



Nurturing agricultural skills

Projects brochure

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- 4 Estonian Peers in Practice (PIP) projects boost rural skills
 - 5 Modernising advisory services to boost Madrid's regional agricultural sector
 - 6 Knowledge and skills development to promote short food supply chains in Sweden
 - 7 LCA4FARMS - carbon and water wisdom for the farms of the Satakunta Region
 - 8 Adopting integrated farming methods for sustainability
 - 9 Hungarian agricultural education adopts virtual reality
 - 10 DigiTaituri - digital skills for a better farm economy
 - 11 The 'Momento Agro' series of podcasts in Portugal



Table of contents

Introduction.....	3
Estonian Peers in Practice (PIP) projects boost rural skills	4
Modernising advisory services to boost Madrid's regional agricultural sector	5
Knowledge and skills development to promote short food supply chains in Sweden	6
LCA4FARMS – carbon and water wisdom for the farms of the Satakunța Region	7
Adopting integrated farming methods for sustainability	8
Hungarian agricultural education adopts virtual reality	9
DigiTaituri – digital skills for a better farm economy	10
The 'Momento Agro' series of podcasts in Portugal	11

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Introduction

The [European Year of Skills \(2023-24\)](#) aims to help people gain the right skills for quality jobs and support companies in addressing skill shortages in Europe. This is key for achieving long-term sustainable growth and competitiveness, as well as ensuring that the green and digital transitions are socially fair and just.



Acquiring and updating skills is crucial for farmers and agricultural workers to achieve environmental sustainability and economic viability while answering changing societal demands. Recent work of the EU CAP Network has focused on this, which is in line with the CAP's General Objectives.

In our recent Thematic Group (TG) on [Nurturing Skills for a Thriving and Sustainable Agricultural Sector](#), a committed group of stakeholders highlighted the variety of skills required for farmers and farm workers, including animal welfare, precision farming, work safety, marketing and leadership.

The Agricultural and Rural Inspiration Awards 2023 highlighted, among others, some inspiring projects that are improving [rural stakeholders' skills](#). These are showcased in a dedicated [publication](#).

This edition of the Project Brochure showcases other practical examples of CAP support to a diverse range of skills to help agricultural and rural professionals keep pace with a fast-changing, increasingly complex world.

Figures in this publication have been rounded. For the precise figures, please refer to the full description of each project on the EU CAP Network website.



€ 3 500 000

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 3 115 000

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 01

Knowledge transfer and information actions

PROJECT PERIOD

2021-2023

COUNTRY

 **Estonia**



Estonian Peers in Practice (PIP) projects boost rural skills

A coordinated approach to support upskilling and cooperation among farmers.

The knowledge needs of Estonian farmers and rural entrepreneurs vary greatly and requires knowledge sharing activities to be organised and delivered in a holistic and coordinated way.

Based on these considerations and previous experiences, the project 'Estonian Peers in Practice' was designed to disseminate information about existing knowledge, scientific results and innovative solutions in the field of agriculture, food and rural economy, and to coordinate and organise knowledge sharing activities.

The project was an initiative of the Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge (METK), a state agency that also acts as the support unit for the [National CAP Network](https://www.nationalcapnetwork.eu/).

The initiative offered learning, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities such as training ses-

sions, study groups, field trips, 'farminars' (on-farm seminars), demonstration events and conferences, and printed and digital material. Over 600 events were organised, reaching up to 10 000 participants per year from the farming value chain.

The project has contributed to the development of various skills, capacity-building and social capital. The programme has also increased the confidence of many agricultural stakeholders, promoting networking and further knowledge sharing.



Find out more online:



eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/estonian-peers-practice-pip-projects-boost-rural-skills



€ 295 000
TOTAL BUDGET

€ 233 188
EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 02

Advisory services

PROJECT PERIOD

2020-2022

COUNTRY

 **Spain**

Modernising advisory services to boost Madrid's regional agricultural sector

A modern training and advisory service to foster generational renewal in agriculture.

The agricultural sector in the Madrid region is facing clear demographic challenges. Few young farmers are entering the sector and they face specific difficulties to access credit, land and CAP income support.

