

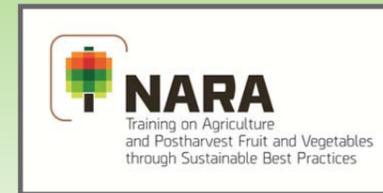


Newsletter nº 1 September 2015

NARA Project: Training on Agriculture and postharvest fruit and vegetables through sustainable best practices

Dear Reader,

welcome to the first Newsletter of the "NARA Project: Training on Agriculture and postharvest fruit and vegetables through sustainable best practices" funded by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ Program. The Newsletter aims to keep you up to date with the progress of the project and in particular with its results. Here you will find an introduction to the project aims, project partners and the updating on the activities that have taken place within the project until now.



<http://naraproject.eu/en>

What is NARA?

The NARA project is a newly funded UE Erasmus+ project created with the aim of improving the professionalism of young European farmers and adapting their training to the needs of the current agricultural sector.

The main result will be the development of an online platform which contains a training course for young farmers in horticulture with the 6 strategic thematic areas of the Project: Food Safety, Postharvest Technologies, Transport and logistics, Good Agricultural Practices (Soil, Water and Byproducts), Packaging

and Entrepreneurship. They will be adapted to the needs of this sector in Europe with open access to all interested events.

Training blocks will be developed in line with the **ECVET** (European Credit System for Vocational Education Training) and levels of **EQF** (European qualifications Framework) in order to promote a formal recognition of this specific training in national systems of the participating countries.

The NARA project runs until end of 2016.

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NARA information and partners

The project is co-financed by the European Union.

Program: ERASMUS +

Key Action: Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of good practices

Field: Strategic partnerships for vocational education and training

Call: 2014

Co-ordinator:

Fundación Parque Científico Tecnológico Aula Dei – PCTAD (Spain)

Partners:

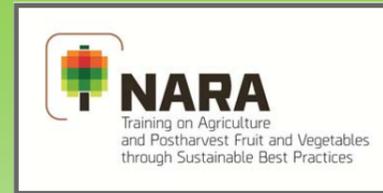
- * Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology – LIST (Luxembourg)
- * Università Degli Studi di Catania - Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment – Di3A (Italy)
- * Marketmentoro Ltd (Cyprus)
- * Tecnopackaging (Spain)



You can follow the developments of the Project by visiting the NARA Project website <http://naraproject.eu/en>
If you want to have further information, please, do not hesitate to contact us via email or telephone. We will be happy to include you in our mailing list and to keep you informed about the NARA's activities



<http://naraproject.eu/en>



Something about the partners...



SPAIN: PCTAD – is a private foundation of public initiative that operates as a community of innovation and

meeting point for institutions and companies collaborating in R&D&I and knowledge transfer.

Furthermore, the Foundation has three specialized laboratories which offer a wide range of services both to researchers and companies, within three areas of knowledge: *Integral Control of Plant Origin Food, Molecular Biology and Food Safety and Cereal Quality.*

Within the framework of NARA project, PCTAD is in charge of developing the modules concerning two specific project knowledge areas: *Food Safety and Postharvest Technologies*, in which the Foundation is specialized.

Web: <http://www.pctauladei.com/>

LUXEMBOURG: LIST

– is an RTO (Research and Technology Organisation) active in the fields

of materials, environment, and IT. The Institute conducts interdisciplinary research in targeted research areas, which have a sustainable impact on Luxembourg's economy and society.

The transport and logistics sector has been identified as a strategic pillar of economic development for a country. The multidisciplinary competences of LIST enable them to develop and test new innovative concepts, trainings and methods. Moreover, these solutions are impartial as they have no links with commercial solutions.

In the frame of NARA Project, the Institute is in charge of the *Transport and Logistics* transversal module development.

Web: <http://www.list.lu/>



ITALY: UNICT (Di3A)

– The mission of the Di3A is carrying out high quality didactic and scientific research activities aimed at improving the social, economic and environmental issues in the field of agricultural and food production in the Mediterranean basin. At Di3A, several bachelor and master courses in *Agricultural Science and Technology, Food Science and Technology, Agricultural Biotechnology and Planning and protection of the territory and landscape* have been developed with highly innovative contents and learning objectives, designed to meet the current needs of the society and the labor market.

