



Institutional, Sustainable and Innovative Strengthening
of Vocational Agricultural Training in Albania

Project: 101183189 - ERASMUS-EDU-2024-CB-VET

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Press release

EU-funded project “INSIST-VAT” to transform agricultural training and innovation in Albania

From 23 to 24 June 2025, a new EU funded initiative for a national agricultural vocational training centre will hold its first Steering Committee meeting at the Agricultural University of Tirana. On this occasion, a high-level workshop on “New challenges for agriculture - new knowledge needs” will be organised on 25 June.

Tirana, Albania – A new European Union-funded project is set to boost agricultural training, knowledge exchange, and rural innovation in Albania. The “INSIST-VAT” project (*Integrated and Sustainable Training System for Vocational Agricultural Training*) aims to establish a permanent training centre at the Agricultural University of Tirana (UBT) in 2027. The centre will modernize advisory systems, and promote sustainable, climate-resilient farming through tailored training programmes for farmers, extension workers, and institutional staff.

The first Steering Committee Meeting of the INSIST-VAT project will be held in Tirana, Albania, from **23 to 25 June 2025**. This event will bring together all consortium partners to review progress, align on key deliverables, and engage in open sessions to share insights with national stakeholders. Furthermore, a visit to the Agriculture Technology Transfer Centre Fushë Krujë will complement the meeting, offering participants a practical perspective on local innovation.

Led by a European consortium of agricultural and educational institutions, the INSIST-VAT project directly responds to Albania’s national strategy for rural development and fisheries, launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) in January 2022. This strategy highlights Agricultural Knowledge as a key pillar for building sustainable food systems and calls for accessible, high-quality training to strengthen producer capacity.



Vocational Agricultural Training in Albania

To this end, the new centre at UBT will serve as a foundational element of Albania's Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS), advancing vocational education and aligning with European quality standards. By engaging national departments and regional actors, the project will also help to ensure the long-term sustainability of training services and knowledge-sharing mechanisms.

According to the rector of UBT, Fatbardh Sallaku: "This project is a clear step forward in strengthening an agricultural knowledge system that serves Albanian farmers and producers. By tailoring training to local needs and strengthening regional ties, we are investing in a future where Albanian farmers can thrive in a changing climate and global market".

Christophe Mur, Project Coordinator from CIHEAM Montpellier, emphasized the broader vision behind this project: "INSIST-VAT goes beyond delivering training; it aims to build a long-term knowledge system that enables Albanian farmers and institutions, and ultimately the ones in Kosovo, to drive agricultural transformation from the ground up".

INSIST-VAT is led by CIHEAM Montpellier in partnership with CIHEAM Zaragoza, ACTA, QUARES, the University of Pristina, the Agricultural University of Tirana and the Agriculture Technology Transfer Centres of Korçë and Fushë Krujë. The project is co-funded under the EU's Erasmus+ programme for Capacity building in the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET) with a total budget of 395.674€ and will run until December 2027.

For more information, please contact the Agricultural University of Tirana (UBT):

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