

Inclusive REskilling and upSkilling Toward competitive Agrifood and veterinary sector: European agenda Strategy

Deliverable 2.3 Short report on open days

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**F: final; D: draft; RD: revised draft*



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1. Task description

This deliverable **2.3 Short Report on Open Days** is linked to the task 2.3 led by FIAB about Pilots and Open Days (M9-M13). The task aimed to implement the training designed in T2.2 to address the urgent skill needs identified in T2.1 in each country and to organize Open days with the industries to facilitate further take-up. Sector representatives organized the Open Days in collaboration with national/local industries to disseminate the courses and link VET/HEI with industry.

These days were foreseen in the EU in similar months, in order to allow for a broad dissemination of the events. Finally, partners celebrated their Open Days in the frame of most relevant conferences and fairs identified in each country (e.g. Cibus and Ecomondo Fairs, Italy; Alimentaria Barcelona Fair, Spain, etc.) and by groups choosing the same months. Italy and Portugal celebrated their Open Days in November 2023, other countries like Spain, The Netherlands, Austria and Greece during February and March of 2024. France postponed its Open Day identifying the most interesting date October 2024 to celebrate it in the frame of the Fair SIAL Paris. Romania joined this Open Days organization by celebrating it by April 2024 in the frame of General Assembly of the European Board of Veterinary Specialization.

The participants of the open days also collaborated to fill up the survey from Task 3.3.

Each event was organized either during internal events or external initiatives such as conferences, innovation prize/awards, Ecotrophelia, International Fairs, and had one part of modular training, one visit to the company and one part of presentation of the I-RESTART activities to reskill and upskill people in the agrifood and veterinary sector.

At the open days a minimum of 10 people per VET/HEI training center participated, for a total of 80 participants in 8 countries, with the collaboration of the following partners:

- **Spain:** FIAB, CTAEX, UMU and SCOOP.
- **Italy:** CONFAGRI, UNITO, FEDERALIMENTARE and INFOR. (2 OPEN DAYS)
- **The Netherlands:** AERES and WUR.
- **Austria:** ISEKI and LVA.
- **Greece:** AKMI and SEVT.
- **France:** ANIA.
- **Portugal:** CONFAGRI PORTUGAL.
- **Romania:** European Board of Veterinary Specialization – EBVS.

After the national Open Days took place, each partner responsible sent FIAB a short report describing main activities, attendees, date and location, pictures of the event and posts on social media related, among other extra information.

This deliverable is the final report on the Open Days made by FIAB.

2. Executive Summary

The I-RESTART project aims at reskilling and upskilling the workforce in the agri-food and veterinary sectors, retraining the employees leaving the heavy industry to hire them in the agri-food sector, and engaging with students that want to enter the agri-food labour market to improve their digital skills and facilitate the transition to the Green Deal initiative. To reach the above-mentioned objectives, I-RESTART will facilitate the inter-sectoral and intergenerational skills transfers through the adoption of an innovative micro-credential's methodology and the work-based learning experiences which on the one hand will provide inclusive, flexible and engaging work-based patterns with mentors and on the other will open the ecosystem also to external workers. The project will provide the tools to tackle future challenges with the offering of 10 occupational profiles for a total of 3200 hours of training. In total 16 trainers and 200 trainees will benefit from the pilot training, and 40 students will complete the work-based learning scheme that also includes the advanced entrepreneurial skills. The 27 partners consortium from 11 countries will identify skills needed and gaps, create occupational profiles, detailed curricula, design European strategies and 10 country roadmaps to reflect the country's needs while keeping EU quality standards (ESCO, EQAVET) to address the mobility of learners through Europe.

One of the objectives of this project is to cover the urgent skill needs at EU level and carry out in the first year of the project the initial pilots to have feedback with the training needs. Since the I-RESTART aim is to provide inclusive and innovative training, the pilots were led by VET providers and stakeholder associations in 'AgriFood Industry Open Days' at the food processors/farm level. They were intended to occur possibly in the same month of the year to allow massive dissemination of the events, but finally we scheduled two periods, November 2023 and February-March 2024 in order to suit all partners preferences and capacities, and to make them in the framework of a high impact fair or event.

