

RURASL

is a knowledge alliance between different European higher education institutions (HEI) and rural partners that aims at setting up and implementing a framework for an integrated transnational approach of academic teaching and learning and thus contribute to the development of rural areas. This is achieved through an innovative methodology that not only meets the needs of these communities and increases innovation in these areas, but also leads to closer community-HEI partnerships.

Service Learning (SL)

An educational approach that combines learning objectives with community service in order to provide new educational standards for students by tackling real-life needs in their community.

Social

Entrepreneurship (SE)

Recognizes social problems and uses entrepreneurial principles to create and organise innovative ways to promote social change

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The consortium wants to create a rural SL and a teaching model that combine the strengths of SL strategy with SE and that could be implemented worldwide.

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SERVICE LEARNING FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Welcome

to the 2nd issue of the electronic

newsletter of RURASL project where both public and stakeholders will be able to find information about the project's progress on a regular basis. We invite you to join our wide group of service-learning promoters and to send us collected feedback.



The second meeting of our Consortium was organized in Austria, on September 9th and 10th at the University College of Teacher Education Vienna. The meeting was hosted by Professor Rolf Laven with support from Sylvia Brenzel and Nora Ruzic from Plenum. We presented and discussed finished activities and outputs, as well as timeline, objectives, and outputs for the next reporting period. Philine van Overbeeke (RSME) had a presentation about the results and report of WP1. Together we took a workshop by Herman Morgenbesser, from University College of Teacher Education Vienna, who presented the tools for Online World Café: Zoom and H5P, which is one of our future activities. According to the planning of each partner, Service-Learning in academic courses is going to be implemented from September 2019 to July 2020. The Next Consortium meeting is going to be in Cesena, Italy, in February 2020.



WHO ARE WE?

Higher Education Institutions (HEI)

Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo - Portugal

University College of Teacher Education Vienna - Austria

University of Zagreb - Croatia

Rotterdam School of Management Erasmus University - The Netherlands

Strasczeg Center for Entrepreneurship - Germany

Autonomous University of Madrid - Spain

Vytautas Magnus University – Lithuania

University of Bologna - Italy

Rural Partners

AJDeão - Portugal

LAG 5 - Croatia

LAG Ammersee - Germany

Kaunas district LAG – Lithuania

Galsinma - Spain

Stichting Schutsluis Alblasserdam - The Netherlands

Plenum - Austria

LAG L'Altra Romagna - Italy

LAG = Local Action Group

RURASL representatives participated in the 2nd European Conference on Service-Learning in Higher Education, which took place in Antwerp from 19th to 21st September 2019. This conference aims at joining together all Service-Learning practitioners to exchange good practices, strengthen visibility, give inspiration to each other and build a formal network.



“RURASL: Service-Learning for the Rural Development. The case of Portugal, The Netherlands and Spain”, and “RURASL: Service-Learning for the Rural Development. The case of Italy and Austria” were two papers presented by our team in Antwerp. These papers pointed up the structure of RURASL project and discussed results from WP1. We reflected on the results of the student surveys and the community surveys from different perspectives: service-learning as a learning format fostering public engagement and responsible entrepreneurship, supporting the idea of entrepreneurial social innovations in rural areas.



The highlight of the 2nd European Conference of Service-Learning in Higher Education, in Antwerp, was the establishment of the European Association of Service-Learning in Higher Education (EASLHE). EASLHE is a permanent space for cooperation and exchange among the members of the European network Europe Engage for mapping the use of this learning methodology, collecting data and evidence and promoting its use as well as its institutionalising processes. The aim of the Association is to promote service-learning in higher education in Europe and to foster scholarly activities related to it. The EASLHE president elected was Pilar Aramburuzabala (RURASL Spain partner) and the Members of the General Meeting elected were also members of the RURASL project: Joana Padrão Almeida (Portugal), Rolf Laven (Austria), Wolfgang Stark (Germany), Lucas Meijs (Netherlands), Cinzia Albanesi (Italia) and Nives Mikelic Preradovic (Croatia).

