



# EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

Erasmus+



Uniting over...

**45 580**

**STUDENTS**

**100 000**

**ALUMNI**

**2 800**

**STAFF, INCLUDING  
1 500 ACADEMIC  
STAFF/RESEARCHERS**

**30**

**FACULTIES AND  
DEPARTMENTS**

**100**

**RESEARCH GROUPS**

## OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

## INVEST – InnoVations of REgional Sustainability: European University Alliance



### WHO WE ARE

#### 5 pioneers

- Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (Slovakia)
- Karelia University of Applied Sciences (Finland)
- University of Agribusiness and Rural Development (Bulgaria)
- University of Thessaly (Greece)
- Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)

#### 23 associates

- 2 foundations
- 2 enterprises
- 3 NGOs
- 1 vocational school
- 1 international network
- 5 associations
- 1 economic zone cluster
- 2 chambers of commerce
- 1 geotechnical chamber
- 5 regional and local authorities

### OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Lead by the need to strengthen the link between teaching, research, innovation and knowledge transfer, encouraging mobility and enhancing the high quality and excellence in education and research, 5 universities have united their efforts based on their previous cooperation to establish the INnoVations of REgional Sustainability: European University Alliance (INVEST). INVEST will be a fully functioning, innovative and bottom-up alliance of higher education institutions, which achieve even higher standards in education, training, research and innovation through international synergy and excellence. The INVEST alliance takes greater re-

sponsibilities towards the development of an inclusive European society and knowledge-based economy.

Our vision is to create a modern European University fulfilling the needs and requirements of the new generation of Europeans willing to lead in the introduction of sustainable life in regions across Europe. By establishing this European university, we:

- INVEST in enhancing the sustainability and inclusiveness of our partner regions

- INVEST in the innovation of our education system and research methods
- INVEST in our students becoming active citizens and future shaping professionals for Europe.

Post 2025, INVEST will become a model of good practice in the achievement of the policies of the European Education Area. Achievements will be visible in innovative teaching and research, international academic mobility and inter-

cultural collaboration, development of a robust academic culture, provision of products and services to gain new skills and competences for the benefit of European regions and local communities. Towards 2040, INVEST will focus on sustainable cooperation for education, research, innovation and knowledge transfer raising quality and competitiveness of participating universities and contributing to economic, social, cultural and environmentally – friendly sustainable development of European regions.

## PUTTING OUR VISION INTO PRACTICE

### KEY DELIVERABLES / ACTIVITIES

- **Competitive education and valuable learning outcomes** in all 3 cycles (bachelor, master and doctoral) to educate and train experts in the field of agriculture, entrepreneurship, regional development and environmental protection, addressing Sustainable development goals on Zero Hunger, Good Health and well-Being, Quality Education, Clean Water and Sanitation, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Climate Action, Life below Water, and Life on Land.
- **Collective excellent research and innovation** towards intensive, sustainable interaction between the key drivers of a knowledge-based society – education, research and innovation. Establishing Living Labs will be the key activity facilitating the collaboration of the quadruple helix with stakeholders from the regions.

- **Staff development strategy and tools** to build future competences in learning, research and innovation, such as a joint and virtual Training of Trainers-Model and individual training pathways for academic and non-academic staff.
- **High mobility level** both inside and outside Europe as a key step towards the internationalisation of partners' academic environment and research base, considering all forms of mobility – physical, blended and virtual, including winter and summer schools and staff training programs.
- **European community of practice as the platform for future education and research** composed of students, academics and researchers, benefiting from cooperation with public authorities and the world of work. This community of practice will provide space for individuals to share knowledge and information through the **INVEST Portal**.

### HOW OUR ALLIANCE WILL TRANSFORM OUR UNIVERSITIES

- **a democratic governance structure** in which leaders, heads, staff and students determine together, in close consultation with stakeholders, the content and future of the INVEST alliance
- **a joint INVEST Accreditation Framework** for degree courses (BSc, MSc and PhD) based on **accreditation models of INVEST members' countries**
- **joint international degree programmes supported by the EDUC8EU tool and aimed at developing joint European degrees**, and linking vocational training to higher education
- **physical and virtual/digital mobility of staff and students** facilitated through the INVEST Virtual Campus
- **joint research, development and innovation excellence and vivid Living Labs** established at each of the partner universities

#EuropeanUniversities

[https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area/european-universities-initiative\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area/european-universities-initiative_en)

