

Empowering regional development and innovations – Building resilience in rural communities



Empowering regional development and innovations is a joint summer school for BSc, MSc and PhD students from all disciplines. The course is implemented as a hackathon with preliminary tasks before the actual hackathon.

The students will work in multidisciplinary groups on a specified challenge on building resilience in rural communities. The course is conducted online. You will:

- Find and propose solutions for building resilience in rural communities
- Learn innovation methods and tools
- Build and develop your network of experts
- Develop your multiprofessional working life skills
- Acquire 5 ECTS



Empowering regional development – Building resilience in rural communities (5 ECTS)

Online course 7 – 14 June 2021
(with preliminary tasks 15 May – 6 June)

Send your application to your INVEST Summer School coordinator by 30 April



INVEST Summer School

Empowering regional development and innovations

Online course: 7 - 14 June 2021 (with preliminary assignments 15 May - 6 June)

Apply by: 30 April

Credits: 5 ECTS

Learning objectives:

After completing the course, you will be able to utilise multidisciplinary expert networks, creative thinking and various technologies for problem solving in innovation methods. You will have a working knowledge of innovation tools and ways to present your findings. You will understand the multidisciplinary nature of regional development and its significance on rural and urban communities as well the basic concepts of resilience of communities.

Contents:

During the course, multidisciplinary groups will work on a challenge posed by a Finnish organisation related to rural resilience in special conditions. The groups will be introduced to different methods and tools for innovation, expert lectures on regional development, effects of COVID-19 on rural and urban communities and resilience and its meaning. The expert lectures will be given by stakeholders from each of the partner countries (Finland, Bulgaria, Greece, the Netherlands and Slovakia). The groups will innovate solutions and propose actions to increase the communities' resilience. The groups will work in close cooperation with different stakeholders.

The students will learn about Finnish food culture and participate in an online cooking class. The students will also plan and implement a joint cultural evening.

Methods of execution:

The course will be implemented online and consists of three phases:

- **Preliminary tasks (15 May - 6 June)**
 - 25 - 30 hours
 - Presenting yourselves online, background research, designing the evening activity, starting the learning diary
- **Hackathon process (7 - 14 June)**
 - 64 hours
 - Introduction to innovation processes and tools, expert lectures, group work, coaching, joint activities
- **Final tasks (15 - 17 June)**
 - 11 - 17 hours
 - Finalising the learning diary

Study material:

Howspace platform

Student selection:

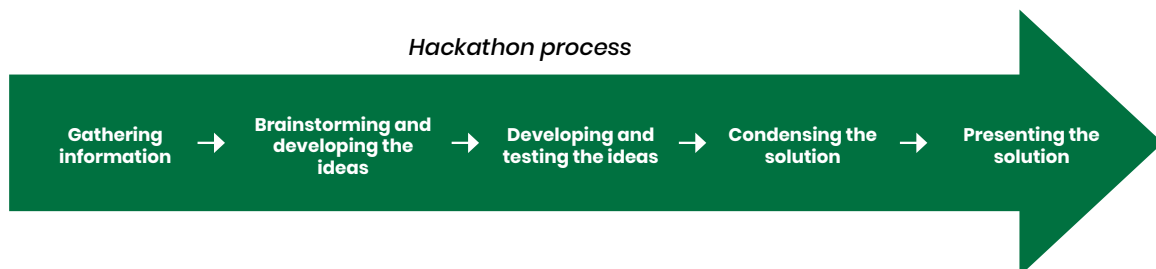
- Minimum requirements for English language level is B2
- BSc (you should have completed two years of studies), MSc or PhD student.

Each partner university will select 5 students. You should send your application to your respective coordinator by 30 April 2021. Your application should be in the form of a motivation letter or video, including your motivation for taking the course and how you plan to utilise the information you will gain from the course.

Course evaluation:

1-5. The evaluation of the course is based on the approved completion of the course assignments, expert evaluation of the presentation and report of the solution and participation in joint online meetings. The solution will be evaluated as follows: innovativeness, potential for uptake, potential for further development and the novelty value of the idea.

