



## *Hydroponics Agricultural Technician*

### **Newsletter №2**

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### *General information*

Aquaponic and Hydroculture has the potential to play a key role in creating resource efficient production and allows growers to enter the market with a resilient product as well as tackling global challenges such as water scarcity, food security, urbanization and improvements in energy use. **PONICS VET: Hydroponics Agricultural Technician** is an **Erasmus+** project, focusing on providing access to training and qualification in the applications of Hydroponics techniques on young farmers from rural and semi-urban areas, which are the main target group. The idea behind the project is to provide a quality training in a specialization which is essential for the future of food production.

The main aim of the **PONICS VET** project is to create an innovative professional profile, the hydroponics technician and to deliver vocational training for such a profile. Along with the education, the course will incorporate formal certification with the applications of the rules drawn from the **ECVET (the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training)** methodology that will allow – or at least facilitate - recognition of learning outcomes in all European Member States.



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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

## *Our progress so far*



In the first phase of the project, a survey was carried out among the farmers in all five Consortium partnering countries, which aimed to establish the level of awareness of people in the Agricultural sector regarding Hydroponics and Sustainable Agriculture. On the basis of the survey conducted, the main topics to be targeted during the preparation phase of the training content were identified, taking into account the knowledge gap and interests of the respondents. An effective solution must address concerns and tangible benefits for diverse respondents in every step of the life-cycle of education and employment.

## *Second partners' meeting in Milan, Italy*



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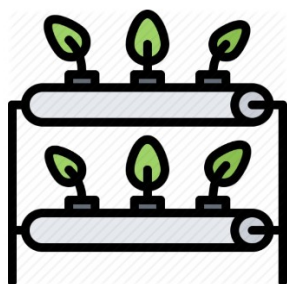
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On the 20th and 21st of September, the consortium of the project **"PONICS VET: Hydroponics Agricultural Technician"** held the second meeting with partners at **University of Milan, Department of Agricultural and Environmental Science** in Milan, Italy. During the second meeting, the partners were updated in relation to the achievement of the main milestones of the Project as well as the progress in the organization of the upcoming activities. A special emphasis was placed on the development and implementation of Hydroponics techniques in Italy. The topic **Aquaponics** was presented by Carlo Nicoletto from University of Padua, **Nutrient solutions management in soilless systems** (Luca Incrocci, Dept. Agricultural, Food and Environment, University of Pisa), **LED lighting control and application** (Piero Santoro, Laura Gatti, D'Alesio & Santoro Milan), **Urban vertical production system** (Marco Peterle, Studio Laura Gatti, Milano), as well as **Indoor cultivation systems and management**. (Antonio Ferrante, Dept. Agricultural and Environmental Science, University of Milan).

## The Consortium

In the PONICS VET project participate partners from 5 European countries - Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies and Union "Farmers' Parliament" from Latvia, IDEC from Greece, Eurocrea Merchant from Italy, Association for Vertical Farming e.V from Germany and BIC Innobridge from Bulgaria.

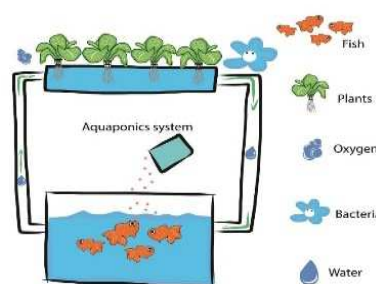
## Would you like to know more?



[Hydroponics Guide:  
How To Grow Plants  
Without Soil](#)



[7 Reasons Why Most  
Hydroponic Growers  
Fail](#)



[How to build a DIY  
Aquaponics System](#)



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