

PRESS RELEASE

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European partners help protecting traditional orchards

Preserving traditional orchards in Europe is the ambitious goal of a recently started project. Partners from six European countries cumulate expertise in the most traditional method of fruit farming and present modern strategies in regional food marketing. The project will introduce an unparalleled curriculum, to be made available to vocational schools, universities and in adult education.

Thousands of unattended traditional orchards shape European landscapes: More than 80 percent of all traditional orchards disappeared within the past 60 years. The ESTO – Project “European Specialist in Traditional Orchards” will take action against further deterioration. The project is embedded in the Leonardo da Vinci Lifelong Learning Programme, comprising twelve partner organisations and experts in the field of traditional orchard farming, management and education from six European countries - Austria, Poland, Hungary, Denmark, France and Germany.

Comprehensive material on different aspects of orchard farming, such as marketing and care, is not yet available. ESTO takes a stake in developing new and innovative methods of teaching and learning, in order to preserve traditional orchards as a sustainable system and warrantor of bio-diversity, considering economical and ecological aspects. Orchards shall also shape 21st Century landscapes.

From 2012 through 2014, the development of a curriculum based on the ECVET-tool (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training), covering selected aspects of knowledge about traditional orchard farming (pomology, management and care, processing and marketing) for interested adults, students at vocational schools and at universities, will be the project consortium's objective. An adequate curriculum is not yet available and set to open future perspectives.

The curriculum will be utilised within the EU-wide consortium network to promote awareness and knowledge on traditional orchards. The National Competence Centres, established during the project, shall ensure knowledge transfer on traditional orchards between professionals, national networks of relevant authorities, institutions and organisations engaged in traditional orchard farming, not only within the project.

More information:

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