I-RESTART project objectives are related to providing strategy and actions to reskill and upskill people in the following sectors:

- 1- Food Industry
- 2- Primary Production
- 3- Veterinary Sector

The competencies explained during Open Day sessions were:

- Sustainability and Bioeconomy
- Digitalization
- Entrepreneurship
- Specific trends per sector
- One-health

3. Micro-credentials

The micro-credentials have been identified as a significant element in the European Education Area, as indicated by the EU Skills Agenda Action 10 “A European approach to micro-credentials” is among the EU tools and initiatives that support lifelong learning (European Commission, 2020).

Alternative forms of education are becoming increasingly popular and skill-based careers are replacing degrees in some industries.

The project uses a different approach in the training methodology, not creating full training contents but relying on smaller, shorter modules (micro-credentials) to tackle the skills gaps, in line with the EU Skills Agenda.

Micro-credentials provide great flexibility to the HEI and VET Providers, that can include either offering the training material in a form of complete course or can add it to a certified course they are offering at local level. This flexibility boosts the potential to exploit the material for upskilling or reskilling of the workforce. The project builds up a framework to certify the micro-credentials with the engagement of local certification agencies.

4. National Open Days report

4.1. General Overview

The Agrifood Industry (AFI) Open Days were organized by Agrifood and Food Industry Federations during their daily own main events - either internal such as Assemblies and Committees or external such as Conferences, Innovation Awards/Prizes, International Fairs with the aim to present their best practices but also to host the pilots/workshops with the help of the trainers and the experiences of the agrifood chain operators/companies.

The skills proposed during the design phase of the pilots were chosen in these areas, suggested by I-RESTART partners:

Digital tools, digital marketing, cybersecurity, AI, website build, e-commerce platform, e-mailing campaign know-how, sales strategy, exports, new aspects in food safety, technology, processing, logistics, quality control, process optimization, engineering, auditing, animal wellness, veterinary activities, the food system, agriculture policy, circular agriculture, biodiversity, future farming, minerals cycle and accounting, regional/ national programmes and subsidies, entrepreneurial mindset and effectuation, opportunity recognition, business modelling for impact-driven ventures and entrepreneurial finance.

4.2. Open Day - Spain

20th March 2024 (FIAB, CTAEX, UMU, SCOOP) – Alimentaria Barcelona, Spain

❖ Planning and Organization

The Spanish Open Day was planned for the second week of March 2024, in the framework of the international fair Alimentaria Barcelona. The major trade show platform for the food and beverage, foodservice and hospitality equipment industry celebrated an edition marked by international participation and business that has once again brought together the entire sector and advanced the industry's main lines and trends. Parallel sessions were developed during the four days of the fair, where representatives from the Food Industry mainly, but also from Primary Production and Hospitality sector, presented their innovations and reinforced the networking with other chain actors.

FIAB created an agenda for the ALIBER sessions organized during Alimentaria Barcelona and invited stakeholders to attend.

Wednesday, March 20th

- 10:30-13:30** PACT FOR SKILLS - ERASMUS+
Location: CC1-Room 1.2.
- OPEN DAY – I-RESTART Project - TRAINING SKILLS AGRIFOOD SECTOR.**
- 10:30-10:40** Welcome – FIAB.
- 10:40-11:00** Restart ERASMUS+ SKILLS AGRIFOOD SECTOR – FIAB.
- 11:00-12:30** Training Modules Outline – CTAEX, Spanish Agri-Food Cooperatives, University of Murcia.
- AGRIFOOD SECTOR SKILLS NEEDS - ERASMUS+ PACT FOR SKILLS.**
- 12:30-12:50** PACT FOR SKILLS – European pact for upgrading skills in the agri-food sector - University of Turin.
- 12:50-13:10** AISKILLS4CIRCULARTRANSITION Project – Training in Digitalization and circular Economy – Equipo Humano Foundation.
- 13:10-13:30** EFFECT Project – Training in healthy food and lifestyle for children – ANIA.
- 13:45-14:45** Lunch - Cocktail
Location: FIAB Event Zone, Tapies Catering Area.
- 15:00-17:00** LIVING-LAB EUROPEAN PROJECTS SESSION
Location: CC1-Room 1.2.
LIVING LAB FOODPATHS – Sustainability, Food Waste, Food Safety, and New Protein – HORIZON EUROPE.
- 15:00-15:15** Welcome – FIAB.
- FOODPATHS** – Partnership for sustainable food systems.
- 15:10-15:30** FOODPathS – INRAE.
- 15:30-15:45** Challenges and solutions for engaging private partners in the SFS Partnership – FoodDrinkEurope.
- 15:45-16:00** Our suggestion for the Ideal Partnership – Confagricoltura.
- 16:00-16:15** HUB of Living labs – ANIA.
- 16:15-16:30** Modus operandi FoodForLife-Spain – FIAB.
- 16:30-16:40** PLANEAT – Transforming food systems towards a healthier and more sustainable diet - Universitat Oberta Catalunya. – SPES GEIE
- 16:40-16:50** CHORIZO – Fighting against food waste, Social Norms – FIAB
- 16:50-17:00** CATALYSE – Food safety innovation – EFFoST

