



innovative microlearning for farmers

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smart4food

MAGAZINE

KEY TOOLS AND
SECTIONS

THE PILOT
TESTING PHASE

SMART4FOOD
CURRICULUM

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WELCOME.

Welcome to the latest edition of the SMART4Food e-zine, bringing together updates, stories, and milestones from across our European partnership as we work toward strengthening digital and sustainable practices in the agrifood sector. In this issue, we highlight the collaborative efforts that continue to shape the project and the communities we serve.

We begin with a feature on Meridaunia, the Local Action Group from Puglia, whose long-standing commitment to rural revitalisation, entrepreneurship, and agrifood innovation plays an important role in the SMART4Food consortium. Their work across the Monti Dauni region offers valuable insights into how local action can support long-term rural resilience.

A man in a blue jacket and cap is walking away from the camera through an olive grove. He is carrying a basket and a net. The background shows rows of olive trees under a clear sky.

WELCOME.

*You will also find an overview of the **Third Transnational Partners Meeting**, hosted by MEI in Drumshanbo, Ireland. Partners gathered both onsite and online to review progress, refine the final project outputs, and experience examples of rural innovation in practice, including visits to The Food Hub, The Shed Distillery, and Honestly Farm Kitchen.*

*This edition also presents SMART4Food's participation in the **ADRURAL Co-Creation Workshop** in Kistanje, where the project was introduced to farmers, students, and rural stakeholders, creating a meaningful exchange of ideas on digitalisation and local food systems.*

*Further sections explore the skills small-scale producers in Slovakia say they need most, introduce the **SMART4Food Curriculum**, and outline what partners and participants can expect from the upcoming **pilot testing phase**.*

Together, these stories reflect the shared commitment of all partners to supporting practical, accessible, and sustainable learning opportunities for Europe's rural communities.



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MEI Hosts Partner Meeting in Ireland

Momentum Educate and Innovate (MEI) was delighted to welcome project partners from across Europe to Ireland for the third SMART4Food Transnational Partners Meeting (TPM).

How to Navigate smartforfood.eu: Key Tools and Sections You Shouldn't Miss

Visit the site, explore the resources, and help spread the word.

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Smart4Food Presented at ADRURAL Co-Creation Workshop in Kistanje

The Šibenik University of Applied Sciences participated in a dynamic co-creation workshop organised within the ADRURAL project, held at the Entrepreneurial Incubator Kistanje.

What Skills Do Small-Scale Food Producers in Slovakia Really Need?

As part of the Smart4Food project, we spoke directly with Slovak farmers and educators to better understand: What skills do smallholders really need?

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Introducing the SMART4FOOD Curriculum

We are pleased to introduce the Smart4Food Curriculum, a new training programme helping European small and family farmers build essential skills for a changing agricultural landscape.



What to Expect from the Smart4Food Pilot Testing Phase

The Smart4Food project is entering an exciting new stage: the pilot testing phase

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How Meridauna Skills and Expertise...

Meridaunia will apply its rural development expertise to empower smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs with the skills, resources, and digital tools needed to thrive.

MEET THE PARTNERS

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MERIDAUNA

MEI Hosts the Third SMART4Food Transitional Partners Meeting in Ireland

Momentum Educate and Innovate (MEI) was delighted to welcome project partners from across Europe to Ireland for the third SMART4Food Transnational Partners Meeting (TPM), held on February 26th and 27th at The Food Hub in Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.



Denise Callan MEI opened the meeting with a warm welcome for all attended then introduced Fergal McPartland of the Food Hub, who shared the unique story of The Food Hub and its roots in community-led regeneration. He explained how the closure of a major food processing employer over twenty years ago led to a community buyout and the creation of a thriving multi-tenant food production facility. Today, The Food Hub stands as a shining example of rural innovation. It supports local producers and entrepreneurs in the food and beverage sector, bringing high-quality employment back to the region.

The formal programme was then led by Ivana Kardum Goleš from the project's lead partner, Veleučilište u Šibeniku (Šibenik University of Applied Sciences). Ivana provided updates on project management activities, key deliverables, and upcoming milestones as the consortium moves towards finalising outputs and results.

Throughout the two-day meeting, each Work Package lead shared progress updates, and partners engaged in detailed planning for the finalisation of the SMART4Food learning materials. Particular attention was given to ensuring that all materials, which will soon to be available on the project website, will be engaging, practical, and accessible for learners, educators, and policymakers across the EU.

This TPM was delivered in a hybrid format, with three partners attending onsite in Drumshanbo and three participating online. For those present in person, MEI curated a series of local visits to showcase the richness of the region's agriculture and food culture and rural enterprise.



Highlights included:

01

A guided tour of [The Shed Distillery](#), located within The Food Hub, where partners discovered the area's heritage of whiskey making and its strong links with local farming communities.

02

A scenic "walk on water" along the [Acres Lake Floating Boardwalk](#) and a stroll on the Shannon Blueway, an opportunity to experience the unique natural beauty that surrounds Drumshanbo.