Hackathon process



INVEST Summer School



Contact information

INVEST Summer School coordinators

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (SUA):
Monika Bumbalová, monika.bumbalova@uniag.sk

University of Agribusiness and Rural Development (UARD):
Miglena Kazashka, mkazashka@uard.bg

University of Thessaly (UTH):
Vasilis Kyriatzis, kyriatzis@uth.gr

Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences (VHL):
Jannet Lavalette, jannet.lavalette@hvhl.nl

Karelia University of Applied Sciences (Karelia UAS):
Kaija Saramäki, kaija.saramaki@karelia.fi

In case of course implementation

Kaija Saramäki, kaija.saramaki@karelia.fi
Sini Rantanen, sini.rantanen@karelia.fi

Implementing universities:

Karelia University of Applied Sciences (Finland), Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (Slovakia), University of Agribusiness and Rural Development (Bulgaria), University of Thessaly (Greece), Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences (the Netherlands)

Additional information:

The course is part of the INVEST (INnoVations of REgional Sustainability: European University Alliance) project funded by Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The teaching language is English. Applying to the course is also considered as consent to participate in the research carried out in the project. Part of the course assignments can be published.

The content of this course flyer represents the views of the author only and is his /her sole responsibility. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.



Tentative schedule for INVEST Summer School. Note that the times are in Central European Summer Time. Changes are possible.

15.5.–6.6.	Mon 7.6.	Tue 8.6.	Wed 9.6.	Thu 10.6.	Fri 11.6.	Sat 12.6.	Sun 13.6.	Mon 14.6.	15.–17.6.
Preliminary tasks	Background	Brainstorming	Development	Development and Testing	Development and Testing	Testing	Summarizing	Final	Post summer school tasks
1. Introduction task (introduce yourself to the others) 2. Group task: Short presentation from your own country on the topic 3. Group task: Planning a joint "Getting to know each other" -event for the first evening of the summer school	9:30 Opening ceremony	9:00-10:30 Innovation clinic: What is innovation?	9:00-10:00 Expert lecture	9:00-10:00 Expert lecture	9:00-10:00 Expert lecture	10:00-11:00 Expert lecture	10:00-12:30 Working in groups: summarizing the idea and concept, preparing for pitching	9:00-12:30 Finalising the pitches and returning them by 12:30	1. Returning final reports task related to your own learning
	9:30-10:15 Introduction to the topic	Product development in practice Innovation tools							
	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break			
	10:30-11:15 Introduction to the topic	10:45-11:45 Group formation	10:15 -12:30 Working in groups: developing and testing ideas	10:15-12:30 Working in groups: developing and testing of ideas	10:15-12:30 Working in groups: developing and testing of ideas	11:15-12:30 Working in groups: developing and testing the ideas			
	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	
	12:15-13:15 Introduction to the challenge	12:45 - 15:00 Working in groups: developing ideas	13:30-14:30 Expert lecture	13:30-14:30 Expert lecture	13:30-14:30 Expert lecture	13:30-14:30 Expert lecture	13:30-14:00 Working in groups: summarizing the idea and concept, preparing for pitching	13:30-15:30 Pitching	
	Break		Break	Break	Break	Break		Break	
	13:30-15:00 Students' presentations from their own countries		14:30 -16:00 Working in groups: developing and testing ideas	14:30-16:00 Working in groups: developing and testing of ideas	14:30-16:00 Working in groups: developing and testing of ideas	14:30-16:00 Working in groups: developing and testing of ideas			
		Facilitation and sparring available 12:45-15:00	Facilitation and sparring available 14:30-15:00	Facilitation and sparring available 14:30-15:00	Facilitation and sparring available 14:30-15:00	Facilitation and sparring available 14:30-15:00	Facilitation and sparring available 14:30-15:00	Facilitation and sparring available 11:00-14:00	
	Joint evening event: Joint online cultural evening			Evening: Online Cooking together Finnish specialities, Organized by The Martha Organization					