Thursday, March 21st

- 12:00-16:00** LEITAT FACILITIES GUIDED TOUR.*
Meeting Point: South Gate of ALIMENTARIA.

*By exclusive invitation only.



Figure 1. Agenda for ALIBER sessions

The previous weeks, the session was announced via social media and mailing, and a registration form was open. Invitations were provided for those attendees who register to the Open Day.



Figure 2. Promotion of the session via Twitter (X)

On Wednesday the 20th, the Open Day session was organised by FIAB in collaboration with the Spanish partners: CTAEX, University of Murcia and SCOOP. The session started at 10:30 with a warm welcoming from FIAB, where Concha Ávila, Head of European Projects, presented the participants and explained the aim of the Open Day. Afterwards, Gabriela Alcat, Project Manager at FIAB, gave an overview of previous FIELDS project and I-RESTART project, presented the aims and explained the methodology of the Focus Groups and the 3 sectors represented. Gaspar Ros, Professor at the University of Murcia gave a quick explanation about micro-credentials and training modules outline.



Several posts were shared to announce the beginning of the session with the aim of gaining impact through social media. Also, dissemination material such as leaflets were printed and shared with the participants and other visitants of the fair.

Each of the sectors was explained by an expert on the field: Food Industry modules were guided by Ana Serrano, Project Manager at CTAEX; Primary Production modules were explained by Juan Sagarna, Sustainability, Innovation and Quality Department Manager from SCOOP; and Veterinary modules were well shared with the audience by Elisa Escudero, Professor at the University of Murcia.





❖ Participants

Attendees from Universities, Technological and Research Centres, Food Industry and Primary Sector. Many partners from I-Restart project attend also to the National Open Day.

❖ Feedback & Survey response

The Open Day was closed with a survey that was kindly answered by some of the participants in the audience. The form was a feed-back survey in Spanish based on the survey from T3.3.



4.3. Open Day – Italy (2)

8th November 2023 (CONFRAGRI and INFOR) – Ecomondo-The Green Technology Expo, Rimini, Italy

❖ Planning and Organization

The Italian Open Day was celebrated the 8th of November 2023, in the framework of the Ecomondo 2023 - The Green Technology Expo, that took place in Rimini, Italy. Ecomondo is a key event for green and circular economy. It's the meeting place where industrial groups, stakeholders, policy makers, opinion leaders, local authorities, research bodies and institutions come together and put in place the key elements that define the strategies for the development of EU environmental policy.

During the event, 2 different sessions were organized by Confagricoltura and INFOR. Confagricoltura created an agenda for both sessions to invite people to participate.



Figure 7. Agenda for 2 sessions. Italian Open Day.

First, a presentation of the I-RESTART project and the Pact for Skills was made from 10:00 to 11:00. In the afternoon, from 16:15 to 17:15, the partners presented the outlines of the training content with discussion among participants: "Pact for skills: Sustainable production, digitalization, and a one-health approach: a world of new skills for agriculture (I-Restart Open Days)". The official presentation was used during training session.

Figure 8. Presentation used during Open Day.



Figure 9. Confagri and INFOR celebrated the Italian Open Day.

The session was shared in Twitter and LinkedIn with the aim of gaining impact through social media.

