



*The Official Newsletter of UPINFOOD EU Project.*

## UPINFOOD Project Update: An Overview of Modules Development!

Monika Sasiak

We are thrilled to provide you with the latest insights into our **Erasmus+ project UPINFOOD**, aimed at revolutionizing the **food industry** with modern, **sustainable**, and **innovative practices**.

At UPINFOOD, our core objective is to formulate **competency frameworks** and deliver professional training to key stakeholders within the sector. Presently, we stand on the brink of finalizing our "*Trainings for Food Services*" program, which encompasses seven comprehensive modules covering critical facets such as challenges in agricultural structures, essential business soft skills, sustainability objectives, and innovative strategies in the food supply chain. Here's a glimpse into the forthcoming modules:

### 1. Challenges and Obstacles in Agricultural Structures and Supply Chains:

In this module, participants will delve into the complexities of agricultural systems and supply chains, exploring issues such as resource management, logistical challenges, and market dynamics. Through case studies and interactive discussions, learners will develop a comprehensive understanding of the hurdles faced by the industry and strategies to overcome them.

### 2. Business Soft Skills (Part 1 & 2: Effective Communication, Project Management, and Resilience):

These modules aim to equip individuals with essential soft skills crucial for success in the food services sector. Part 1 focuses on enhancing communication proficiency, fostering effective teamwork, and cultivating interpersonal skills. Part 2 delves into project management methodologies, resilience-building techniques, and adaptability in dynamic work environments.

### 3. Sustainability (Part 1 & 2: Goals, Objectives, and Building Responsible Food Systems):

Participants will explore the principles of sustainability in the food industry, including environmental conservation, social responsibility, and economic viability. Through interactive workshops and case studies, learners will develop strategies to integrate sustainable practices into their operations, fostering resilience and long-term viability.

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**4. Innovation (Part 1 & 2: Goals, Objectives, and Digitalization in the Food Supply Chain):** These modules focus on harnessing innovation to drive growth and competitiveness in the food supply chain. Part 1 explores the importance of setting strategic innovation goals, fostering a culture of creativity, and leveraging emerging technologies. Part 2 delves into the digitalization of processes, including data analytics, supply chain optimization, and e-commerce solutions.

As we continue to progress, we invite you to stay connected with us for further updates on our journey toward fostering a sustainable and innovative future for the food industry!

Visit our website <https://upinfood.erasmus.site/>



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## Getting to know... Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (iED)

*Dora Makri*



**Entrepreneurship** is a fundamental aspect of our DNA, playing an essential role in our mission and vision. Our goal has always been to **promote innovation and foster the entrepreneurial spirit throughout Europe**. Since our foundation in Larissa, Greece, in 2005, **Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (iED)** has actively participated in over 300 European projects, encompassing various funding frameworks. Our experts have trained more than 14,000 Europeans in entrepreneurship, sustainability, innovation, social inclusion, and other relevant topics. UPINFOOD is a project particularly dear to us, marking

a significant shift in our focus since the rapid digitalization prompted by the pandemic which forced us to adapt to the new dynamic environment. While entrepreneurship enhancement remains a foundational pillar of our work, we have expanded our focus to the European innovation landscape, recognizing its potential in the digital era.

Located in Thessaly, a predominantly rural region with a substantial population of farmers and stock-breeders, we have a good understanding of their needs and challenges they face. Over the years, we have helped hundreds of farmers in growing and developing their agricultural businesses with sustainability in mind. Additionally, we have educated the younger generation on employment opportunities in agriculture and the significance of healthy, organic food. Noteworthy European projects where iED has made an impact include:

- **DIGIAGRIMARK**: This initiative focuses on enhancing digital skills for farmers and agripreneurs, aiming to ensure safety and improve digital marketing capabilities in agriculture.



- **RWSFF (Rural Women to Sustainable Food and Farming):** This project empowers rural women by promoting the "Fresh Food Economy" and agricultural entrepreneurship, contributing to income generation and employment in rural areas.
- **CEM for SMEs (Circular Economy Manager for SMEs):** Dedicated to advancing the shift to a circular economy, particularly in the Food and Agriculture sector. This involves developing Circular Economy Manager (CEM) job profiles and innovative training programs.

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## Getting to know...VESK

Ausra Netikšienė



Verslo ir svetingumo profesinės  
karjeros centras

Verslo ir svetingumo profesinės karjeros centras (Business and Hospitality Training Centre) - VESK is a **modern, innovative and internationalised career centre** committed to shaping the professionals of tomorrow.

The Centre offers high-quality education for young people, adults and people in employment. It is a public provider of initial and continuous vocational training programmes based in Vilnius, with its branch departments located in the northern and southern parts of Lithuania.

At the heart of VESK mission is the commitment to providing **quality general education, vocational training**, and rehabilitation while ensuring the seamless **integration of graduates into the labor market**. Our vision for the next decade is to emerge as a leader in the field through organizational excellence, efficient management, academic freedom, diverse teaching models, and the development of national and international programs. VESK covers a **broad spectrum of service areas**, including vocational training, basic and secondary education, adult education, non-formal adult education, teacher and student support professional training, practical training centers, project activities, vocational rehabilitation, and specialized training for individuals with special educational needs. Recognizing the profound impact of our activities on both current and future generations, VESK proudly stands as one of the seven **European Union Centres of Excellence** committed to the principles of the **green economy**. We integrate **sustainability** into our processes emphasizing the importance of **environmental responsibility**.

To address our **environmental footprint**, VESK has installed a solar power panels on the roof and façade of the center. This project is a testament to our focus on energy efficiency, reducing electricity and heat consumption, and **minimizing greenhouse gas emissions**.

Our teaching restaurant and laboratories embrace a **"zero waste" approach**, implementing principles like "short food chain" and "from garden to table." These efforts contribute to a safer and more sustainable educational environment.

VESK adheres to the quality management standard **ISO 9001-2015**, ensuring that our institution operates at the highest standards. Additionally, we have joined the Lithuanian Diversity Charter Association to foster an open and inclusive working environment, emphasizing our commitment to social responsibility.



Our commitment to **sustainability** is further exemplified through the UPINFOOD project, designed to equip the entrepreneurs of tomorrow with the competences needed to implement innovative and sustainable business models. This initiative aligns with the **Sustainable Development Goals**, reinforcing our dedication to creating a positive impact on society.

As we continue to innovate and inspire, VESK remains dedicated to shaping a future where education and sustainability go hand in hand and the UPINFOOD project is an integral part of our journey towards excellence.

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## Discovering UPINFOOD website

*Małgorzata Nazimek*



The **UPINFOOD website** is now accessible in six languages! It contains information on the project's development. Discover the UPINFOOD project's background, objectives, and target groups in the first section. The Competence Framework for Food Small Business Innovation has been already provided in the 'Main results' section. To find out more about the partners involved in the project, visit the 'Partnership' section. Newsletters and leaflets, among other promotional materials, are also at your disposal.

If you have any questions, you can use the website to contact us directly.

All news and results are posted on the website on a regular basis. It is very readable, transparent, and easy to use. Check out the **UPINFOOD** website to stay up to date!

UPINFOOD is a project aimed at accompanying the necessary transformation of the Food supply chain toward more

**Competence framework for Food Small Business Innovation**

**Training for Food Businesses**

**Manual for food business innovation addressing the trainers**

**GET IN CONTACT WITH US!**



[www.upinfood.erasmus.site](http://www.upinfood.erasmus.site)



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