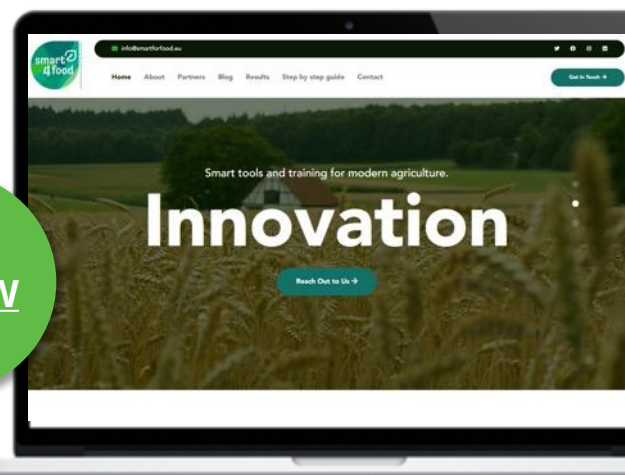
03

A visit to [Honestly Farm Kitchen](#) in Carrick-on-Shannon, an organic, farmer-led restaurant that provides a local route to market for multiple producers. This business also features as a Case Study within the SMART4Food learning content, making the visit especially meaningful for project partners.

MEI was proud to host this important meeting and to share both our facilities and our local food ecosystem with the SMART4Food consortium. We look forward to continuing this valuable collaboration as we move toward the final stages of the project and support the development of innovative, sustainable learning tools for Europe's food sector.

If you would like to learn more about SMART4Food, please visit the [SMART4Food website](#).

CLICK
TO VIEW



SMART4Food:

A Digital Bridge Between

Farmers, Trainers and Policymakers

By Victoras Iordanou, Project Manager, Magnetar

In Europe's journey toward smarter, more sustainable agriculture, one challenge remains central: how to ensure that rural actors, especially farmers and trainers, are not left behind in the digital shift.

smartforfood.eu responds directly to this need, providing a digital bridge between those working the land, those teaching the next generation, and those shaping rural policy.

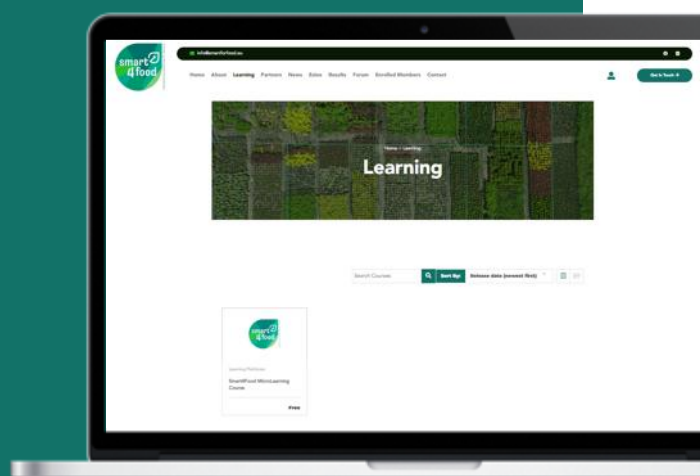
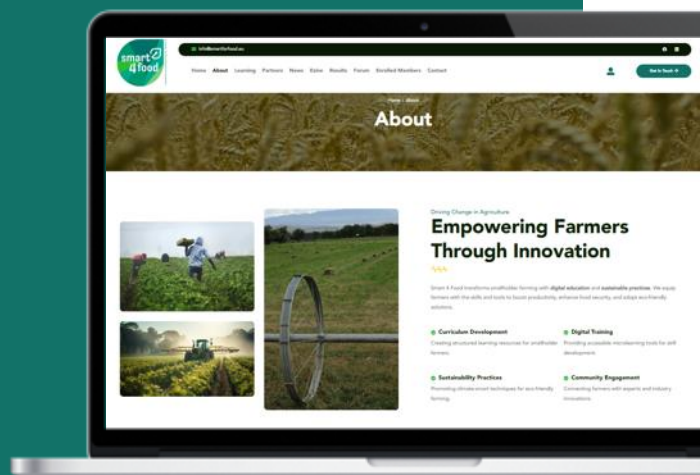
For farmers, the website offers **free, accessible training** content on essential digital tools, sustainable farming methods, and **innovation practices**. It's designed with simplicity in mind, ensuring that even those with limited digital literacy can find value and apply new skills.