In the frame of NARA, the project topics covered by Di3A will be: *Good agricultural practices*, techniques to reduce herbicides and pesticides use in agriculture; biodiversity conservation, alternative use of agricultural organic wastes; promotion of organic farming, techniques of soil and fertility conservation; techniques for saving irrigation water, technological supports used in agriculture.

Web: <http://www.di3a.unict.it/>

CYPRUS: Marketmentor – is a consultancy which provides a comprehensive package of services addressing the needs of modern European enterprises, start-ups and scientists especially on matters like innovation, management and technology.

Marketmentor has extensive experience in providing policy advice on all levels of government and also a wide competency in vocational training services.

Within the framework of NARA Project, the cyriot consultancy will lead the Entrepreneurship module. This is one of the transversal knowledge areas contents of the online course which will cover topics such as sustainable business, entrepreneurship in farming, farm business management and even farm products export management.

Web: <http://www.marketmentor.com.cy/>

www.marketmentor.com.cy/



SPAIN: Tecnopackaging

– is a technological –based company specialized in the development of plastic parts and packaging, particularly for industry applications and the production of plastic composites materials. In addition, the company conducts R&D projects related to advanced materials with a main research line oriented to the study of biopolymers.

In the frame of NARA, Tecnopackaging is the enterprise in charge of developing the project module related to packaging. This module, along with logistics and entrepreneurship belongs to the transversal knowledge areas. Far from remaining at general packaging concept, uses and applications for farmers, the company will give a comprehensive overview about new polymeric based packaging options and trends.

Web: <http://www.tecnopackaging.com/>

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Kick-off meeting in PCTAD



NARA Kick-off meeting in Zaragoza

The kick-off meeting of NARA Project was held in Zaragoza on 5-6 February 2015, in PCTAD's facilities.

This kind of gathering is pivotal for the correct and efficient implementation of project activities.

It was devoted to clearly present the project management structures and staff roles, validate the quality of the dissemination, monitoring and evaluation plans, share the communi-

cation rules and agree on the work plan and calendar.

During the meeting, the coordinator and the leaders of the various work packages presented to the partnership the project and its management, the expected activities and their deadlines, the role of each partner in the development of the planned project activities and the methodologies for the dissemination of the project and its results.

Cyprus: Second transnational meeting

Last June 24th, the second consortium meeting of NARA Project took place in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, at the premises of our partner Marketmento SLU.

During this second meeting of the consortium, all the results obtained during the last half year were presented and discussed, evaluating the tasks performed so far as well as next steps.

The identification and definition of the target group to which we will address the training was done: **young farmers under the age of forty**. Accurate questionnaires have been designed with the purpose of meeting the knowledge gaps raised at the proposed topics and offer an online free of charge training course, able to cover these necessities identified in the sector.

Currently, this process of survey collection is ongoing in each consortium country (Spain, Italy, Luxembourg and Cyprus) and contacts with stakeholders and young far-



NARA meeting in Nicosia

mers at once are being done too. Afterwards, the statistical data analysis will be performed and evaluated.



Next steps...

Next steps accorded by the consortium will include the mapping of the matrix of competences and the transnational farmers profiling taking into account all the data achieved through the training offer and needs analysis.

Afterwards, the e-learning methodology based on learning outcomes, which include knowledge (assimilation of theoretical information), skills (practical part, the ability to apply theoretical information) and competences (prove those abilities and measures the level of responsibility and authority) should be worked out. Then, learning contents and activities will be also developed.



<http://naraproject.eu/en>

Don't forget to visit our Website!

NARA Project - spreading over stakeholders

Several articles about NARA project have been published in different newspapers and NARA consortium is currently constructing connections to local and national agencies, organizations, agro-businesses and farmers in general to involve them in this innovative training project. These entities would be aimed to feed on the discussions about different issues within all the thematic fields and to improve the e-learning platform contents and activities.

If you think you have something to say and want to participate in the project, please contact a NARA member in your country and they will give you the necessary guidance and support.



NARA Project brochure

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



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