



NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | April 2025

INSIST-VAT PROJECT: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR AGRICULTURAL TRAINING IN ALBANIA

INSIST-VAT is an Erasmus+ Capacity Building project in the field of Agricultural Vocational Training (CB-VET).

It involves 8 partners:

- International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM-IAMM), France
- Agriculture University of Tirana (AUT), Albania
- Agriculture Technology Transfer Centre (QTTB) Fushe Kruja, Albania
- University of Prishtina (UP), Kosovo
- Association de Coordination Technique Agricole - Les Instituts Techniques Agricoles (ACTA), France
- Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza-International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (IAMZ-CIHEAM), Spain

- Agriculture Technology Transfer Centre (QTTB) Korca, Albania
- Association pour la Qualité en Recherche et en Enseignement Supérieur (QUARES), France.

Its aim is to set up a training programme at the Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT) involving national and regional stakeholders, to serve as the basis for Albania's agricultural knowledge and innovation system.

This project is designed to meet the objectives set for the AUT by the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture which are:

- to design a "producers' training centre",
- and to offer training courses tailored to the needs of farmers and extension agents.



From January 29 to 31, 2025, the CIHEAM-IAMM organised in its premises **the Kick-off meeting** of the INSIST-VAT project.

Around twenty participants representing the 8 partners from the 4 countries involved (Albania, Kosovo, Spain and France) worked on the organisation of future activities, the governance of the consortium and the administrative and financial issues.

Visits to organisations working in the field of agricultural vocational training were also organised: Fédération Régionale des CIVAM d'Occitanie and CFPPA Montpellier.

INSIST-VAT News!

PROGRESS UPDATES

Work Package 1

Regarding the Work Package 1 “Coordination and project management” (WP1), besides the organization of the Kick-off meeting in Montpellier (D1.2.), the deliverable D1.1 “Administrative and financial implementation manual” has been written and submitted on the EU portal. A collaborative platform was launched.

Work Package 2

D2.1 “Methodological report” has been submitted, and the following Milestones finalised:

- Ms 4: Identification of the target groups (producers)
- Ms 5: Design of the data collection methodology (producers)
- Ms 6: Identification of the target groups (trainers)

The methodological report outlines the approach and tools used for data collection and analysis within the project's scope. It primarily focuses on the sector statistics and the survey instrument developed to collect relevant data. It includes a comprehensive overview of the sector statistics, providing a detailed snapshot of the current state of the studied sectors.

An important part of the report is a detailed description of the survey instrument, and the methodology used for data collection, including the sampling process, data collection techniques (e.g. on-line surveys, face-to-face interviews, focus groups) and strategies to ensure a high response rate and representative data.

Work Package 3

This work package (WP3) benchmarks European agricultural VET systems to design a modern training offer for the Agricultural University of Tirana.

Focusing on five EU countries, seven agricultural sectors, and nine training themes under sustainability and digitalization, the study aims to identify best practices adaptable to Albania.

A structured methodology guides data collection through research and stakeholders' interviews, building a database to support policy development and align Albania's VET with EU and AKIS standards.

Work Package 5

This package focuses on developing three training plans for farmers, trainers, and administrative staff based on Albania's national agricultural strategy. It targets crop and livestock production, with cross-cutting themes of climate change and sustainable practices.

The first plans strengthens the skills of advisors and extension services; the second addresses farmers' needs through practical, hands-on methods; and the third builds administrative capacity to support the Training Centre.

Key tasks include designing and validating training content, organizing training sessions, and promoting sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural practices.

Study tours in France and Spain will support experience exchange and learning.

Work Package 6

D6.1 “Project's Quality Plan” was submitted. It includes key measures to ensure the overall quality and consistency of the project's implementation.

Work Package 7

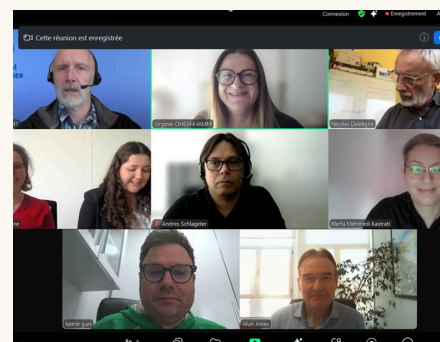
A first version of the D7.1 “communication plan” was validated, along with a visual identity toolkit (D7.2) to ensure consistent branding and outreach throughout the project.

The present Newsletter is the first issue of the D7.5 “newsletters and brochures”.

So far, the following social media accounts have been opened (D7.4):

- [Facebook](#)
- [X](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [YouTube](#)

A dedicated project's website will be online soon (D7.3).



Two Work Package Leaders meetings were held (March 3 and March 28, 2025). They focused on the deliverables' progress and the next Steering Committee to be held in Albania in summer 2025.