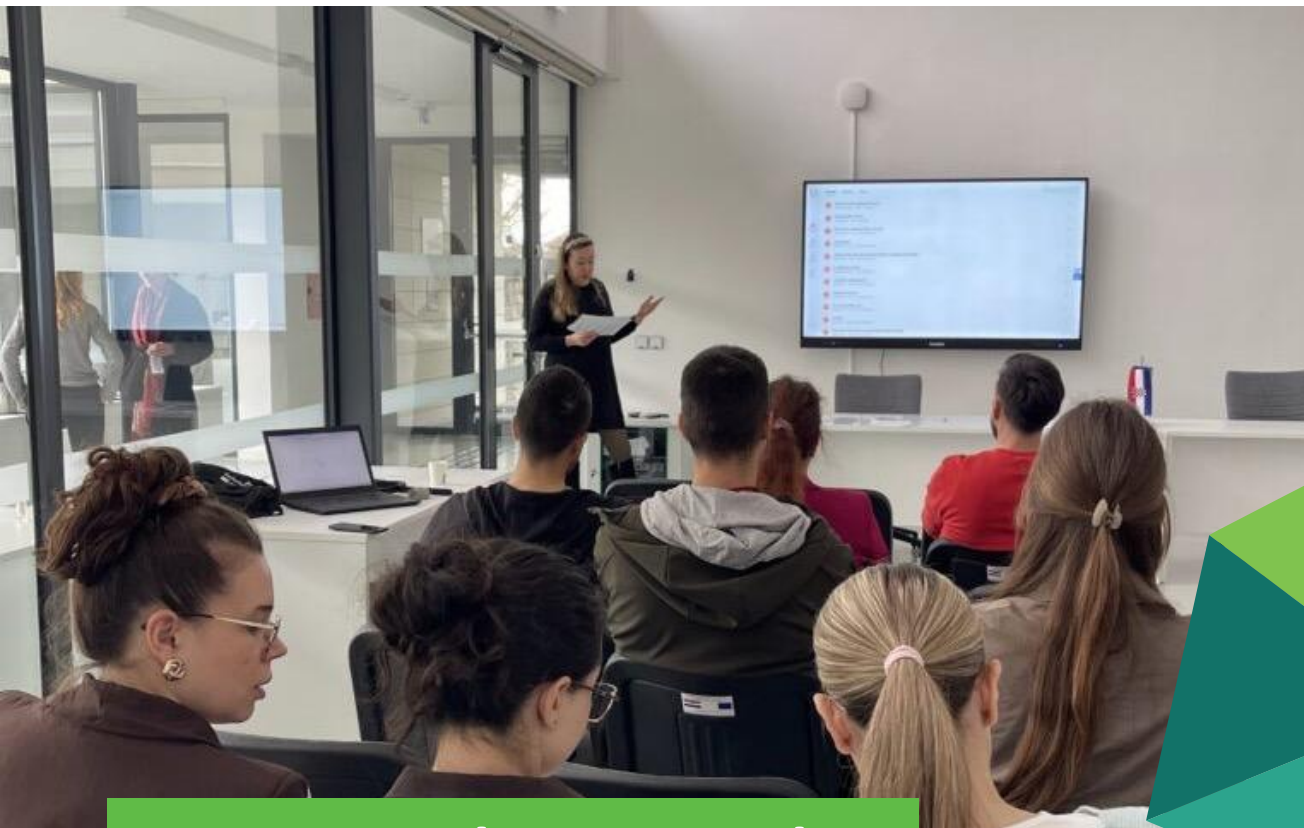
For vocational trainers, smartforfood.eu is a rich resource hub. The structured training materials align with VET priorities and can be easily integrated into existing agricultural curricula. The project also promotes intergenerational learning, encouraging trainers to engage both younger and older learners in shared digital exploration.

For policymakers, the platform showcases the project's impact through updates, partner contributions, and upcoming pilot activities. By monitoring this space, they can see how digital inclusion in agriculture is unfolding on the ground, across five EU countries.

smartforfood.eu is more than a repository of tools. It's a model of how EU cooperation can empower rural communities. With its multilingual accessibility and open content, it reflects the inclusive values behind the Erasmus+ programme and sets a precedent for future digital-agro projects.

Visit the site, explore the resources, and help spread the word. The future of agriculture is digital, and smartforfood.eu is one step closer to making that future accessible to all.





Smart4Food Presented at

ADRURAL Co-Creation Workshop in

Kistanje

*The Šibenik University of Applied Sciences participated in a **dynamic co-creation workshop** organised within the ADRURAL project, held at the Entrepreneurial Incubator Kistanje. The event brought **together** small-scale farmers, students, and key stakeholders from the agri-food and rural innovation sectors.*

The workshop was part of the broader ADRURAL initiative, a transnational project funded through the Interreg IPA ADRION programme, which focuses on empowering rural communities across the Adriatic-Ionian region through innovation, smart solutions, and collaborative governance models. By fostering cooperation between regions and stakeholders, ADRURAL aims to address key rural challenges such as depopulation, climate change, and limited access to infrastructure and knowledge.

A key component of the project is the development of innovative tools and networks, including the Online Rural Empowerment Hub (OREH) and Mini Rural Living Labs, which enable local communities to co-create and test solutions tailored to their needs. These activities support knowledge transfer, strengthen local capacities, and contribute to more resilient and sustainable rural areas. ([Keep.eu](https://www.Keep.eu))

During the event in Kistanje, the University of Applied Sciences in Šibenik presented the Smart4Food project to participants, highlighting its role in promoting digitalisation and innovation in the agri-food sector. The audience included students of the university, local farmers, and representatives of DIH Agrifood, creating a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and networking.



In addition to presenting Smart4Food, the concept of a Food Hub was introduced as a practical example of strengthening local food systems. The concept was inspired by good practices from Drumshanbo, where the latest Smart4Food consortium meeting took place. The Food Hub model demonstrated how collaboration among producers can improve market access, support short supply chains, and enhance the visibility and competitiveness of local products.

The event clearly illustrated the importance of connecting European project experiences with local realities. By combining the strategic, innovation-driven approach of ADRURAL with the practical solutions promoted through Smart4Food, participants were able to explore new opportunities for rural development and agri-food innovation.

The Food Hub Model





What Skills do Small-Scale Food Producers in Slovakia Really Need?

*Small and family farmers are at the heart of Slovakia’s food landscape. They ensure local production, preserve traditional practices, and support rural communities. Yet their everyday challenges are growing—from digital bureaucracy to unpredictable climate. As part of the **Smart4Food** project, we spoke directly with Slovak farmers and educators to better understand: What skills do smallholders actually need today?*

We Heard from Farmers

We interviewed producers like Jakub Dvorský, a young winemaker and beekeeper, and Mario Simonics, a grain and livestock farmer experimenting with sustainable practices. Both confirmed: farming today is not just about growing food, it’s about navigating digital tools, markets, and regulations.

