

### 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)

Recognises social problems and uses entrepreneurial values to create and organise innovative ways to promote social change.

### RURASL

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.

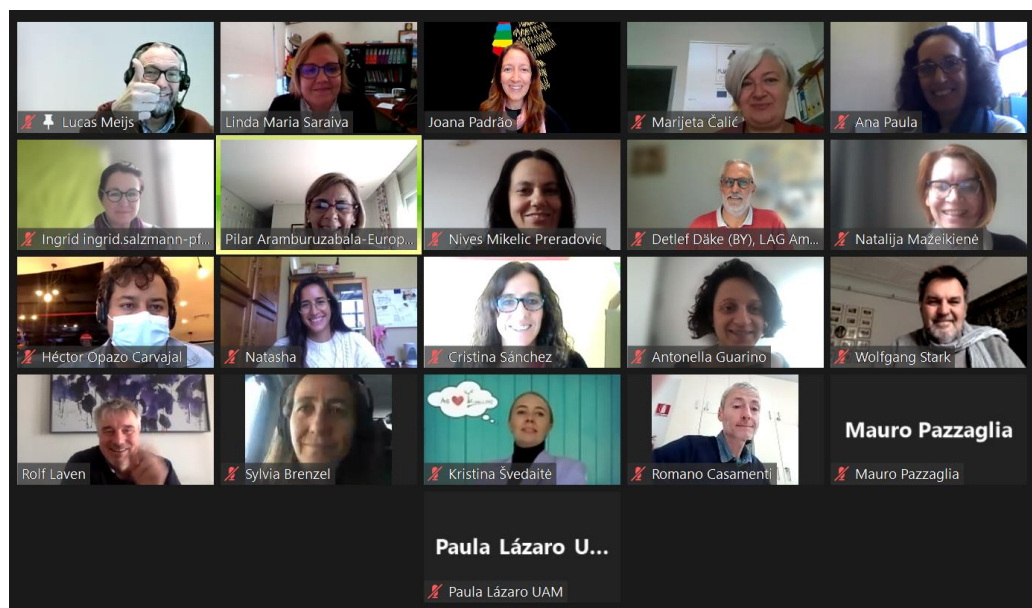
# RURAL 3.0

SERVICE-LEARNING FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT - RURASL

## Welcome

 to the 6<sup>th</sup> issue of the electronic newsletter of

RURASL project, which is also the last informative document where both public and stakeholders will be able to find information about the project's outputs. We invite you to join our wide group of SL promoters, visit our [VIRTUAL HUB](#) and to send us collected feedback.



Happy and sad at the same time. This was the last meeting of the RURASL project team. Thanks to our hosts and coordinators Linda Saravia and Joana Padrao from Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo [IPVC] for beautiful meeting that taking us virtually and wholeheartedly to Portugal on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Although all project activities were successfully completed, we missed the most beautiful aspect of international cooperation: direct contact and strengthening friendships by exchanging cultures.



How we described the project in two words.

## 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

Strascheg Center for Entrepreneurship - Germany

Autonomous University of Madrid - Spain

Vytautas Magnus University - Lithuania

University of Bologna - Italy

### Rural Partners

AJD - 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

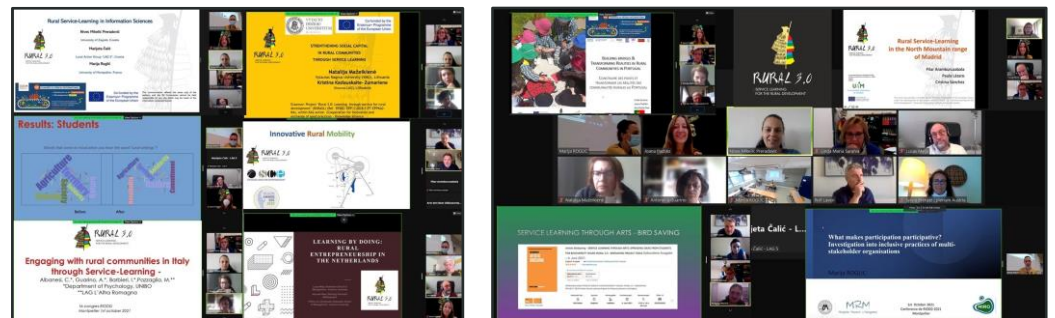
## RURASL thematic session at RIODD2021



On Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> RURASL Alliance participated in the 16th Congress of the International Network for Research on Organizations and Sustainable Development, organized by the University of Montpellier (France) -

