



NEWSLETTER

December 2025

CultiVETing - Cultivating Entrepreneurship in the Agri-Food Sector through VET

Dear readers,

As 2025 comes to an end, we would like to extend our warmest seasonal wishes. In addition, we take this opportunity to thank all partners and collaborators who have continued to support and contribute to the *CultiVETing-Cultivating Entrepreneurship in the Agri-Food Sector through Vocational Education and Training (VET)* project throughout this year. Your interest, expertise and commitment have been very important to the successful implementation of our activities.

The second half of 2025 has been dynamic, marked by an increasing level of activity, collaboration and shared dedication across all partner organisations. Thanks to the collective efforts of everyone involved, this period has delivered meaningful progress in equipping teachers and professionals in VET system with green skills. These achievements have further reinforced the *Cultivating's* role in advancing innovative, sustainable and green skills in VET.

As we look ahead, we remain confident that this strong foundation will support our continued efforts in the upcoming year.

CultiVETing Consortium 🌱

Training of Trainers: Empowering VET professionals with green skills in the agri-food sector

During the second part of 2025, we reached a milestone in bridging the gap between VET and the evolving needs of the current agri-food food systems by introducing a comprehensive Training of Trainers (ToT) framework. This programme equipped VET around 30 teachers and professionals from VET institutions in Albania and Kosovo with the green skills in the agri-food systems.

Led by VIS Albania, project partners finalized a blended learning curriculum focused on three pillars: self-entrepreneurship, digital proficiency and green skills. Grounded on key European Union competence frameworks (EntreComp, GreenComp, and DigComp), the

curriculum balances core pedagogical innovation with agri-food system specifics. The ToT is structured into five main courses: **digitalization**, **entrepreneurial skills**, **sustainable green skills for agri-food industries**, **curriculum development and strategies and policies**.



Based on their expertise, each project partner has contributed to learning units that address critical areas such as work-based learning and sustainable food systems. Also, to make the learning experience both engaging and effective were designed assessment quizzes. To ensure high educational standards, these materials undergo a rigorous technical review and a collaborative peer-review process.



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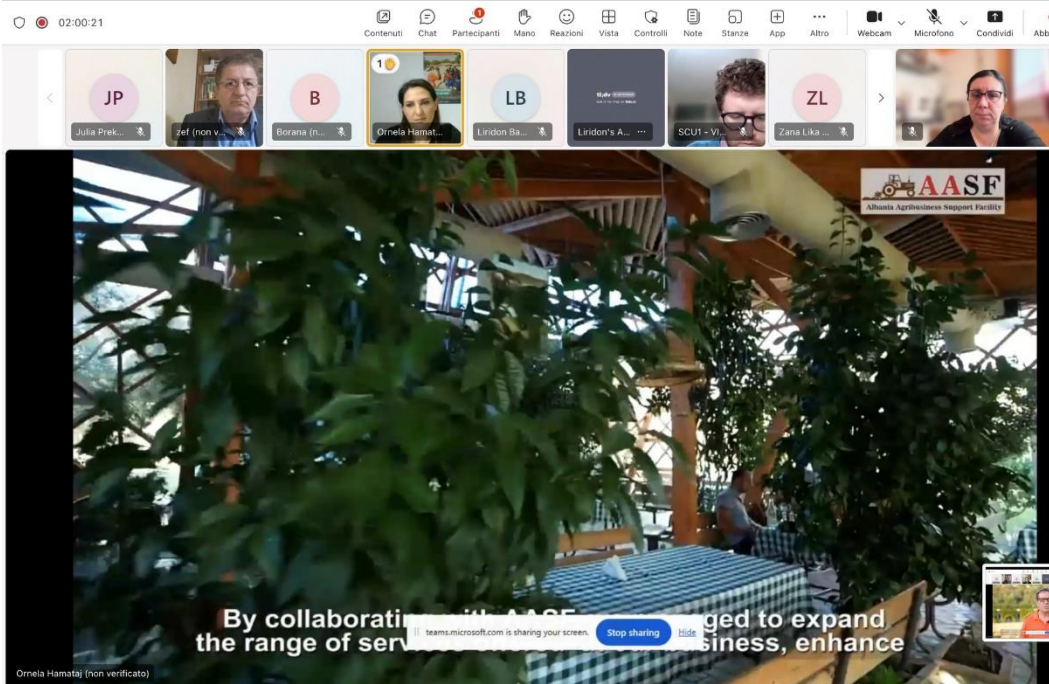
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The success of this ToT program rested on the educators who would bring these skills into the classroom.

The consortium established a merit-based selection process to identify teachers and professionals engaged in various VET schools and institutions. We sought motivated individuals with strong communication skills and a strong passion for the agri-food sector. To ensure wide participation and diversity, two waves of calls for participants were launched.

Participants embarked on a specialized 14-hour ToT program. This experience started with an introductory meeting designed to present the training modules, followed by in-depth online sessions where participants engaged with advanced assignments. At the end of the ToT, 18 participants received their certifications.

Early feedback from the training sessions was very positive, with participants reporting that the topics covered were highly useful, with 67% agreeing that they were beneficial “to a very large extent.” The overall quality of the training was rated as very good, with 83% of participants evaluating it as excellent.

An important aspect of the programme was that the training fulfilled participants’ expectations, both in terms of addressing their professional needs and their ability to actively follow and engage with the content: *The training was very well structured, the topics covered were related to the needs of the agri-food sector and the changes happening in this sector and not only.*

Others emphasized the methodology and learning approach as key strengths of the training. In particular, the balance between theory and practice, along with peer interaction, was highly appreciated: *The strongest aspects are the practical approach, the combination of theory with real examples, and the active collaboration among participants, which should definitely be maintained in the future.*

Beyond the training experience itself, participants also reflected on how they intended to transfer the acquired knowledge into their professional practice: *I will apply them by integrating sustainable practices, promoting entrepreneurship, and using technology in lesson planning and practical activities with students to connect theory with real situations in the agri-food sector.*

Participants represented a diverse range of expertise within both VET education and the agri-food sector. Their professional backgrounds included roles such as teachers, trainers and assistant professors, as well as more specialized positions including food technology experts, business consultants and environmental engineers.



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Second Project Partners Meeting: **Reviewing progress and paving the way forward**

The CultIVETing project partners gathered in Prishtina, Kosovo, for their second official partners' meeting in November 2025. Hosted by APPK – Employment Promotion Agency Kosovo, this meeting served as an important moment to reflect on the achievements of the past year and strategically align on the next steps for implementation.

A key highlight was the constructive engagement with the Director of the Vocational Education Department at the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Kosovo, ensuring alignment with national educational strategies.

Furthermore, partners gained valuable insights through a presentation by the “Abdyl Frashëri” Vocational High School, that showcased its successful Agri-Business and Technology study program. This real-world case study underlined the practical application of the project’s aims bridging the gap between the VET and the labor market needs in the agri-food sector in Albania and Kosovo.

Project partners

European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training – EVBB

VIS Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo

IEK AKMI – IEK AKMH

Albanian Network for Rural Development

Employment Promotion Agency Kosovo
Agricultural University of Tirana

BK CON

Don Bosko center

FILSE SpA– Finanziaria Ligure per lo Sviluppo Economico

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo



This project is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.