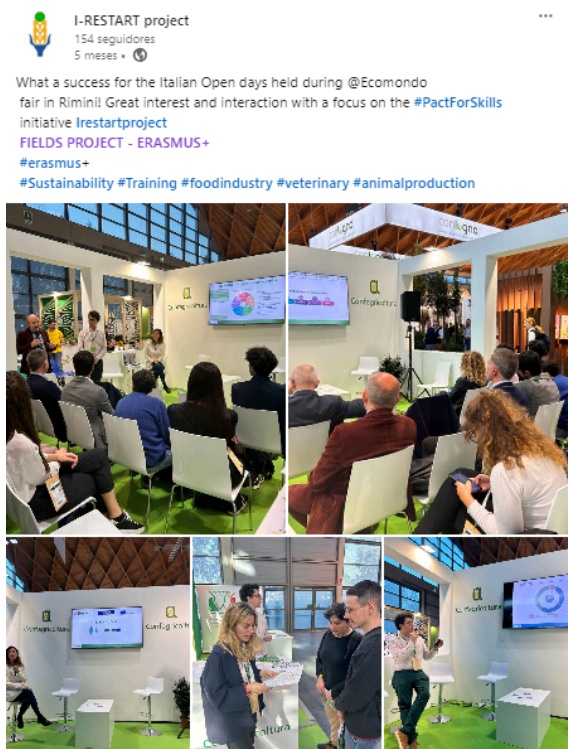
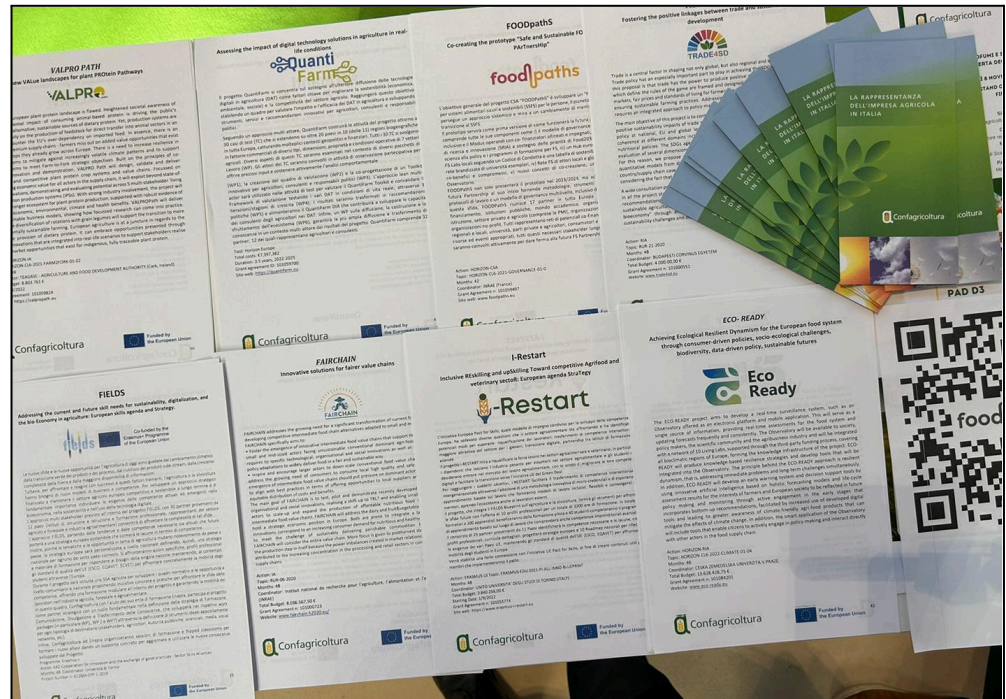


Figure 10. Italian Open Day shared in social media.



Also, dissemination material such as leaflets were printed and shared with the participants and other visitants of the fair.

Figure 11. Printed material.

Tancredi Marini, from Confagricoltura also prepared an article for Mondo Agricolo, where he presented the project and the session held during Ecomondo, called “I Progetti Europei di Confagricoltura ad ECOMONDO: spostiamo in avanti le conoscenze per innovare!”.

❖ Participants

15 participants in the morning session.
26 participants in the afternoon session.

❖ Feedback & Survey response

The Open Day was closed with a survey that was kindly answered by some of the participants in the audience.



24th October 2023 (FEDERALIMENTARE) – Cibus Tec, Fiere di Parma, Italy “The future of agrifood: sustainability, one health and new technologies”.

