



TO THE READER

Welcome to the first edition of the **IN2RURAL** newsletter!

This newsletter is aiming to inform you, about the general objective of IN2RURAL: to promote innovative practices in the renewable energies sector to improve the employability of university students in the rural areas of Castellón (Spain), Bacau (Romania) and Gyöngyös (Hungary).

IN2RURAL partnership integrates public universities and SMEs: Universitat Jaume I (UJI) and Heliotec (HEL) from Spain, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacau (UBc) and General Electric (GE) from Romania, Karoly Robert Foiskola (KRF) and Geolin (GEO) from Hungary.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are the university students involved in degrees related to renewable energies and rural development. Efforts will be done to attract students coming from rural areas. Concerning the staff, three target groups have been identified: professors, technicians and administration personnel in both universities and SMEs. Furthermore, the project will count with the participation of relevant stakeholders, such as vocational education centres, local governments and social enterprises.



Participants in the First Transnational Meeting (Castellón)

INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN RENEWABLE ENERGIES TO IMPROVE RURAL EMPLOYABILITY - IN2RURAL

IN2RURAL is an Erasmus+ programme within Key Action 2 Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices. Action: Strategic Partnerships in the field of education, training and youth. Field: Higher education.

OBJECTIVES

- * *to increase the applicability of the learning processes by strengthening the relationship between universities and SME;*
- * *to identify and improve the key-competences for the employability in the sector;*
- * *to introduce educational improvements and innovations;*
- * *to strengthen the internationalization, project management procedures and sustainability of the organisations;*
- * *to promote the active participation of youth coming from rural areas;*
- * *to improve the preparation of the students for the professional world.*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- * *May-July. Study of prospective and training needs of renewable energies market for local development. Bacau (Romania), Gyöngyös (Hungary) and Castellón (Spain).*
- * *July. Second Transnational Meeting. Gyöngyös (Hungary).*
- * *June-September. Signature of agreements between the universities and local collaborators. Bacau (Romania), Gyöngyös (Hungary) and Castellón (Spain).*



ACTIVITIES

Based on the needs analysis and the established goals, various activities will be carried out during the three-year duration of the project, including the following:

- * study of prospective and training needs of renewable energies for local development;
- * creation of a collaborative network among SMEs related to renewable energy;
- * course in technical English for renewable energies;
- * course in renewable energy for local development;
- * compilation of case studies applying renewable energies to local development;
- * active job search course for renewable energies in rural areas;
- * public seminars to share the outputs of the project;
- * international mobility of university students.

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Photovoltaic installation at the House of Culture of Azuébar (Castellón), by Heliotec

RESULTS AND IMPACTS

IN2RURAL is anticipated to have a positive impact in the short, middle and long term, contributing to the local capacity building, the facilitation of the access to an affordable and reliable energy, the local income generation and the promotion of rural employment.

In reference to the students, it is estimated that the project will result in:

- * increased technical competences in the field of renewable energies for rural development;
- * improved employability by a closer relation between academic formation/enterprises in an international environment;
- * higher skills for active job search, including a better knowledge of the opportunities in the EU.

The activities to be implemented are also looking to create a win-win relationship between academia and the SMEs in a European environment. IN2RURAL foresees providing support for networking and promoting the internationalisation of local organisations committed to technological, economic and social improvement in rural areas.

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