



MULTITRACES

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SMART VALORISATION OF THE RURAL AREA FOR NEW BUSINESS MODELS

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The 6-th MULTITRACES Newsletter



INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN BACĂU - CLOSING OF THE PROJECT

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN BACAU

The end of 2022 coincides with the conclusion of the MULTITRACES Project. For the evaluation of the final results, during December 15-16, at the "Vasile Alecsandri" University in Bacău, the last joint working meeting of the partners from the academic and industrial environment was held. The agenda of the meeting centered on discussions about the students' international projects, the possibilities of increasing their degree of insertion on the labor market in the field of the circular economy in the rural environment, as well as the identification of additional channels for the dissemination of activities by each partner.



Meeting of partners at "Vasile Alecsandri University" from Bacău

A separate chapter was dedicated to the possibility of creating "hubs" that facilitate the implementation of the circular economy by intensifying collaboration between universities, the economic environment, and local decision-makers.

On the first day of the meeting, each partner presented the stage of completion of their own intellectual products, proposing ways to quickly recover the objective delays propagated over time due to the pandemic situation in the early years of the project. There were open work sessions where the specific deliverables were finalized. It was also aimed at reaching the dissemination indicators. The project website was brought into line with the indicators regarding the retrieval of public information for documents and activities that require transparency.

Thus, the thirteen intellectual products can be found at:

<https://multitraces.ub.ro/index.php/proj-products>.

INTELLECTUAL PRODUCTS

The first intellectual product, *Circular economy in rural areas - comparative study between the participating countries* is carried out by each of the partner universities. The studies on the particularities of the circular economy in the four countries involved in the analysis are finalized. (https://multitraces.ub.ro/files/IO/IP1/O1_Chapter_2_Circular_economy_in_rural_areas.pdf).

The comparative study is being completed.

The second intellectual product, *Report on the knowledge and skills for an entrepreneurial career in the context of the circular economy* is fully realized. It contains the results of a survey of 23 Greek companies operating in 3 different regions of Northern Greece, East Macedonia and Thrace Region, Central Macedonia Region and Thessaly Region. The survey was based on a questionnaire to assess the stage of implementation of the circular economy in the mentioned regions.vb (https://multitraces.ub.ro/files/IO/IP2/IHU_SURVEY_Answers_companies.pdf).

The third intellectual product, *Circular Economy in Rural Territories - Trends and Implementation Methods* is also fulfilled. (https://multitraces.ub.ro/files/IO/IP3/O3_Circular_Economy_Trends_compressed.pdf).

It is carried out by the partner universities and aims at the following four aspects:

1. *Circular Economy and Systemic Design* (Polytechnic University of Turin)
2. *Circular Business Models* (University of Alicante)
3. *By-product valorization and waste reduction* ("Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău)
4. *Natural Resource Management* (International Hellenic University of Kavala).

The fourth intellectual product, *Implementation of the eLearning platform for online courses and development of the user guide for tutors and students* is carried out by the International Hellenic University of Kavala (Moodle Platform). (https://multitraces.ub.ro/files/IO/IP4/THE_MULTITRACES_MOODLE_LEARNING_PLATFORM.pdf).

The user guide for this platform is available at:

https://multitraces.ub.ro/files/IO/IP4/THE_MULTITRACES_MOODLE_LEARNING_PLATFORM.pdf.

The fifth intellectual product was made by the "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău and consisted in the development of a course whose curriculum was complementary, in a way, to the project's theme, in the sense that the students were trained over the course of a month to acquire notions of leadership, management of personnel in companies and management of time and personal activities (https://multitraces.ub.ro/files/10/IP5/O5-Module1_Circular_economy_in_rural_territories.pdf).

The sixth intellectual product, New vision regarding the economic activities specific to the rural environment: the valorization of by-products and the reduction of waste is made by the "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău and highlights the methods of Valorization of by-products and waste, with their reintroduction into the economic circuit, as a basic principle of the circular economy (https://multitraces.ub.ro/files/10/IP6/O6__Module_2_By-products_valorisation.pdf).

The seventh intellectual product, "Sustainable development of the rural area and intelligent valorization of natural resources" was created by the International Hellenic University of Kavala in collaboration with the "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău (https://multitraces.ub.ro/files/10/IP7/O7_Module_3_Sustainable_development_of_the_rural_area.pdf).

The material identifies and classifies the objectives of sustainable development of rural areas through the valorization of natural resources and the principles of the circular economy in an institutional framework. The achievement of the environmental and energy transition objectives in rural areas is closely linked to their transition to sustainability, as the latter contributes both to the improvement of the economic performance of these territories and to the improvement of air, water and soil quality, biodiversity and energy security.

The eighth intellectual product is dedicated to business management within the circular economy.

The ninth intellectual product "Resources for open education: Multidisciplinary training in the circular economy and intelligent capitalization of the rural area for new business models" materializes, through the Moodle Platform, the interdisciplinary training for future specialists in the field of the circular economy.

The tenth intellectual product "Management and leadership - personal knowledge and skills for a successful application of the circular economy in rural areas" aims to train young people to act as leaders by improving critical thinking and entrepreneurship skills.

At the same time, the appropriate integration of theoretical economic knowledge into solutions to practical problems was another objective of this product. (https://multitraces.ub.ro/files/10/IP10/Management_and_leadership_circular_economy.pdf).

The eleventh intellectual product is dedicated to the creation of "Resources for open education: "Management and leadership - personal knowledge and skills for a successful career".

The twelfth intellectual product "Collection of national case studies in circular economy applied to businesses in the rural environment" is centered on case studies made by students within the experience of national companies.

The latest intellectual product "Collection of international case studies in circular economy applied to rural businesses" refers to the studies carried out by students from partner universities within companies in Italy, Greece, Spain and Romania (https://multitraces.ub.ro/files/10/IP1/IP13/O13_Collection_of_the_study_cases_made_by_international_students_for_rural_bussiness_in_Romania_.pdf).

FUTURE COLLABORATION DIRECTIONS

A separate chapter of the meeting in Bacău was dedicated to the possibilities of future collaboration in the field of the circular economy, as well as to the identification of additional ways of disseminating the results of the project, considering the urgent need to apply the principles of the circular economy in the development of rural areas.

The opening of collaborations with local administrations in rural areas to create "hubs" for the circular economy was one of the points discussed.

Last but not least, the possibility of expanding the project's actions by applying, in a wider partnership, for new funding through the Erasmus+ Program was also analyzed.

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