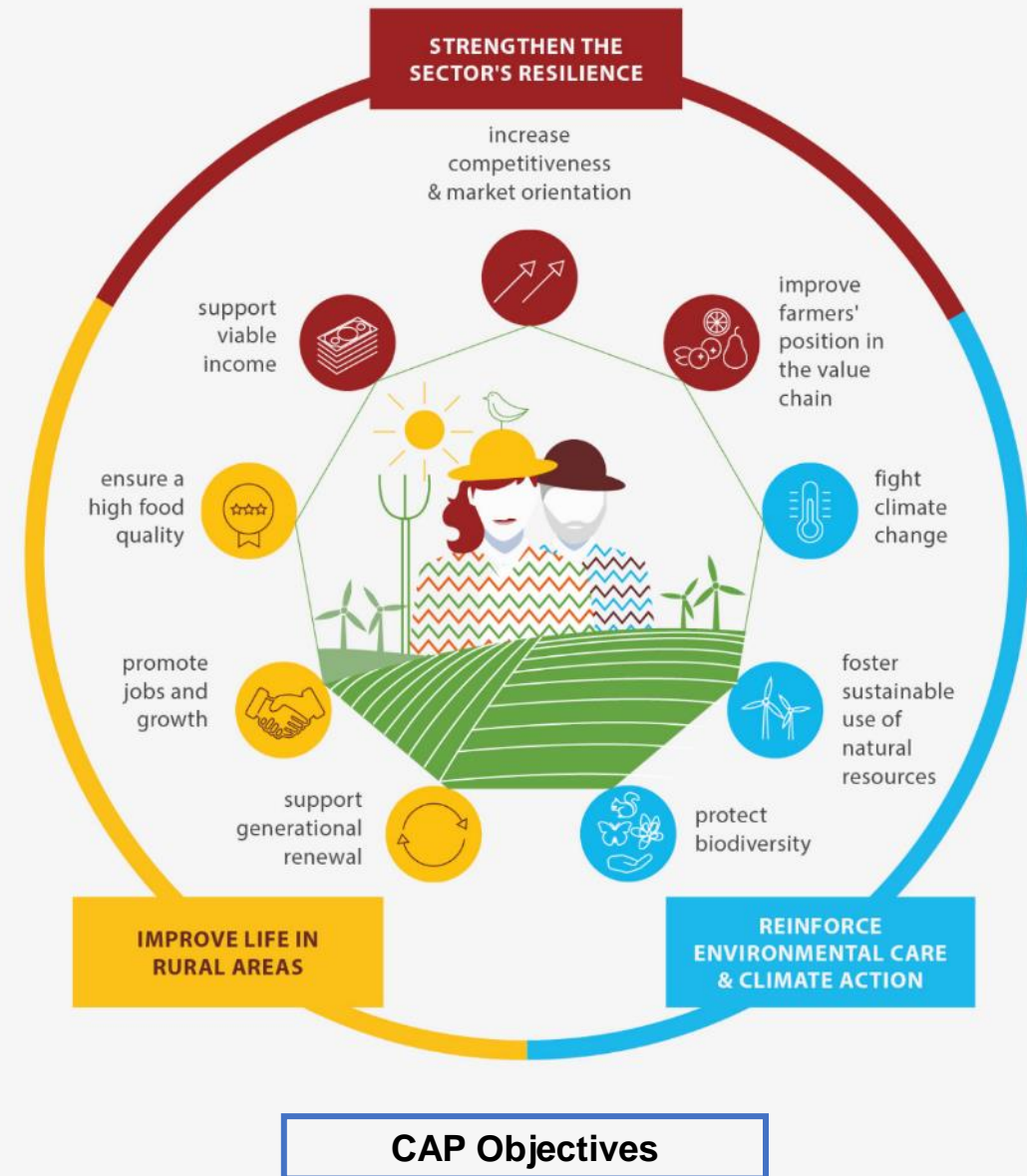
**.... Leading to Depletion of biodiversity, contributing to climate change
and reducing supply of Ecosystem Services for current and future generations**

“Potential” Contribution of Agriculture (CAP) to the UN Sustainable Development Goals