RIODD2021.

As part of this year's edition where the main theme was ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE "ENTREPRENEURIAL SOCIETY" FACING THE SANITARY CRISIS, we organized a thematic session dedicated to service-learning and social entrepreneurship. Since Covid-19 has emerged, the RURASL project has fostered the creation of an ecosystem that fosters new ways of communication, new interactions, and new approaches to problem-solving. This session briefed the relevance, the aims, and the outputs of the "Rural 3.0: Service-Learning for the Rural Development". It was dedicated to presenting case studies and insights from the service-learning and social entrepreneurship field from 8 partners countries.



Germany and The Netherlands presented the results of their experience regarding Social Entrepreneurship courses in rural areas; while the other six participating countries presented the results of their experience regarding Service-Learning courses, specifically in the following fields: Information Sciences (Croatia), Art and Teacher Education (Austria and Portugal), Public Administration, Social Work and Education (Italy and Lithuania) and Teacher Training and Education (Spain). Communications list that could be found in [Proceeding of the RIODD2021](#):

1. **Mikelić Preradović, N., Čalić, M., Roglič, M.** Rural Service-Learning in Information Sciences.
2. **Albanesi, C., Guarino, A., Barbieri, I., Pazzaglia, M.** Engaging with rural communities in Italy through service-learning.
3. **Mazeikiene, N., Kazlauskaite-Zumariene, K.** Management of Rural Service-Learning Communication Projects in Lithuania.
4. **Saraiva, L., Padrão, J, Dias, A.P.** Building bridges & Transforming Realities in Rural Communities in Portugal.
5. **Meijs, L., van Overbeeke, P., den Boer, A.** Learning by Doing: Rural Social Entrepreneurship in the Netherlands.
6. **Stark, W., Däke, D., Franck, M.** Rural Mobility: Social Entrepreneurship in Munich Metropolitan Area.
7. **Aramburuzabala, P., Lázaro Cayuso, P., Sánchez, C.** Rural Service-learning in the North Mountain range of Madrid.
8. **Laven, R., Weinlich, W., Brenzel, S., Salzmänn-Pfleger, I.** Art & Diversity: Rural Service-learning in Lower Austria.

## INFO

Project Reference number:  
599382-EPP-1-2018-1-PT  
EPPKA2-KA

Project Acronym:  
RURASL

Project Title:  
Rural 3.0: Service-Learning for  
the Rural Development

EU grant:  
999.138,80€

Program:  
ERASMUS + KA2: Knowledge  
Alliances

Duration of the project:  
2019 – 2021

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 Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