INFO

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RURASL

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the Rural Development

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Contact:
amoura@ese.ipv.pt
razvoj@lag5.hr



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Project RURASL is having a strong impact on the local associations: it was the first time we had almost all the associative network speaking face to face and with the presence of local authority representatives. This has enabled us to better understand the needs of our community and start working together to overcome them with the support of academic knowledge.

Ana Paula Dias - Associação Juvenil de Deão, Portugal

On October 23rd, 2019, RURASL. participated in Erasmus+ Knowledge Alliances Thematic Cluster Meeting on University-Business Cooperation, organized by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and the Directorate General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC). The main objectives of that meeting were:

- to share the results and good practices of projects
- to identify and support possible synergies between projects
- to facilitate networking and strengthen the KA Community
- to discuss topics that are of common interest



After the introductory session, all the participants were split into the Focus groups for delivering a short demo/presentation of their project and highlighting outcomes and good practices. The purpose was to create synergies and foster cooperation and networking among project coordinators working in similar areas. We were in Agriculture focus group, led by Professor Alessio Cavicchi together with projects EOHUB, eTOMATO, SDGsLab, SPARKLE, TWL. We discussed synergies and challenges, innovation and entrepreneurship, impact and sustainability of our projects and at the end of the session, our conclusions were presented to all participants by Professor Marie-Laure Fauconnier.

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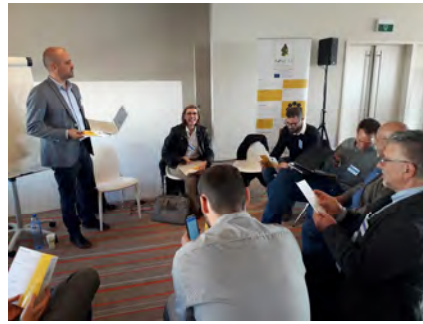
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The KA Cluster Meeting was part of the 8th University-Business Forum that took place in Brussels on 24th and 25th October 2019. The Forum brings together policymakers, representatives from higher education, business and other stakeholders to discuss and debate the role of university-business cooperation for innovation and sustainable development. It provides a unique opportunity for discussion, the sharing of experience, the exchange of good practices, networking and mutual learning. More information about UB Forum on this [web page](#).



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Preliminary communication

Entrepreneurship and Service Learning of Students of Information Sciences and Informatics

Hana Josić
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia
ljusic@ffzg.hr

Nives Mikelić Preradović
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia
nmikelic@ffzg.hr

Summary:

The first aim of this paper was to research the attitudes of students of information sciences and informatics towards acquiring entrepreneurial skills during their study. The second aim was to determine the level and frequency of students' civic (community) engagement. The sample included 211 (mostly) undergraduate students from several public universities in Croatia. The analysis of responses revealed that students perceive most of the entrepreneurial skills as very important to master. It also revealed that they lack opportunities for service-learning and community engagement during their study. These results will be used to design an academic course that links service-learning and entrepreneurship and enables students to acquire skills that they perceive as relevant for their future careers.

Our first RURASL paper is out. Josić, H., Mikelić Preradović, N. 2019. Entrepreneurship and Service Learning of Students of Information Sciences and Informatics. *Proceedings of the Conference IN FUTURE 2019: Knowledge in the Digital Age*, 166-173.

DOI:10.17234/INFUTURE.2019.20

Upcoming paper:

Čalić, M., Mikelić Preradović, N., Moura, A., van Overbeeke, P. 2020. RURASL: Service-learning for the rural development. The case study of Croatia. *Proceedings of the SEE LEADER Conference, 1st International conference on practical and theoretical implications of LEADER/CLLD in South-East Europe*.



Upcoming events

- 3rd European Conference on Service-Learning in Higher Education, Bratislava, Slovakia, March 18-19, 2020.