Modern Agriculture Graduates

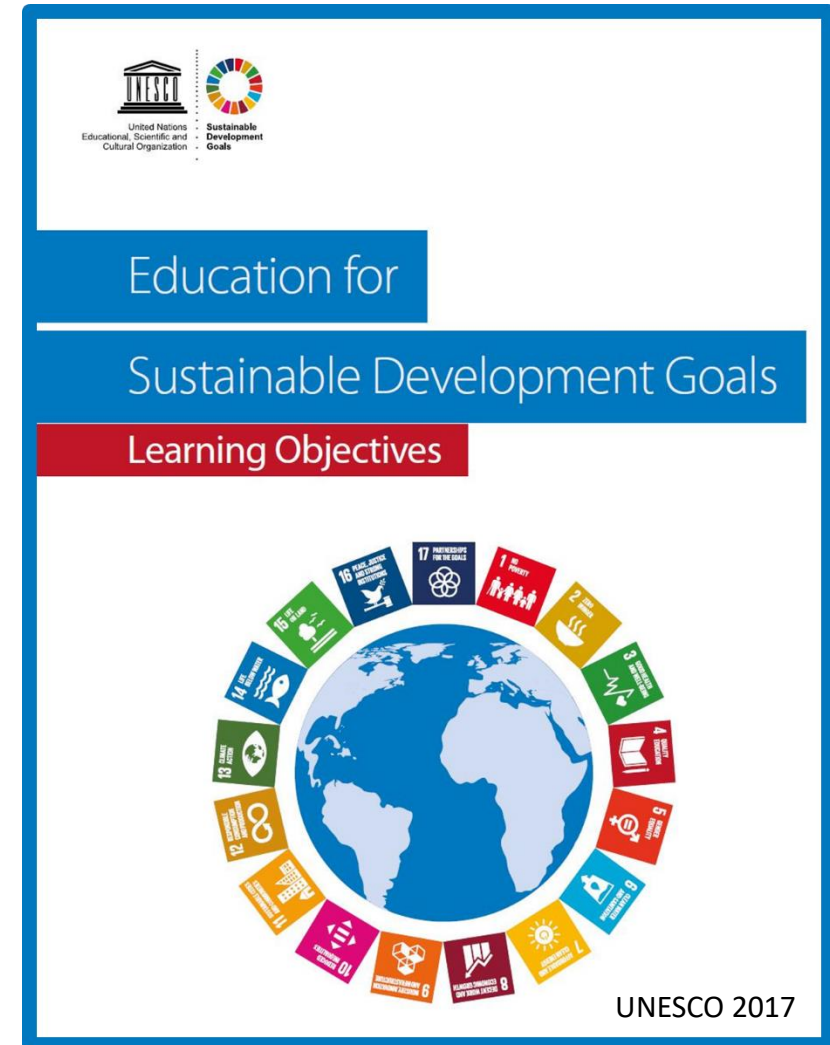
- Capable of working in multidisciplinary teams contributing solutions to broad range of land use challenges
- Equipped with relevant knowledge, skills and values to motivate and empower them to become active citizens and change makers for a more sustainable future



Graduate Key Competencies

Key competencies needed to contribute to SDGs include:

- ☐ basic knowledge;
- ☐ systems thinking;
- ☐ collaboration;
- ☐ normative thinking;
- ☐ critical thinking;
- ☐ self-awareness;
- ☐ social responsibility;
- ☐ communication skills;
- ☐ strategic thinking and integrated problem-solving abilities.



FOCUS Of RUR'UP Project



Resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production correlated with ecosystems capacity & environment protection



Learn how to assess and improve the education services in the peripheral agricultural areas (vulnerable groups; proficiency standard; etc)



Learn to develop improved levels of economic resilience through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, focusing on high-value added and labour-intensive products & sustainable tourism based on local culture and products



Study how to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.



Conservation, restoration, sustainable use and work towards halting biodiversity loss. More in depth understanding of interaction between land use, environment and economy

RUR'UP Project Outputs



IO1) The assessment of the education needs and gaps for the sustainable development of EU peripheral rural areas



IO2) E-learning course



IO3) Bank of Case Studies



IO4) Digital Teaching Platform and Digital Learning Resource



IO5) Syllabus and materials for Intensive Study Activity



IO6) Reflective report on the approach and methodology adopted



NAVIGATING WINDS OF CHANGE- Require Change Agents



Programme for Government

Our Shared Future



For healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet.
The Farm to Fork Strategy.
IT'S DOWN TO US!
#EUFARM2FORK | #EUGREENDEAL