❖ Planning and Organization

The second Italian Open Day organised by Federalimentare was celebrated on October 24th, 2024, in the framework of **CIBUS TEC Exhibition** (Parma, 24-27 Oct 2023), the key event for technology innovations for the agrifood sector, where the actors of food & beverage supply chain, policy makers, authorities, research centres and stakeholders can meet to evaluate next challenges and draw an outlook of current context of food tech.

Federalimentare organized the event **“The future of agrifood: sustainability, one health and new technologies”**, involving main representatives of the food industry, food technologists and experts in agrifood research. In fact, after a brief introduction of the President of Federalimentare, important speakers took the floor to deepen important topics, such as the role of food technologies to increase the sustainability level of our productions; in addition, an interesting focus was made about the three pillars of sustainability, that are economic, social and environmental, as vital factor for always more sustainable future. To continue, as this topic is gaining momentum nowadays, an overview of the opportunities deriving from genome editing in agrifood sector was given to let stakeholders understand the great potential of this kind of genetic improvement. Moreover, the event was the occasion to embrace, in a one health approach, other two important topics relevant for food industry: traceability and blockchain. Last but not least, a deep presentation of I-Restart EU Project was given, as its objectives are fully in line with the scope of the event.

I-RESTART promo material was shared during and after the conference, as Project presentation really impressed stakeholders present at the event.

Almost 30 participants were registered.



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 122 - Picture of the audience.

IL FUTURO DELL'AGRIFOOD: SOSTENIBILITÀ, ONE HEALTH E NUOVE TECNOLOGIE

CIBUS TEC, Parma - 24 ottobre 2023 15:00/17:00

Nell'ambito del progetto Europeo I-Restart



- 15:00 Apertura - *Presidente di Federalimentare, Paolo Mascarino*
- 15:10 Il ruolo delle tecnologie alimentari per un futuro sempre più sostenibile
Stefano Zardetto, Ordine Nazionale dei Tecnologi Alimentari
- 15:30 I tre pilastri della sostenibilità nell'agrifood del futuro
Maurizio Notarfonso, ENEA
- 15:50 *Genome editing: miglioramento genetico avanzato per l'innovazione nell'agroalimentare*
Ombretta Presenti, ENEA
- 16:15 *Tracciabilità e blockchain per un approccio one health.*
Massimo Iannetta, ENEA
- 16:30 *Il progetto europeo I-Restart*
Giorgia Sabbatini, FEDERALIMENTARE
- 16:45 Q&A

Per info e registrazioni: gabbatini@federalimentare.it.
Sarà garantito un biglietto di ingresso gratuito a fronte della conferma di partecipazione, fino a esaurimento posti in sala.

Figure 13. Agenda of the event – OPEN DAY organised by FEDERALIMENTARE.

The invitation to participants were sent mainly via e-mail to Federalimentare and ENEA stakeholders, and communication mainly involved CIBUS TEC online channels, such as the “Event Calendar” available online within the website of the exhibition and disseminated to all exhibitors.

❖ Participants

32 participants in total.

❖ Feedback & Survey response

Before closing the Open Day, a survey was disseminated through QR code among participants, gathering 24 anonymous feedback. The majority of the respondents agreed that topics covered were crucial for the future of agrifood, and some of them, such as the one health approach should be further deepened and embraced.

4.4. Open Day – The Netherlands

28th February 2024 (AERES and WUR) -

❖ Planning and Organization

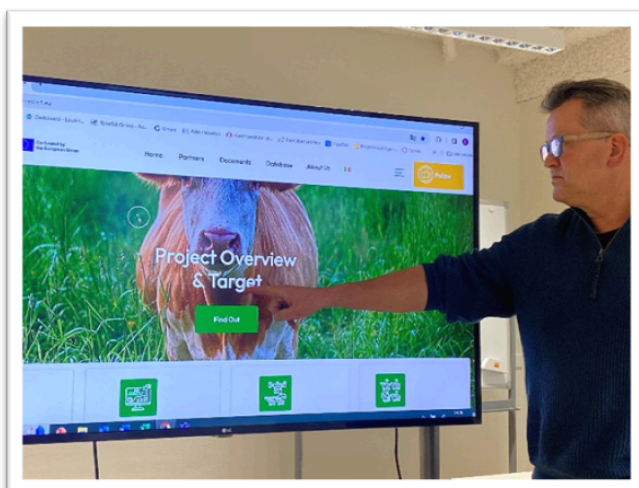


Figure 14. National Open Day in The Netherlands.

