



INnoVations of REgional Sustainability: European University Alliance

– INVEST

Erasmus+ KA2 European university project No. 101004073

Partners



Project idea and the preparatory phase

- **The EU university project** – common idea of 2 partners – **SUA in Nitra, SK** and **UARD Plovdiv, BG**, based on the long-term cooperation within the E+ projects focused on rural and regional development
- **Project application stage initiative** – meeting of partners before the deadline for application submission (January 2020) – details on WPs, project title and acronym, project logo, Mission Statement
- **Geographically balanced** partnership / Alliance was enhanced by 3 more partner universities
- **INVEST Alliance:**
 - *Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, SK* (region of Central and Eastern Europe)
 - *University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Plovdiv, BG* (C&E Europe)
 - *University of Thessaly, Volos, GR* (region of Southern Europe)
 - *Karelia UAS, Joensuu, FI* (region of Northern Europe)
 - *Van Hall Larenstein UAS, NL* (region of Western Europe)
- previously cooperating in various project schemes, such as E+, INTERREG, etc.



Project idea and the preparatory phase

- **The main idea** - strengthening the link between teaching, research, innovation and knowledge transfer, encouraging mobility and enhancing the high quality and excellence in education and research
- **Contributions to the project proposal** – **joint effort of all partners** - each partner elaborated and leads 1 work package
- **23 associated partners** invited to cooperate – foundations, NGOs, international networks, enterprises, associations, chambers, regional and local authorities

Project implementation

- **Project implementation** – project activities are concentrated in 5 work packages:
 - **WP1** - Management and Coordination (leader – SUA)
 - WP2 - Cooperation Model, Quality Assurance System and Evaluation (leader – UARD)
 - WP3 - Study programs, courses, learning strategies and supporting tools (lead. – VHL)
 - WP4 - Co-creation of student and staff competences and sustainable INVEST tools (lead. – Karelia)
 - **WP5** - Sustainability and Dissemination (leader – UTH)
- specialized work teams were created to implement the specific tasks (accreditation process, curriculum development, Living Labs, winter/summer schools, mobility, knowledge management, learning community, etc.)
- **Joint accreditation framework** – identification of similarities and differences in national accreditat. systems (SAAHE is in EQAR and follows ESG standards, but not the European Approach - decision is NOT automatically adopted by the partners without further requirements)

Project implementation

- **16 joint degree programmes** are planned (10 bachelor, 4 master and 2 doctoral) – first five bachelor specialisations were proposed
- **Governance structure** was established (Management Board, Academic Board, Research & Innovation Board, Quality Assurance Board, Technical-administrative Board)
- **The Boards and teams** meet on the regular basis (e.g., management meetings of local coordinators are organised once a month)
- Systemic and structural changes to transform the Alliance into an institution

Plans for future

- **Future activities** – establishment of the **legal entity of INVEST**
- **Setting the criteria for enlargement** (new partner universities to join INVEST)
- **the new project proposal** will be prepared within the next call for proposals (November-December 2022)
- **further project activities** – support of INVEST research and innovation – Horizon 2020 project **INVEST4EXCELLENCE**
- intention to be involved in other project schemes (European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT), Horizon Europe)

Thank you for your attention