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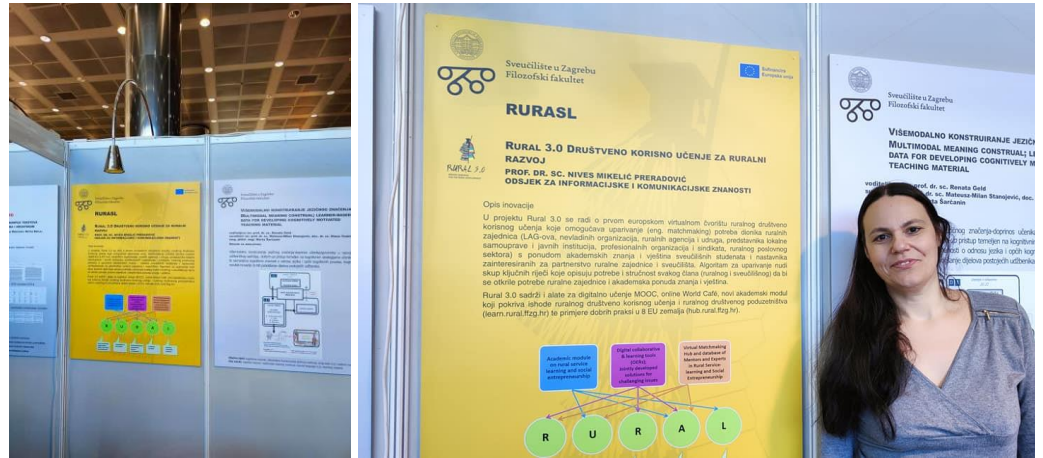
## RURASL at ARCA International Exhibition of Inventions



With the effort and commitment of Professor [Nives Mikelic Preradovic](#) from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, the project RURASL was represent at the 19th International

Exhibition of Innovations ARCA 2021.

Exhibition was held at from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October in National and University Library in Zagreb. Numerous innovations (about 550 from 20 countries) and new technologies from industry to everyday life are presented, which are the result of the work of individual innovators, research teams from the public and private sector, academia and scientific institutions and innovative and development companies.



Director of the International Federation of National Associations of Innovators (IFIA) Zoran Barišić pointed out that humanity has relied for centuries on the development of technological innovation, but that the innovation community will need to make additional efforts to develop and visibility of the innovative potential of social sciences and humanities challenges. RURASL project was recognized as one of inovative approach that response to challenges of modern society with promoting service-learning and social entrepreneurship in rural communities.

## [NEW BLOG: Waterfront redevelopment in Alblasserdam](#)

Stichting Schutsluis Alblasserdam, rural partner from Netherland with supports of Rotterdam University of Applied Science (RUAS) implemented RURASL social entrepreneurship project in Waterfront redevelopment in Alblasserdam. With Practice Integration Projects, the departments of Civil Engineering, Spatial Development and Water Management combine knowledge into an innovative solution for the development of a rural municipality, such as the reconstruction of a lock, dyke ribbon improvement or the development of a former industrial area on a foreland. [A new blog](#) was launched as one of the outputs.



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Rural 3.0 Project was challenging and enriching for all partners in this knowledge alliance. This transnational cooperation between higher education institutions and rural partners made it possible to co-create knowledge and specific and transversal skills to respond to concrete social problems in the rural community. The various Service-Learning and Social Entrepreneurship projects implemented by higher education students made it possible to build bridges and increase changes in different rural communities, contributing to a stronger society from a social point of view, more sustainable, innovative, and inclusive.

*Professor Linda Saravia, Escola Superior de Educação Viana de Castelo, Portugal, project coordinator.*

## UPCOMING!

As the finishing touches of our project, we are announcing the release of RURASL e-Book, which will be launched in January 2022. This book integrates, elaborates, and publishes guidelines, recommendations, and best practices in rural service learning, rural social entrepreneurship, and community-university partnerships for European HEIs and communities aiming to achieve improved rural development. Professional and scientific support in this eBook is focused on HEI staff, university students, rural community organizations: LAGs, enterprises, local authorities, NGOs, and other as well as beneficiaries of these organizations, e.g., local farmers, unemployed youth, retirees, rural housewives, rural entrepreneurs, and social businesses.

The guidelines for rural service-learning and social entrepreneurship have been developed based on the analysis of the national similarities and differences and the best practices arising from the lessons learned in RURASL project. The eBook offers different toolkits to empower academic teachers to implement service-learning in their curriculum and to support rural community stakeholders to address rural issues, develop social entrepreneurship and advise university students in their service-learning activities. The eBook will be hosted on the [RURASL virtual HUB](http://hub.rural.ffzg.hr/) and it is open and free for use



<http://hub.rural.ffzg.hr/>