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Hydroponics Agricultural Technician

Newsletter №3

General Information



PONICS VET: Hydroponics Agricultural Technician is an **Erasmus+** project focusing on providing access to training and qualification in the applications of Hydroponics techniques for young farmers from rural and semi-urban areas. The idea behind the project is to create an innovative professional profile, the **HYDROPONICS TECHNICIAN**, and to provide a quality vocational training to support such a profile.



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Survey Results



Greece



Latvia



Belgium



Bulgaria



Italy

In the first phase of the project, a survey was carried out among farmers in all 5 Consortium partnering countries – Belgium, Greece, Italy, Latvia and Bulgaria. The survey aimed to establish the level of awareness of people in the Agricultural sector regarding **Hydroponics** and **Sustainable Agriculture**.

Most of the survey respondents were coming from towns rather than rural areas, running their own business in the field of Agriculture within the category of production of vegetables and fruits, occupying themselves as managers or growers. The results have shown that in countries such as Italy, Belgium and, especially Greece, people are familiar with **Hydroponics** and have theoretical knowledge of the term, while in Bulgaria and Latvia, there is a serious lack of knowledge and information regarding this agricultural system.

The questionnaire was important to address the real need for training in the topic of **Hydroponics**, as it shows that although in some of the countries people were aware of the term, their knowledge is basic and theoretical. Moreover, most of the respondents admitted that if they had enough skills, Hydroponics could have been useful for their future business and work, since they consider it as **innovative form** of Agriculture.



Training Course



Based on the results gathered from the surveys conducted in each of the Consortium countries, the basic structure of the training modules was defined. The training structure will help farmers to gain knowledge in the field of Hydroponics and will assist in the creation of a new professional profile - the Hydroponics Technician.

The course content will include topics such as:

1. What is sustainable agriculture;
2. How to enhance experience in growing crops in a soil-less environment;
3. How to be proactive and customized to the Agricultural market and learn the correct aptitude to sustainable agriculture techniques;
4. How to develop sustainable agricultural methods oriented towards Hydroponics strategies;
5. How to exploit the networks at the most of the potential and establish strong partnership with the community and territorial actors.

The training will be mostly addressed to young farmers, coming from rural and semi-urban areas and will be based on the **European credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET)** in order to enable the mobility of learners between the EU countries and facilitate the creation of employability for young people, especially in the Agricultural sector.

The course is expected to be finalized in the second part of 2019.



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