When asked about the skills they feel they are missing, digital literacy stood out as the most pressing issue. While farmers use smartphones daily, most are unfamiliar with dedicated apps for managing their farms, tracking weather, or accessing subsidy portals.

Many collect data on soil moisture or weather conditions, but lack the skills to interpret this information effectively and integrate it into their decision-making.

Another recurring challenge is online marketing and branding. Although there’s clear interest in selling products like wine, honey or vegetables online, many producers struggle with creating a website, presenting their offerings attractively, and communicating with customers via social media or email. Branding, pricing, and even the creation of basic visual content often remain barriers.

Legal and bureaucratic navigation is also a stress factor. Farmers report difficulties in understanding Slovak and EU regulations related to food safety, direct sales, and subsidies. They often rely on guesswork or second-hand information rather than structured support or training.

In terms of learning preferences, farmers expressed a strong desire for short and practical content, ideally delivered in Slovak with voice-over. They prefer step-by-step video tutorials, visual aids such as

infographics, and platforms that are mobile-first and accessible offline. Interactive elements, such as quizzes or simple checklists, were also mentioned as welcome additions.

What Educators and Support Organisations Observe

Educational stakeholders and rural development experts, such as Monika Božíková, Zuzana Palková and Monika Slaninová, confirmed many of these needs. They noted that many farmers are resistant to formal, lecture-based training, often perceiving it as disconnected from their daily challenges. Instead, they prefer learning by doing—through demonstration, observation, and hands-on tasks.

Digital exclusion remains a real problem, particularly for older farmers. While some younger producers are beginning to experiment with e-commerce and technology, there is a significant knowledge and confidence gap between generations.

These experts also observed that many farmers want to farm more sustainably, but don't know how to begin. They are interested in reducing chemical inputs, managing waste better, or protecting biodiversity, but lack clear, locally relevant guidance. They also pointed out that many initiatives fail because they don't include trusted local facilitators who can bridge the gap between information and practice.





Six Competencies that Matter Most

Based on these interviews and Smart4Food's Key Competence Map, we identified six key areas where small-scale food producers in Slovakia would benefit from focused support.

01

Digital competence in agriculture

First is digital competence in agriculture. Farmers need to become comfortable using mobile applications for planting calendars, pest alerts, livestock records, and digital sales platforms. They would also benefit from learning how to use tools like Google Drive or cloud photo storage to manage farm-related documentation and communication more effectively.

02

Sustainable Resource Management

Second is sustainable resource management. Farmers must understand how to evaluate soil health, apply compost, use water-saving irrigation systems, and diversify their cropping to support biodiversity. Waste reduction techniques, such as turning farm leftovers into animal feed or mulch, were also seen as critical.

03

Marketing and Value Addition

The third area is marketing and value addition. Farmers should be able to build a basic brand identity, use storytelling to connect with customers, and package their products according to legal standards. This also includes understanding how to price their goods fairly and create loyalty among local buyers.

04

Business and Financial Management

Fourth is business and financial management. Many producers lack structured tools for budgeting or planning investments. Learning to track income and expenses, calculate return on investment, and prepare for grant applications can significantly improve their resilience and growth potential.

05

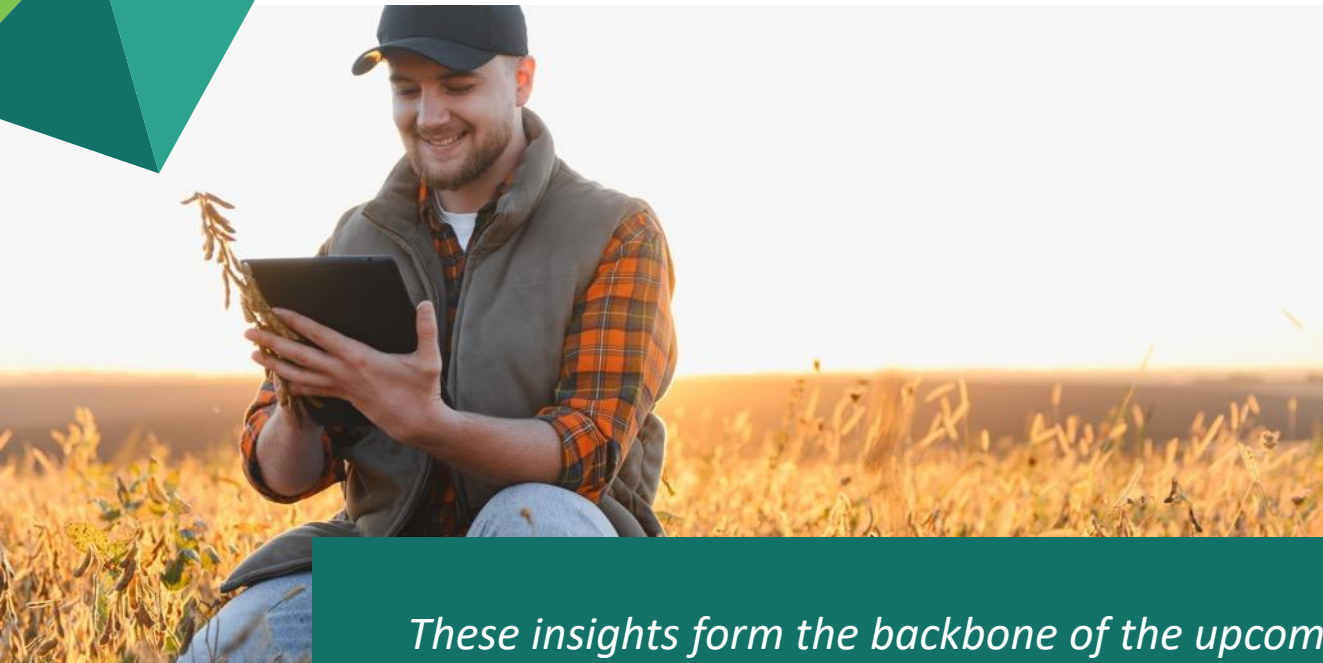
Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Climate adaptation and resilience make up the fifth priority area. Smallholders need to be able to identify local climate risks, choose drought-tolerant crops, and apply integrated pest management methods. Understanding how to read local weather patterns and adjust farm practices accordingly could also help prevent yield loss.

