



Latvia University  
of Life Sciences  
and Technologies

**farmtechsociety**  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

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**INNOBRIDGE**  
Business & Innovation Centre



**Erasmus+**



***PONICS VET: Hydroponics Agricultural Technician  
Newsletter №2***

**GENERAL INFORMATION**



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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Aquaponic and Hydroculture has the potential to play a key role in creating resource efficient production and allows growers to enter the market with a resilient product as well as tackling global challenges such as water scarcity, food security, urbanization and improvements in energy use. **PONICS VET: Hydroponics Agricultural Technician** is an **Erasmus +** project, focusing on providing access to training and qualification in the applications of Hydroponics techniques on young farmers from rural and semi-urban areas, which are the main target group. The idea behind the project is to provide a quality training in a specialization which is essential for the future of food production.

The main aim of the **PONICS VET** project is to create an innovative professional profile, the **hydroponics technician** and to deliver vocational training for such a profile. Along with the education, the course will incorporate formal certification with the applications of the rules drawn from the **ECVET (the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training)** methodology that will allow – or at least facilitate - recognition of learning outcomes in all European Member States.

## OUR PROGRESS SO FAR



In the first phase of the project, a survey was carried out among the farmers in all five Consortium partnering countries, which aimed to establish the level of awareness of people in the Agricultural sector

regarding **Hydroponics and Sustainable Agriculture**. On the basis of the survey conducted, the main topics to be targeted during the preparation phase of the training content were identified, taking into account the knowledge gap and interests of the respondents. An effective solution must address concerns and tangible benefits for diverse respondents in every step of the life-cycle of education and employment.



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## SECOND PARTNER'S MEETING IN MILAN, ITALY

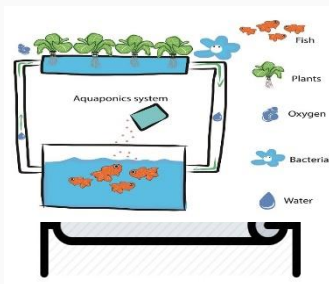


The first meeting took place in Jelgava, Latvia and was hosted by Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies. During the meeting, partners had the chance to discuss about the project activities and plan the tasks that need to be carried out during the next few months, as well as organize the project's evaluation and dissemination agenda, in order to share its results and outputs with the relevant stakeholders and target groups.

## THE CONSORTIUM

In the **PONICS VET** project participate 6 partners from 5 European countries - Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies and Union "Farmers' Parliament" from **Latvia**, IDEC from **Greece**, Eurocrea Merchant from **Italy**, Association for Vertical Farming e.V from **Germany** and BIC Innobridge from **Bulgaria**.

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Aquaponics System

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7 Reasons Why  
Most Hydroponic  
Growers Fail

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