

INVEST Summer School 2021 Empowering regional development and innovations

Building resilience in rural communities

INnoVations of REgional Sustainability: European UniversiTy Alliance – INVEST is an Erasmus+ funded project implemented by The Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (Slovakia), University of Agribusiness and Rural Development (Bulgaria), University of Thessaly (Greece), Karelia University of Applied Sciences (Finland) and Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences (the Netherlands). More information about the project can be found on its [website](#).

INVEST Summer School 2021 “Empowering regional development and innovations – Building resilience in rural communities” is coordinated by Karelia UAS and implemented online 7-14 June. The expert lectures are open for the participating universities’ staff members as well as the staff members of the expert lecturers’, coaches’ and jury members’ organisations. ***This programme including the Teams link are not to be distributed outside these organisations.***

The course is a joint summer school for BSc, MSc and PhD students from all disciplines. The course is implemented as a Hackathon with preliminary tasks before the actual Hackathon. The students will work in multidisciplinary groups on building resilience in rural communities. The course is conducted online.

For any questions, please contact:

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[Link to the lectures](#)

You are free to participate in those parts you wish. [The Teams link](#) will be the same for all lectures. Please do remember that the expert lectures are primarily for the students -> questions from students take privilege.

Changes to the schedule are possible.

The times are in Eastern European Summer times (EEST). This is the same in Finland, Bulgaria and Greece. For Dutch and Slovak times, deduct one hour.

Monday 7 June

- 10.00-10.30 **Welcoming words**
- 10.30-11.00 **North Karelia – region of pure nature, high technology and wellbeing**, *Tiina Hyvärinen, Regional Council of North Karelia*
- 11.00-11.30 **Challenges and possibilities in rural development in North Karelia**, *Antero Lehikoinen, Joensuu Region Local Action Group*
- 12.30-13.30 **Course information**, *Kaija Saramäki and Sini Rantanen, Karelia University of Applied Sciences*
- 13.30-14.00 Case example from North Karelia: **Building a village hall and its effects on the community, Paihola village**, *Kirsti Sainola-Rodriguez*
- 14.15-16.00 **Poster presentations by students**

Tuesday 8 June

- 10.00-11.30 **Product development in practice and innovation tools**, *Korrie Hoekstra, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences and Elisa Maljamäki*
- 11.45-12.45 **How to make it through group work**, *Monika Bumbalova, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra*

Wednesday 9 June

- 10.00-11.00 **Resilience - what is that?**, *Arttu Puhakka, University of Eastern Finland*
- 11.00-12.00 **Social enterprises as an optional tool to work on sustainability issues and community resilience**, *Daan van der Linde, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences*
- 13.00-14.00 **Regional product and its impact on rural community - a concrete example**, *Barbora Babjaková, Consultant*

Thursday 10 June

- 10.00-11.00 **Transfer and Succession of Business**, *Velizar Petrov, Regional Development Agency with Business Support Centre for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises*
- 13.00-14.00 **Freshwater ecosystems' sustainability and its effect on development and support of rural regions in Greece - The case of Messolonghi**, *Eleni (Elena) Akritopoulou, University of Thessaly*
- 15.00-15.30 Case example from North Karelia: **Cultural community house and its activities**, tbc, Kesälahti village
- 15.30-16.00 **Neighbourhood Bus**, *Esmeralda de Vries, BuurvrouwenBuurvrouwBus*

Friday 11 June

- 10.00-11.00 **General characteristics of rural areas and financing of companies in rural areas**, *Ognyana Stoichkova, University of Agri Business*

Monday 14 June

- 13.45-14.45 **Pitching**
- 15.00-15.30 **Grand ceremony and closing**

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