06

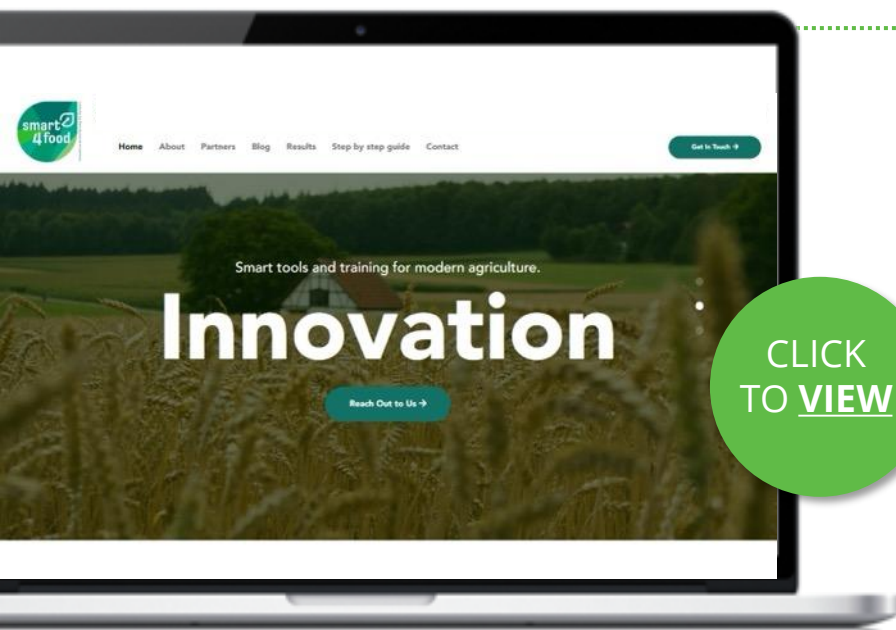
Innovation and Adaptability

Finally, innovation and adaptability are essential for long-term survival. This includes trying out new crops, developing side income streams such as agritourism or on-farm processing, and maintaining an open mindset toward peer learning and experimentation.



*These insights form the backbone of the upcoming **Smart4Food Training Curriculum**. This will include short, digital microlearning modules co-created with farmers, educators, and digital innovators. The goal is not to replace traditional training but to supplement it with accessible, mobile-first content that speaks the language of real-life farm challenges.*

What's Next?



New Edu is leading the curriculum development, and we're committed to building materials that are practical, usable, and empowering for farmers. The future of farming education in Slovakia isn't in lecture halls, it's in the hands of producers, on their phones, in the fields, and among their communities.

You can follow our journey and get involved at www.smartforfood.eu



Introducing the Smart4Food Curriculum: Practical Learning for Small and Family Farmers

We are pleased to share one of the key outputs of the Smart4Food project: the Smart4Food Curriculum, a new training programme designed to help small and family farmers across Europe build the skills they need to succeed in a changing agricultural landscape.



Why This Curriculum Was Needed

Research carried out across the Smart4Food partnership found that farmers and rural communities are facing real and growing challenges. While 80% of farmers and VET trainers surveyed were aware of the new Common Agricultural Policy, only 9% felt they fully understood it. Almost 90% said they lacked adequate resources or support to meet their sustainability responsibilities. At the same time, 68% said they would actively use training resources if these were made available to them.

These findings confirmed what our partners had long observed: there is a significant gap in accessible, practical training for smallholders. The Smart4Food Curriculum was developed to close that gap.

What the Curriculum

Covers



The curriculum is built around six training modules, each targeting a key area of competence for modern small farm management. The modules cover digital tools for smart farming, sustainable and regenerative agriculture, smart marketing and communication for small producers, local food systems and short supply chains, training and education for rural development, and policy, innovation and project development in the agri-sector.

Together, these modules offer a complete picture of the skills today's smallholders need, from using digital record-keeping tools to understanding EU funding opportunities, from marketing their produce online to managing soil and water sustainably.