Based on these findings, IMIDRA (the Madrid Institute for Rural, Agricultural and Food Research and Development) identified the need to improve the agricultural advisory services to build the young farmers' capacity to seize the opportunities provided by the CAP.

CAP funding enabled the establishment of AgroAsesor, a project designed to offer free advice for farmers through online, face-to-face, and phone consultations, publications, and on-farm demonstrations. Over 500 actions were implemented.

AgroAsesor represents the first step towards a larger advisory network that uses multi-actor cooperation, involving stakeholders from across the territory (co-operatives and agri-food companies, the Agricultural Chamber and LEADER Local Action Groups) in knowledge sharing.

Find out more online:



eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/cap-funded-farm-advisory-services-help-modernise-madrids-regional-agricultural-sector





€ 92 307¹

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 34 490

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 01

Knowledge transfer and information actions

PROJECT PERIOD

2019-2022

COUNTRY



Sweden

¹ Figure calculated based on the average Swedish Crown-Euro exchange rate in 2022, the end year of the project.



Knowledge and skills development to promote short food supply chains in Sweden

Improving business know-how to strengthen artisanal food producers.

In Sweden, the production and sale of artisanal food often depends on short food supply chains. Despite some simplifications, fees and regulatory requirements remain challenging for artisanal food producers, limiting their activities and range of customers. As a result, their income can be relatively low and unstable.

To improve the efficiency and profitability of artisanal food producers, Eldrimner (the National Resource Centre for Food Crafts) designed a project to help strengthen the competencies and sales techniques of artisanal food producers.

Activities included the dissemination of successful examples of artisanal food production, selling methods and techniques through articles in the press and films, a capacity building conference (171 participants) and a study trip to France (12 participants).

The rural businesses participating in the project increased their knowledge, developed new collaborations among themselves and other food chain actors, and developed new sales channels. Their sales increased and turnovers became more stable. They gained useful insights and know-how that will be useful for their future activities and may contribute to creating more rural jobs.



Find out more online:



eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/dissemination-knowledge-and-development-new-methods-direct-sales-artisanal-food



€ 154 015
TOTAL BUDGET

€ 51 749
EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 16
Cooperation

PROJECT PERIOD
2022-2023

COUNTRY
+ Finland

LCA4FARMS – carbon and water wisdom for the farms of the Satakunta Region

Implementing Life Cycle Assessments in farms to foster more sustainable farming practices.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is the process of evaluating the effects that a product has on the environment across its entire life cycle. It is a useful tool for resource efficiency. Applied on farms, the LCA approach can contribute to making agricultural production more environmentally friendly, increasing farmers' knowledge of the environmental impacts of their farms and finding ways to mitigate them. This, in turn, can improve farm competitiveness while making farming more responsive to environmental and social demands.

The Pyhäjärvi Institute, a Finnish educational and research organisation, used CAP funding to apply the LCA approach to farms in the Satakunta region (south-west Finland). The project evaluates greenhouse gas emissions, eutrophication potential (i.e. excessive plant

nutrients in the water, leading to algae overgrowth), land use and potential biodiversity losses.

Farmers are directly involved in the process, which increases their understanding and commitment to improve farm sustainability and helps spread the word across the farming community. Workshops, videos and podcasts further support knowledge sharing and skills development, ensuring the project's long-term legacy.

Despite some resistance and concerns about certain time-consuming tasks, the project is gaining traction and is expected to implement LCA in 60 farms.

Find out more online:



eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/lca4farms-carbon-water-wisdom-farms-satakunta-region





€ 2 289 294

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 987 141

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 10

Agri-environment-climate

PROJECT PERIOD

2016-2022

COUNTRY

 **Italy**

Adopting integrated farming methods for sustainability

An Italian educational NGO adopted integrated farming methods which improved its farm's performance and offered a real-life example to students.

Fondazione per l'Istruzione Agraria (FIA) is an educational non-governmental organisation established in 1860 in central Italy to train young people to become professional farmers. It also manages 1 800 hectares of land and runs various activities such as cattle rearing, wine, olive oil, cereals and hazelnut production.

To improve the environmental performance of its farm, FIA applied for agri-environment-climate CAP funding. This enabled a series of operations such as using bio-stimulants and leaves as fertiliser on most of the farm's crops, soil analyses and introducing fertigation (re-using wastewater with high nutrient content for crop irrigation). In addition, the funding allowed the creation of nearly

100 small plots of land to act as biodiversity hot-spots, attracting pollinators and wildlife.

