

RURAL4LEARNING

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Rural4Learning is a project promoted by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture that communicates rural development policy to young students. Through the involvement of enterprises that work sustainably and innovatively, the project aims to share successful experiences and transfer information on these issues to the next generations. A web platform allows registration and user participation, and hosts a database of case studies and companies involved.

The aim is to increase awareness of these issues through specific training. In this way, European agricultural policy is enhanced through the dissemination of values and results. This initiative is recognised as a school-work activity and therefore brings young students closer to the world of work. An important result is the strengthening of the link between school and university, territory, and enterprises.

The main added value of this technology is that the online platform enables distance learning and reaches a high number of end-users (though several practical project activities take place in the enterprise). Moreover, the training does not only concern the students, but also the teachers, who can modify their lessons according to the sustainability footprint.

Application scenario

Rural domain: training and promotion of knowledge to students.

Digital technologies

Web platform and online lessons.

Socio-economic impact

- Economic: Collaboration with companies that can benefit from the results obtained.
- Governance: Promotion of entrepreneurship and youth employment.
- Social: Promoting sustainability practices and creating a new and more aware generation.

More info: <http://www.rural4learning.it/site/>



Purpose of the tool

This tool is a project promoted by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, which aims to provide a useful platform to communicate rural development policies and opportunities of European funds to young university and *Istituto Agrario* (Agriculture Schools) students. This tool also allows the sharing and transfer of experiences and knowledge between actors in the world of work. Its aim is to promote sustainable growth through the training of new generations and the improvement of development models, taking into account good rural development practices and by achieving a replicable model.

Description of the tool

This project is composed of two initiatives. “Rural4University” is dedicated to university students. The specific training concerns the themes of sustainability and innovation. The activities are organised in three different steps: RuralLEARN (training - in-presence and online - with exercises, analysis of technical documents and exchange of opinions with the people involved at the Community level), RuralCAMP (field activities in enterprises that adopt sustainability and innovation practices, through visits and practical workshops), and RuralLAB (a business laboratory for the exchange of opinions and experiences with entrepreneurs and professionals).

“Rural4School” is dedicated to students and teachers of Agriculture Schools. The specific training concerns rural development policy. This initiative is recognised as a school-work activity and aims to strengthen the links that make up the network composed by school, territory, and enterprises. The activities are organised in three different steps: RuralGOOD (educational seminars on RDP and study visits), RuralLEARN (online training), and RuralCAMP (innovative territorial systems).

The project uses an internet platform. Besides the possibility to register, there is a database with the case studies, the companies involved in the project, and the work done so far.

Areas of socio-economic impacts

Social	Promoting the concepts of sustainability and innovation to new generations. Creation of a new class of more aware future researchers and entrepreneurs.
Economic	The results of the laboratories are given to enterprises, which can also assess the benefits that rural development policy can offer.
Governance	Promotion of youth entrepreneurship, professional training of teachers, and improvement of the efficiency of youth employment policies.