How it Works

The curriculum is built on microlearning principles, meaning training is delivered in **short, focused units** of around **5 to 8 minutes each**. Each unit addresses one clear learning goal and ends with a practical activity or mini-quiz so learners can apply what they have learned straight away. There are no lengthy exams or rigid timetables. Learners can **progress** at their own pace, on a smartphone or tablet, fitting training around the demands of farm life.

Content is presented through short videos, infographics, checklists, and interactive tasks, all designed to be visual, plain-spoken, and directly relevant to real farm situations. The curriculum is being made available in six European languages to ensure it is genuinely accessible across all partner countries.

Built in Evidence and

Collaboration

The curriculum was developed through close collaboration between all six Smart4Food partners, drawing on expertise in agriculture, adult education, rural development, and digital learning from Croatia, Slovakia, Turkey, Cyprus, Ireland, and Italy. The curriculum design was led by New Edu (Slovakia), with methodological input from MEI (Ireland) and technical development by MAGNETAR (Cyprus). Pilot testing, involving at least 180 participants across partner countries, is being led by Kocaturk (Turkey) to ensure the content is relevant, useful, and effective in practice.

The curriculum is fully aligned with EQF Level 4 and mapped against national qualifications frameworks, meaning learners can have their achievements recognised across European education systems.

What Comes Next

The Smart4Food Curriculum will be hosted on the Smart4Food Hub, our interactive digital platform, where it will be available as an open educational resource for farmers, trainers, and rural development organisations. It is designed to grow and evolve over time, supporting lifelong learning in the agricultural sector long after the project ends.

What to Expect from the Smart4Food Pilot Testing Phase

*The **Smart4Food** project is entering an exciting new stage: the **pilot testing phase**. After months of collaborative work on educational materials, digital tools, videos, and interactive resources, partners across Europe are now preparing to test the **Smart4Food learning experience** with real users in real learning environments.*



The pilot phase represents one of the most important milestones of the project because it allows the consortium to evaluate how effectively the Smart4Food Hub and learning materials support small farmers, rural communities, and agricultural stakeholders in developing practical smart farming skills.

Why is the Pilot Phase

Important?

The **goal** of the pilot testing phase is not only to test the technical functionality of the **Smart4Food** Hub, but also to **ensure** that the learning materials are practical, accessible, **understandable**, and **relevant** to the everyday realities of farmers and rural learners.

The pilot will help the consortium answer important questions such as:

- 1 Are the learning modules easy to follow?
- 2 Do the videos and infographics support practical learning?
- 3 Can participants apply the presented smart farming tools in real situations?
- 4 Is the platform accessible for users with different levels of digital skills?
- 5 What improvements can still be made before the final project release?

What Will Participants Test?

Participants involved in the pilot phase will have the opportunity to explore two main Smart4Food project results:

01 The Smart4Food Hub

The Smart4Food Hub is designed as an interactive online space where users can:

- access project learning materials,
- download practical resources,
- complete self-assessments,
- participate in discussions,
- share experiences and good practices,
- and interact with other stakeholders interested in smart farming and sustainable agriculture.

The Hub aims to create a collaborative learning environment that supports knowledge exchange among farmers, educators, and rural development organisations.

02 The “Smart4Food Innovation Training Program”

Participants will also test the project’s multimedia learning program, which includes:

- short microlearning modules,
- practical video demonstrations,
- infographics,
- quizzes and exercises,
- downloadable templates and guides.

The educational materials are specifically designed to support learners with different levels of digital knowledge and farming experience.

How Will the Pilot be Organised?

The pilot activities will be implemented in all partner countries using flexible learning formats adapted to local needs. Depending on the country and participant group, activities may be organised:

01 Online

02 In-Person

03 or in Hybrid Format

The learning approach focuses on flexibility and accessibility. Participants will be able to learn at their own pace through short learning units that fit more easily into busy farming schedules.

Partners will also provide onboarding support and guidance to help participants navigate the platform and use the available digital tools confidently.

Who Can Participate?

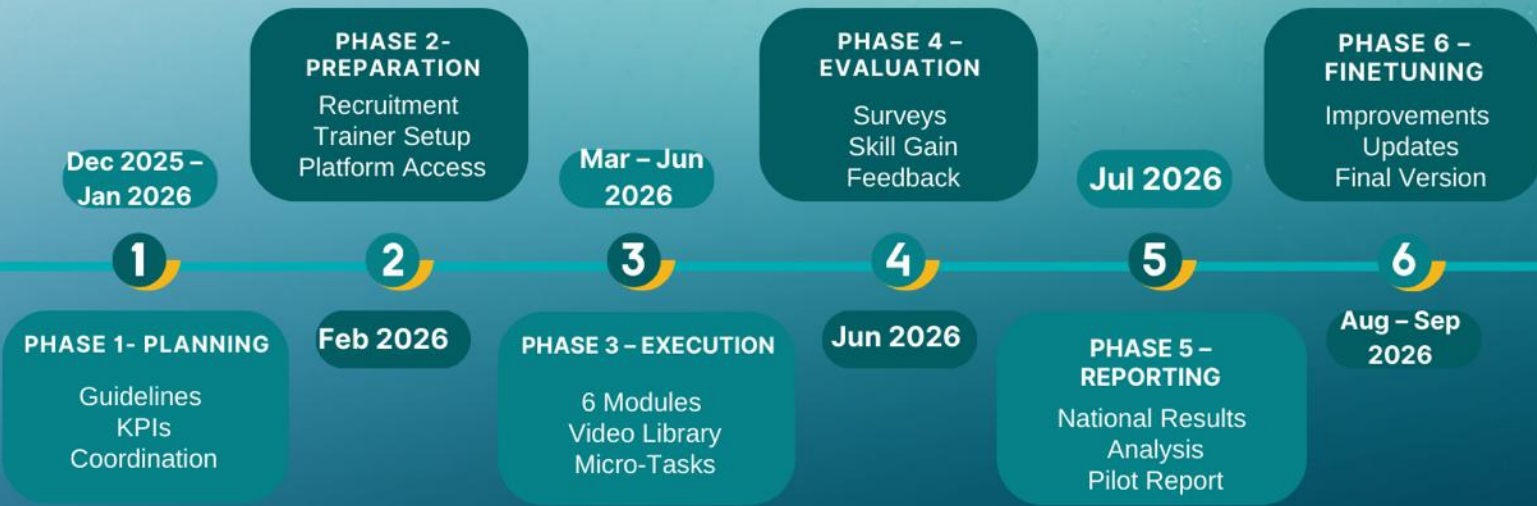
The pilot phase is designed for different stakeholder groups connected to agriculture and rural development, including:

- Small and family farmers,
- Sustainability and community education organisations,
- Farming associations,
- Regional development agencies,
- Trainers and educators working in agricultural and vocational education sectors.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE PILOT TESTING PHASE?



Funded by the European Union



Through clearly defined phases, the project measures learning effectiveness, usability, participant engagement, and skill development. The guidelines establish common procedures for recruitment, trainer preparation, data collection, assessment, and quality assurance, ensuring consistency across countries and enabling evidence-based improvements before the final rollout of the SMART4FOOD learning package.

Participants can expect:

- practical and easy-to-follow learning materials,
- short and interactive educational content,
- flexible online access,
- participation in a European learning initiative,
- and the possibility to contribute to improving future digital agricultural education.

The pilot phase is not designed as a formal exam process. Instead, the focus is placed on learning, experimentation, feedback, and practical application.

Building Smarter and More Sustainable Farming Together

The Smart4Food pilot phase is an important opportunity to ensure that the project responds to real needs in rural communities across Europe. By involving farmers, educators, and agricultural stakeholders directly in the testing process, the consortium aims to create practical, inclusive,

and user-friendly digital learning solutions that can support the future of sustainable agriculture.

Stay tuned for upcoming announcements about pilot participation opportunities and project activities in partner countries.



Meridaunia's Mission and Role in Smart4Food

*In Smart4Food, Meridaunia will apply its extensive expertise in rural economic development to create lasting impact in the agrifood sector. The organization will play a **crucial role** in empowering smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs by **equipping** them with the skills, resources, and digital tools needed to thrive in a rapidly **evolving** agricultural landscape.*

Meridaunia's contributions to **Smart4Food** will focus on:

- **Strengthening rural entrepreneurship** by delivering training, mentorship, and business support tailored to the needs of smallholder farmers and agrifood enterprises.
- **Enhancing the agrifood value chain** by fostering short supply chains, promoting local food production, and encouraging sustainability-focused business models.
- **Bridging the gap** between traditional and modern agriculture by introducing digital solutions and innovative farming techniques that improve efficiency and sustainability.
- **Engaging** local stakeholders, including municipal governments, farming cooperatives, and rural SMEs, to ensure that Smart4Food's methodologies are widely adopted and integrated into regional policies.
- **Leading WP4 – Roll-out and Exploitation of Results**, ensuring that Smart4Food's training programs, digital resources, and innovative tools are readily accessible to rural communities in Italy and beyond.



*Moreover, Meridaunia is deeply committed to community-driven development and inclusive rural growth, ensuring that **Smart4Food’s** impact extends beyond the project’s duration. By actively promoting **community engagement** and **participatory governance**, the organization facilitates collaboration among local farmers, businesses, and policymakers, ensuring that **Smart4Food’s** innovations become an integral part of the region’s economic fabric.*

Key Initiatives Supporting Community

Involvement and Sustainability Include:

01

The Business Incubator in Candela,

which provides logistical, financial, and mentorship support to agrifood startups and young entrepreneurs, helping them build resilient businesses.

02

The Taste Center in Troia,

a dedicated hub for food innovation, agritourism, and sustainable food systems training, promoting the value of local gastronomy and short supply chains.

03

Local Action Plans (PALs),

which integrate education, tourism, and agriculture to align regional development with local economic needs, while actively fostering job creation and rural resilience.