The farm can now demonstrate new integrated farming methods to university students during their internships at FIA. The activities improved the farm's environmental performance (a 27% reduction in nitrogen fertiliser consumption and an increase in soil organic matter) and the quality of the produce (hazelnuts and meat) while reducing production costs.

Find out more online:



eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/foundation-agrarian-education-adopting-integrated-farming-methods-sustainability



€ 732 555

EAFRD FUNDING

The project was funded as part of a global funding to national vocational schools, in the frame of the EAFRD funding for technical assistance

RDP MEASURE 20

Technical assistance

PROJECT PERIOD

2021

COUNTRY

 **Hungary**


Hungarian agricultural education adopts virtual reality

The CAP helps agricultural education keep pace with technological developments that affect the sector's productivity.

Agricultural education needs continuous development to ensure that students are taught using up-to-date methods to gain the right experience. Virtual reality (VR) inspires curiosity and enthusiasm and can improve students' motivation and learning outcomes.

An agricultural vocational college in the small Hungarian town of Jánoshalma decided to create a virtual learning space where students could gain 'hands-on' experience with the latest agricultural machines and tools.

The project included a careful research phase, with a literature review on the use of VR in education and in-depth research, a test phase to adapt VR technology to agricultural education and the final

accreditation of the VR educational system, with ISO certification and plans for the system's ongoing maintenance and use.

VR allowed the students to experience various kinds of agricultural workflows, from the maintenance of the latest available agricultural machines to a first-hand view of how they are used in practice – all without needing physical access to these machines.

Find out more online:



eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/agricultural-education-world-virtual-reality





€ 57 696

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 24 232

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 01

**Knowledge transfer and
information actions**

PROJECT PERIOD

2020-2022

COUNTRY

+ **Finland**

DigiTaituri - digital skills for a better farm economy

Online learning develops the digital skills of Finnish farmers.

Over 1 000 farms in Finland have stopped operating every year since 2020 due to multiple crises. To help address this critical situation, the Finnish Institute for Enterprise Management decided to implement a project to improve farmers' digital skills, so that they could harness the potential of digital tools to facilitate the operational and financial management of their farms.

The institute is a national body for adult education that organises online and in-person training courses. Support from the Aisapari LEADER Local Action Group enabled the institute to design and deliver nine webinars that offered learning about new digital tools related to farm business and economic management. Topics ranged from how to implement financial management routines to balanced investments, debt-carrying capacity and long-term financial planning.

The project targeted farmers from six municipalities in the South Ostrobothnia region (southwest Finland). The webinars gathered representatives from 50 farms. The extensive webinar materials, including practical examples, videos and exercises, remain available on the project's website so anyone can use them for self-directed learning at any time.

Find out more online:



[eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/
good-practice/digitaituri-digital-
skills-better-farm-economy](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/digitaituri-digital-skills-better-farm-economy)



€ 3 223

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 3 223

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 20

Technical assistance

PROJECT PERIOD

2020-2023

COUNTRY

 **Portugal**


The 'Momento Agro' series of podcasts in Portugal

A series of CAP-funded podcasts sharing information about agriculture and rural development.

The mission of the Regional Direction of Agriculture and Fisheries (DRAP) of Alentejo is to design and implement policies related to agriculture, forestry, rural development and fisheries.

In line with its role to share information and best practices in agriculture and rural development amongst sector stakeholders, DRAP Alentejo decided to create a series of podcasts. These can be downloaded and listened to on any device, so the audience - citizens, farmers, rural communities - can enjoy greater freedom to choose how and when to engage with the content.

The podcast series of 24 episodes touches upon different themes, including the importance of agriculture for the local territory, the circular economy, women in farming, quality indication for local prod-

ucts and water management. The podcasts were broadcast originally by radio and are still available for download on the organisation's [website](#) and for streaming on YouTube, Google Podcast and Spotify.

These podcasts widen the range of communication channels used by DRAP Alentejo to disseminate information and knowledge, thus improving access to knowledge and information and growing audiences.

Find out more online:



eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/momento-agro-series-podcasts-portugal





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