

### RURASL

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

### Service-Learning (SL)

An educational approach that combines learning objectives with community service to provide new educational standards for students by addressing real 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 GOAL

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

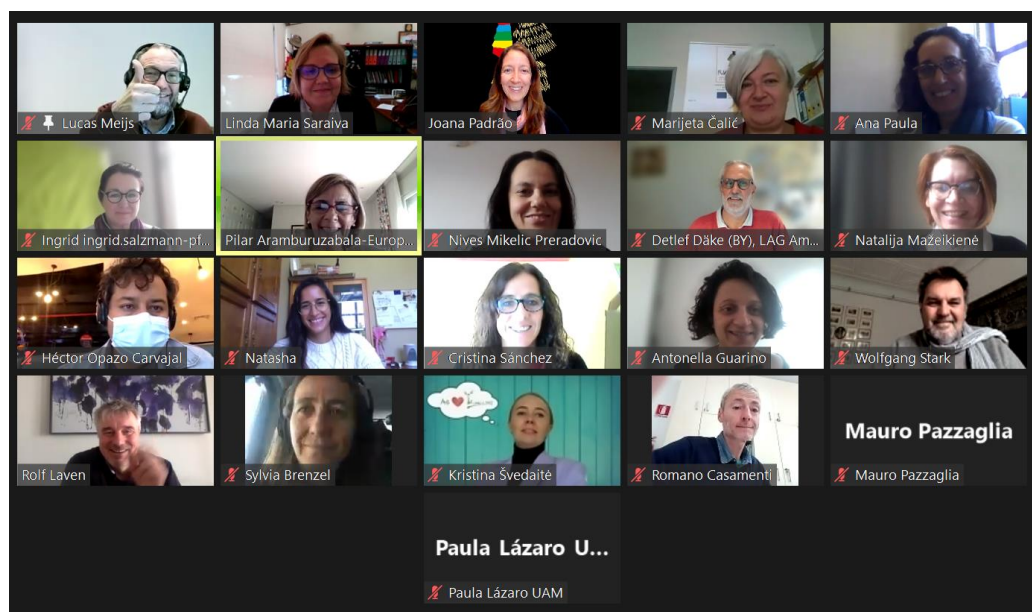
# RURAL 3.0

SERVICE-LEARNING FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT - RURASL

## Welcome

 to the 6<sup>th</sup> issue of the RURASL project electronic

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



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



How we described the RURASL 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

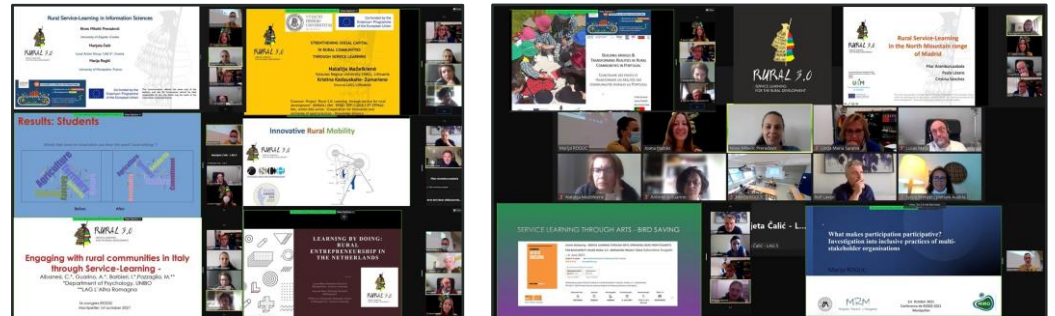
## RURASL thematic session at RIODD2021



On Friday, October 1, the RURASL Alliance participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> 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, themed ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE "ENTREPRENEURIAL SOCIETY" FACING THE SANITARY CRISIS, we organized a thematic session dedicated to service-learning and social entrepreneurship. Since the start of Covid-19, the RURASL project has fostered the creation of an ecosystem that favors new ways of communication, new interactions and new approaches to problem solving. This session focused on the importance, objectives and results of the "Rural 3.0: Service-Learning for Rural Development" project. It was dedicated to the presentation of case studies and findings in the field of service-learning and social entrepreneurship from 8 partner countries.