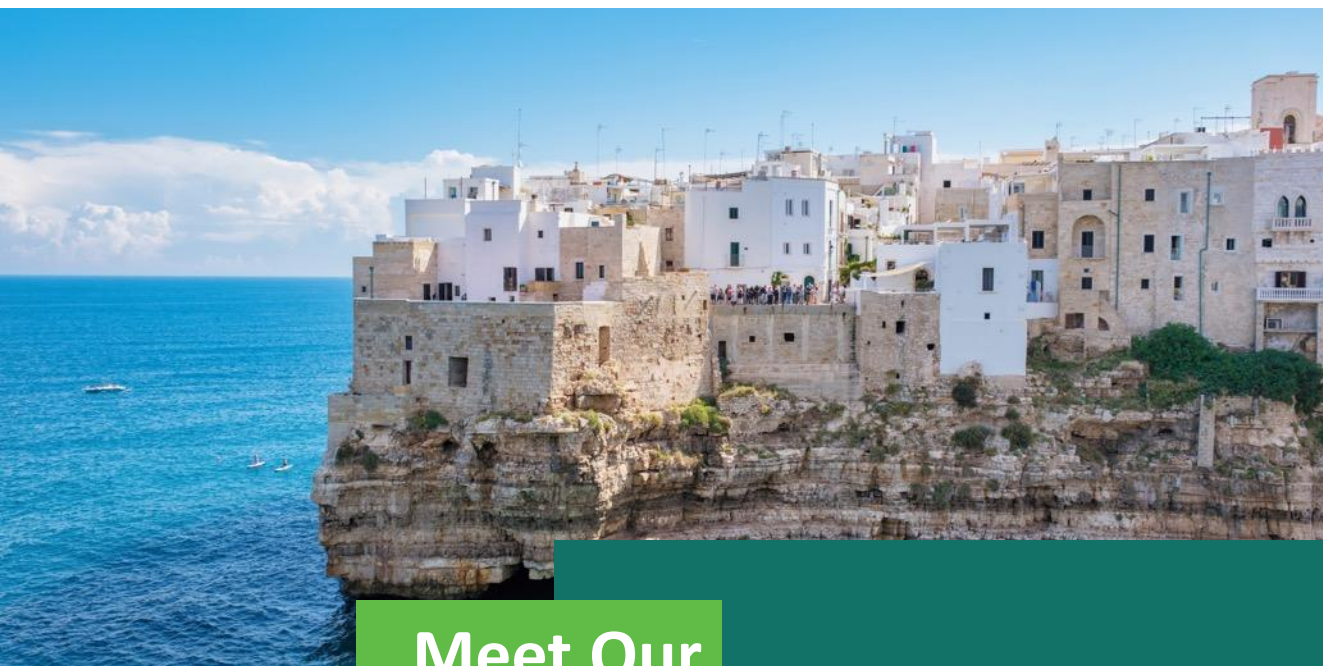


Meridaunia's long-term sustainability strategy is designed to ensure that Smart4Food's results are embedded within regional and national frameworks.

Its Focus is on:

- 01 Integrating**
Smart4Food training programs into regional vocational education systems, equipping future generations with skills in sustainable farming and agribusiness innovation.
- 02 Expanding**
business support services for agrifood entrepreneurs and SMEs, ensuring continuous growth and adaptability in the sector.
- 03 Facilitating**
access to EU funding and investment opportunities, providing financial pathways for rural businesses and local communities.
- 04 Developing**
cross-border cooperation projects, scaling Smart4Food's impact to rural areas across Europe, and fostering knowledge exchange on best practices in agriculture and food systems.
- 05 Strengthening**
rural networks and engaging policymakers, advocating for structural changes in the agrifood sector to support long-term rural prosperity and sustainability.





Meet Our Partner Meridaunia

Meridaunia is a key regional development agency based in Bovino, Puglia, Italy, committed to fostering sustainable rural development, agribusiness innovation, and local entrepreneurship.

Established in 1998, it operates as a Local Action Group (LAG) encompassing 30 municipalities in the Monti Dauni region, which represents half of the municipalities in the Province of Foggia. With a total area of 2,286.56 km² and a population of 93,806, it is one of the largest LAGs in Puglia but also among the most sparsely populated, facing critical challenges related to depopulation and economic decline.

Meridaunia plays a fundamental role in countering rural depopulation, generating employment, and preserving the region's unique historical, cultural, and natural heritage. The Monti Dauni region is characterized by its picturesque medieval villages, rich agrifood traditions, and diverse natural landscapes. However, it also struggles with low levels of entrepreneurship, limited access to infrastructure, and an aging farming population, with 60% of farms owned by individuals over 65 years old. To address these challenges, Meridaunia collaborates with key regional and national

institutions. The University of Foggia plays a crucial role in integrating education and research into rural development initiatives. The Foggia Chamber of Commerce supports entrepreneurship and fosters agribusiness innovation, while local municipalities and SMEs receive technical assistance for business development and sustainability projects.

Through its Local Development Strategy, Meridaunia promotes sustainable tourism by enhancing the Monti Dauni's cultural heritage, historic villages, and natural landscapes. It supports agrifood innovation by strengthening short supply chains, encouraging organic farming, and developing local food branding. Entrepreneurship is a core focus, with business incubators, mentoring programs, and vocational training designed to support rural entrepreneurs. Additionally, the organization engages in policy advocacy, working with regional and EU policymakers to secure funding and implement long-term rural development strategies.

Team Representative

Angela Maria Loporchio



Angela Maria
Loporchio

Angela Maria Loporchio is a Project Manager specializing in EU-funded rural development initiatives, international cooperation, and agribusiness entrepreneurship. With a strong background in economic development, strategic project planning, and territorial promotion, she has played a key role in implementing sustainable growth strategies for rural areas. Her expertise spans capacity building, policy advocacy, and fostering cross-sector collaborations, making her an essential asset to Meridaunia's mission. In Smart4Food, Angela leads community engagement, training, and sustainability efforts, ensuring that the project's impact extends beyond its duration. She works closely with local stakeholders, policymakers, and agribusiness professionals to facilitate the adoption of innovative agricultural practices, digital tools, and entrepreneurship support programs, driving long-term resilience in rural communities.



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