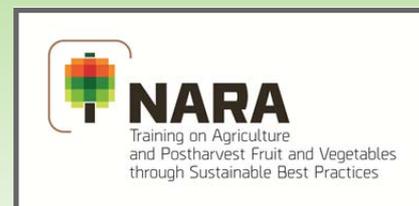


## NARA Project: Training on Agriculture and postharvest fruit and vegetables through sustainable best practices

Dear Reader,

welcome again to the second 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.



<http://naraproject.eu/en>

### NARA information & 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

#### Contents:

\* NARA & partners

\* 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting

\* Next steps

\* Draft contents

\* Dissemination



Fundación Aula Dei  
PARQUE CIENTÍFICO TECNOLÓGICO

**Co-ordinator:**

Fundación Parque Científico Tecnológico  
Aula Dei – PCTAD (Spain)

#### Partners:

\* Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology – LIST (Luxembourg)



\* Università degli Studi di Catania (UNICT) - Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment – Di3A (Italy)



\* Tecnopackaging (Spain)



\* Marketmentor Ltd (Cyprus)



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

## 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting: Luxembourg

Last December 2nd and 3rd, the third consortium meeting of NARA Project took place in Luxembourg at the premises of the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST).

During this third meeting of the consortium, all the results obtained during 2015 were presented and discussed, evaluating the tasks performed so far as well as next steps.



NARA meeting in Luxembourg

Some conclusions of the first activities of the Project are the following:

- \* Training offer analysis: it has not been found anything like the NARA training in the market for farmers, as it will be a short, online and specific course.
- \* Training needs analysis: throughout a questionnaire provided to young farmers in the four countries, it has been determined that food safety, entrepreneurship and good agricultural practices are the most interesting thematic areas for them. However, farmers show certain lack of knowledge on those thematic areas that is even deeper in post-harvest technologies, transport and logistics and packaging.
- \* Level 3 in the European Qualification Framework (EQF) has been determined throughout the training analysis as the most suitable for our target audience.

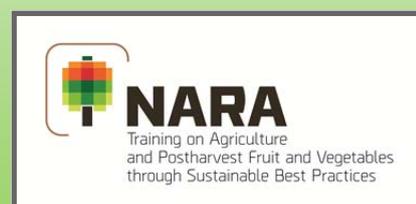
## Next steps...

The NARA Project will follow on e-learning methodology based on learning outcomes (Knowledge, Skills and Competences). This e-learning methodology has already been developed as well as a draft of the structure of the main training contents.

Next steps agreed by the consortium will be the elaboration of the complete learning contents and activities according to the EQF level 3 with the support of some experts in each thematic area. Contents will be first developed in English and then translated

into the different NARA consortium languages to reach as many farmers as possible.

As soon as the NARA training course is internally validated, **piloting actions** will be carried out with a group of young farmers. So if you are interested in participating in this pilot trainings, please contact a NARA member in your country. We will be delighted to have you enrolled in the Project.



## Training contents

We are already working in the development of the NARA training course. Here you have a of the contents of the different thematic areas:

### Food safety

\*Principles and importance of Food Safety in food supply chains, especially in farms:

Introduction to Food Safety; Contamination hazards, controls and foodborne illnesses; Food Safety Control and prevention measures

\*Good Safety Practices and Food Safety Regulations:

HACCP system; Food Safety Standards

### Postharvest Technologies

\*Influence of cultural and harvesting operations in the quality of products obtained:

Biological and pre-harvest factors involved in deterioration; Maturation and Maturity Indices; Harvesting systems

\*Technologies to increase horticultural products shelf-life:

Simple practices to increase the postharvest shelf life; Quality factors: definition and evaluation for fresh horticultural crops; Storage Systems and transportation of fresh market horticultural crops

\*New fruit and vegetable products:

Sous vide vegetables; Fresh cut product; Other processed fruit and vegetables

### Transport & Logistics

\*Handling, checking and cleaning of harvested fruit:

Handling practices of fresh products; Conformity index for fresh products; Post-harvest curing techniques

\*Warehousing of fresh products:

Warehouses structures; Post-harvest storage conditions of fresh products; Preservation techniques of fresh products

\*Transportation techniques and regulations:

Transport modes; Fresh products preparation for transport; Delivery rounds organization; Transport documents and responsibilities



NARA Project brochure



### Water, Soil & By-products

\*Soil and by-products:

Agricultural soil; Soil physical, chemical and biological properties; Agricultural soil conservation; Agricultural soil degradation, desertification and erosion mitigation; Soil tillage and crops management; By-products

\*Efficiently used of water and fertilization:

Soil water; Irrigation techniques; Fertigation system

### Packaging

\*Packaging possibilities:

General concepts and types of packaging; Production processes related to general packaging processes;

\*Environmental friendly possibilities:

Environmental friendly options; Additives in packaging for food preservation; Latest trends in packaging

### Entrepreneurship

\*Creation, organization and management of a small profitable business:

Business planning; Market development and sales development; Accessing and managing financial resources; Everyday management issues; Legal aspects concerning the business and its creation

\*Implementation of administrative and financial issues related to farming business:

Developing financial projections; Calculating initial capital costs; Calculating operational costs; Managing workforce; Developing SWOT analysis and Market penetration strategy; Understanding and developing Advertising and Social Media campaigns

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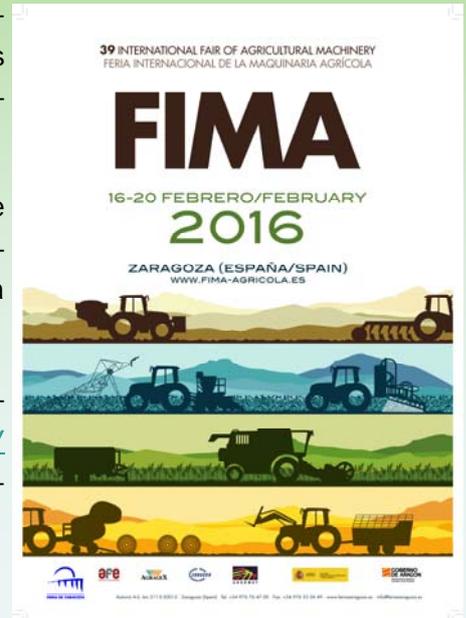
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## NARA Project - spreading over stakeholders

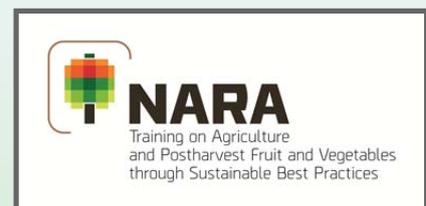
Several articles about NARA project have been published in different newspapers. NARA consortium is still constructing new connections to local and national agencies, organizations, agro-businesses and farmers in general to involve them in this innovative training project. All these entities would be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

Next event to be able to contact with stakeholders and target audience will be the FIMA 2016, the biggest International Fair of Agricultural Machinery, which will take place next February, 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> in Zaragoza (Spain).

If you think you have something to say and want to participate in the project, please contact a NARA member in your country (<http://naraproject.eu/en/contact.html>) and they will give you the necessary guidance and support.



The screenshot shows the NARA website with a navigation menu (Home, Objectives, Partners, News, Training, Contact) and a main heading: "TraiNing on Agriculture and posthaRvest fruit and vegetables through sustainable best prActices". Below the heading, there is a brief description of the project's goal and a list of training units: TECHNOLOGIES POSTHARVEST, BEST PRACTICES, and PACKAGING, LOGISTIC and MARKETING. A login section is visible on the left, and a footer mentions funding by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ program.



<http://naraproject.eu/en>

Don't forget to visit our Website!

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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