Germany and the Netherlands presented the results of their experiences with social entrepreneurship courses in rural areas, while the other six participating countries presented the results of their experiences with Service-Learning courses, particularly in the following areas: 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). A list of the communications can be found in the [Proceedings of RIODD2021](#):

1. **Mikelić Preradović, N., Čalić, M., Roglić, 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

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Project Acronym:  
RURASL

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the Rural Development

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Alliances

Duration of the project:  
2019 – 2021

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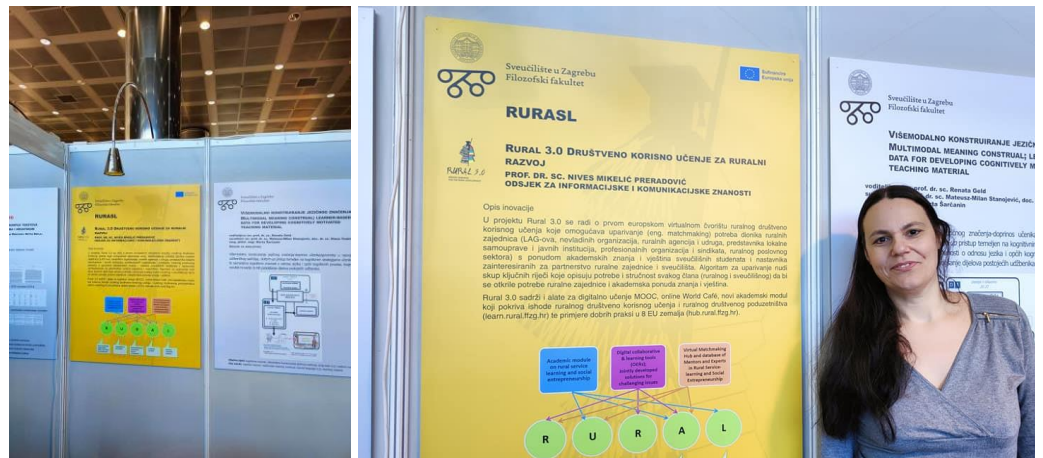
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## RURASL at ARCA International Exhibition of Inventions



Thanks to the efforts and commitment of Professor [Nives Mikelic Preradovic](#) from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, the RURASL project was represented at the 19<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition of Inventions ARCA 2021. The exhibition took place from 14 to 16 October at the National and University Library in Zagreb. Numerous innovations (about 550 from 20 countries) and new technologies from industry and everyday life were presented, which are the result of the work of individual innovators, research teams from the public and private sectors, academic and scientific institutions, and innovative and development companies.



International Federation of National Associations of Innovators (IFIA) Director Zoran Barišić pointed out that humanity has relied on the development of technological innovations for centuries, but that the innovation community needs to make additional efforts to develop and make visible the innovative potential of the social sciences and humanities. The RURASL project was recognized as an innovative approach that responds to the challenges of modern society by promoting service learning and social entrepreneurship in rural communities.

## NEW BLOG: Waterfront redevelopment in Alblasserdam

Stichting Schutsluis Alblasserdam, a rural partner from the Netherlands, with the support of Rotterdam University of Applied Science (RUAS), has implemented the RURASL social entrepreneurship project in the waterfront redevelopment in Alblasserdam. In Practise Integration Projects, the departments of Civil Engineering, Spatial Development and Water Management combine their knowledge to create an innovative solution for the development of a rural community, such as the reconstruction of a lock, the improvement of a dike strip or the development of a former industrial area on a foreshore. As one of the results, [a new blog](#) was launched.



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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!

To conclude our project, we announce the publication of the RURASL e-book, which will be launched in January 2022. This book integrates, elaborates, and publishes guidelines, recommendations, and best practices for rural service learning, rural social entrepreneurship, and community-university partnerships for European universities and communities seeking improved rural development. The technical and research support in this eBook is aimed at HEI staff, university students, rural community organizations: LAGs, businesses, local authorities, NGOs, and others, as well as beneficiaries of these organizations, e.g., local farmers, unemployed youth, pensioners, rural housewives, rural entrepreneurs, and social enterprises. The rural service-learning and social entrepreneurship guidelines were developed based on an analysis of national similarities and differences, as well as best practices that emerged from the experiences of the RURASL project. The eBook provides several toolkits to enable academic faculty to implement service-learning into their curriculum and to help rural community stakeholders address rural issues, develop social entrepreneurship, and mentor university students in their service-learning activities. The eBook is hosted on the [RURASL virtual HUB](http://hub.rural.ffzg.hr/) and is open and free to use.



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