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From VET to Agri-Food Entrepreneurship Students from Albania and Kosovo Explore Innovation and Career Opportunities in Greece

Athens, June 2026

Fourteen students from the Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania and SHMP "Bahri Haxha", Vushtrri, Kosovo took part in a three-day study visit in Athens, Greece, organised under the Erasmus+ CultivETing - Cultivating Entrepreneurship in the Agrifood Sector through VET project.

Hosted by AKMI, the mobility brought together students from Albania and Kosovo for an intensive programme combining entrepreneurship, VET-business cooperation, labour-market needs and practical exposure to agri-food innovation. The study visit was designed to help participants understand how vocational education can better support the transition from education to employment and entrepreneurship. It also provided an opportunity to explore how VET institutions can respond to emerging labour-market needs and strengthen cooperation with businesses and other sector stakeholders.

From business ideas to real-world innovation

The first two days of the programme combined presentations, workshops and group activities at AKMI's VET facilities. Participants explored entrepreneurship and business idea development, including how to structure a business plan and use a Business Model Canvas for an agri-food business idea. They also discussed how VET, entrepreneurship and the labour market can be better connected and worked together to develop ideas for stronger cooperation between TVET institutions and businesses in Albania and Kosovo.

The programme also introduced participants to AKMI's VET ecosystem and its experience in VET - business cooperation, European projects and student mobility.

Learning beyond the classroom

The final day moved from classroom-based learning to practical exposure. Participants visited the Benaki Phytopathological Institute, gaining insight into laboratories, applied science and technological approaches relevant to agriculture. They also visited Smart AgroHub, where they explored innovation and business incubation in the agri-food sector. These visits helped participants connect scientific and technological knowledge with practical applications and emerging opportunities in agriculture and food systems.





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The experience also exposed students to professional pathways beyond traditional agricultural work. Feedback highlighted interest in areas such as product development, business creation, quality control and food technology, reflecting the diverse career opportunities emerging within the modern agri-food sector.

What did participants take away?

According to the study-visit evaluation, participants reported learning about entrepreneurship and business planning, the connection between VET and labour-market needs, practical scientific and technological environments, and the importance of collaboration and idea sharing. Participants described the experience as helpful, inspiring, educational and relevant to future business ideas.

AKMI S.A., the host of the study visit and one of the largest vocational education and training providers in Greece, believes that the future of the agri-food sector depends on young people being able to look beyond traditional agriculture and recognise the opportunities offered by entrepreneurship, technology, innovation and new career pathways. Experiences such as this mobility allow students to learn by observing, doing and reflecting, while bringing European practices closer to the realities of Albania and Kosovo.

The CultivETing study visit demonstrates the value of mobility and experiential learning in preparing young people for a changing agri-food sector. By connecting students with VET providers, researchers, innovation environments and business support structures, the initiative contributes to the project's wider goal of strengthening employability, entrepreneurship and cooperation between VET institutions and the agri-food sector in the Western Balkans.

About the project

CultivETing - Cultivating Entrepreneurship in the Agrifood Sector through VET (Project Number: 101129381) is an Erasmus+ Capacity Building project co-funded by the European Union and implemented by 13 partner organizations from Albania, Kosovo, Greece, Italy, Germany, and Belgium.

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