

## Five leading universities co-create the next generation of degrees for a sustainable Europe

[INVEST European University alliance](#) is a transnational alliance of five universities aiming to become a prototype university of the future.

The alliance:

- includes a diverse intermix of a variety of HEI's covering a broad geographic European scope in a balanced way:
  - [Slovak University of Agriculture](#) in Nitra, Slovakia
  - [University of Agribusiness and Rural Development](#), Bulgaria
  - [University of Thessaly](#), Greece
  - [Karelia University of Applied Sciences](#), Finland
  - [Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences](#), Netherlands
- offers innovative competence-based developed curricula that will be delivered across interuniversity campuses;
- adopts a revolutionary cooperation approach according to which academic staff, non-academic staff and students create multilingual and multicultural groups to tackle the most critical issues that Europe faces nowadays.

[EURASHE](#) is an *associated partner* under this **Innovations of Regional Sustainability: European University Alliance Project** (No.: 101004073) co-funded by the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union.

All INVEST members co-envison a long-lasting strategy that focuses on **excellence and sustainability**, incl. for the institutional transformation in research and innovation through the [INVEST FOR EXCELLENCE IN REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY \(INVEST4EXCELLENCE\)](#) project with funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant agreement No 101035815).

INVEST builds its essence on the **four strategic pillars**:

- (1) Competitive education and valuable learning outcomes
  - (2) Collective excellent research and innovation
  - (3) High mobility level beyond the Europe, and
  - (4) Networking as the platform for future education and research,
- covering the **three main focus areas** - Water, Energy Food and Environment Nexus, Quality of Life and Entrepreneurship.

In the alliance **student-centered education** is becoming a reality and a new model is developed:

- enhancing high quality and accessibility of education;
- strengthening the link between education, research and innovation;
- increasing mobility of students, staff and researchers;
- encouraging key stakeholders' participation and societal engagement of students and staff;
- involvement of local communities and supporting sustainable regional development.

INVEST offers opportunities for holistic cooperation of diverse and heterogeneous educational models and promoting an innovative e-learning and e-mobilities systemic tool included in its **Virtual Campus services**.

Furthermore, INVEST introduces a revolutionary student service – the **virtual recommendation engine EDUC8EU**, to assist students deciding on their own learning pathways.

In INVEST the concept of **Living labs** will be applied as a model to contribute to enhancing the sustainability of regions by undertaking applied research in a new quadruple helix cooperation.

The first **5 Bachelor specializations** will be open for the academic 2022/2023 year on the following topics:

- Developing Viable Communities
- European sustainable leadership in Regional Development
- Integrated Environmental Management towards Sustainable Landscape Development

- Sustainable Communities in Energy Transition
- Society 5.0 and Digital Transformation

**Language courses, lifelong learning course, summer and winter schools** and others are being developed as a good practice of learning, sharing ideas and experience, cooperation and teamwork, establishment of strong partnerships and presentation of the results of applied science and education.

**The next INVEST Summer school** will be hosted by University of agribusiness and rural development, Bulgaria and it will be organized in a hybrid form integrating a virtual co-working space and a short intensive study program in Bulgaria.

The theme of INVEST Summer school, planned for the period 9 May – 10 June 2022, is **Ensuring quality of public services** accenting the topics of *Social innovation in education, community and social services: new solutions to contemporary challenges to quality assurance in terms of the achievement of sustainable regional development.*

Additional information: <https://www.invest-alliance.eu/>