

New farmers needs the country!

An EU project to promote entrepreneurship training

The EU project TEEN FARM - TEACHING ENTrepreneurship for new FARMers – started in October 2018. Eight schools from six countries in Europe work together in the project. Teen Farm's partners are CESAR (training association from Italy), the agricultural college "Ciuffelli" from Italy as well as INIPA Coldiretti from Italy and ADRAT (training association from Portugal), the agricultural college "Dr. Ge-orgi Pavlov" from Bulgaria, the agricultural school "DALUM COLLEGE" from Denmark, Wageningen University & Research from the Netherlands and the Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences.

The future development of society and the economy is borne by the junior staff and therefore an important foundation stone is laid with the training of new entrepreneurs. In Europe too, agriculture is the most important economic activity in most of the rural areas. Farmers not only produce food, they also care for nature and protect the environment, and they also produce other goods and specialties and offer services. This diversity offers opportunities - and of course risks - also for young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. This can be e.g. the production of Mediterranean specialties (vegetables, olives, wine, cheese, etc.) in one of the partner countries Portugal or in Italy, including the marketing of these products e.g. all the way abroad. Agricultural tourism services offer further options in all countries, even for small businesses. Even larger companies - also in Germany and not only in the agricultural sector - often have no successors and can offer young people the chance of self-employment.

You are not born as an entrepreneur, but the idea of founding or taking over a business must mature and the skills, knowledge and attitudes for the development of a corporate culture can be promoted. This is the task that the partners in the EU project Teen Farm set themselves. All partners involved have been training young entrepreneurs for many years. The international cooperation, however, offers the opportunity to think outside the box and to find new ideas. The specific goals of the EU project are aimed at establishing competitive agricultural businesses. To integrate them into vocational training paths, new courses were jointly developed, e.g. on entrepreneurship, creativity and innovations, marketing, precision farming, business plan and startup financing and others that will also be available online beyond the project partners.

The target group is not only young people in training (vocational training and university students), but also the teaching staff at the facilities should receive further training. After a successful start of the project at the end of 2018 and continued with training courses and course development in 2019, Covid-19 unfortunately put an abrupt end to personal contact and exchange across national borders. Nevertheless, after a break of several months, we are still working together, but now in video conferences and training sessions.

At the Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences in particular, a further training course for teachers from all partner countries on the subject of "Interpersonal and personal skills to become an entrepreneur in agriculture" was carried out as part of career advice in mid-December 2020. This will be continued in January 2021 with a virtual excursion to North-East Germany: Young entrepreneurs, all of them graduates from the Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences, and students will present their companies they have already taken over or their plans for taking over the farm.

Finally, a video conference with international speakers will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 from 1 p.m. and on Friday, January 22, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The general public is invited to this conference. If you, dear readers, are interested, please come to the WebEx meeting room at the specified times using the link: <https://hs-nb.webex.com/meet/Semikova>

Further information about the EU project TEEN FARM can be found at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplu-project-details/#project/2018-1-IT01-KA202-006804>

If you would like to test our pilot course, please go to

<http://www.incubtraining.org/moodle/course/index.php?categoryid=18>

You can stay in touch with the EU project on the Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/teenfarmerasmusplus/?modal=admin_todo_tour