Conference Agricultural Skills I-Restart Promotion of Agricultural Production & Fine particulate matter emission reduction.

❖ Participants

Industry stakeholders in the field of sustainable animal production 120 -140 representatives attended.

4.5. Open Day – Austria

8th of April 2024 (LVA) – Food Industry Representative’s Meeting in Klosterneuburg

❖ Planning and Organization

An agreement has been reached with the management of a leading Austrian company in the food sector to include the open days into their general meeting of food industry experts. This ensured the participation of highly qualified members representing various backgrounds.



Figure 15. National Open Days in Austria

❖ Participants

The participants consisted of 7 lecturers with different fields of expertise relevant for the food industry and around 70 professionals working in the food sector. Fields of expertise include the dairy-, meat-, and produce industries, as well as related fields such as food enhancing agents, pest management, regulatory frameworks, food contact material management, quality management, etc.

❖ Feedback & Survey response

Feedback was gathered at the end of the presentation.

The audience agreed on digitalization, understanding new technologies, and openness to change as a central point of future development in the food industry. It was seen as highly imperative for higher competitiveness of the Austrian industry on the global market.

Sustainability was seen as an important issue, but also as something which has already been discussed in deep enough detail. Information on sustainable strategies can already be gathered from many different sources, and awareness is seen to be at an all time high. However, implementation of sustainable practices is seldomly discussed and information on the execution of sustainable strategies is missing.

4.6. Open Day – Greece

11th March 2024 (SEVT and AKMI) – FOOD EXPO GREECE 2024

❖ Planning and Organization

On Monday 11th March, the I-Restart project was spotlighted at [FOOD EXPO Greece!](#) Organized by SEVT - Federation of Hellenic Food Industries and [UNIVERSAL EDUCATION](#), this open day was an excellent opportunity not only to share the project and the improvements made during the training activities, but above all to demonstrate its impact on stakeholders in the Food Industry and Academia.

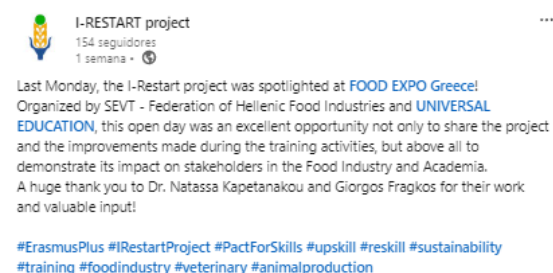


Figure 16. Greek Open Day shared in social media

4.7. Open Day – Portugal

16th November 2023 (CONFAGRI PT)

❖ Planning and Organization

To plan the organization of the Open Days, CONFAGRI contacted some Agrifood Cooperatives, focusing on some of them that have a certified training department. At the same time, they publicized the event through social networks, ensuring that it is an event truly open to all interested parties. The Open days included also a networking lunch for participants.

They contacted agro-industrial cooperative organisations with certified training departments to participate and contribute to the topics to be covered. As a result of these contacts, they involved the National Authority for Animal Health and Food (DGAV - General Directorate for Food and Veterinary) to address the issue of compulsory training in animal health, under the European Animal Health Law (Reg. (EU) 2016/429), for all professionals who work with livestock. The Law brings clearer responsibilities for farmers (livestock, fish and shellfish farms) and other people involved (e.g. vets) regarding early detection in order to prevent major disease outbreaks or prevent diseases from spreading to limit their damage.



SEMINÁRIO

16 Novembro de 2023 – Sede da CONFAGRI, Palácio de Benagazil, Rua Projetada à rua C, Aeroporto Humberto Delgado, Lisboa

- 10:00 - Recepção
- 10:15 - Abertura - CONFAGRI
- 10:30 - Necessidade de competências para o setor agroalimentar e veterinário no futuro CONFAGRI, DGA, DGADR
- 12:00 - Projeto I-Restart: Qualificação e requalificação no setor agroalimentar e veterinário – Domingos Godinho - CONFAGRI
- 12:30 - Almoço de *networking*

PROJETOS



ORGANIZADORES



The final programme, in addition to including the subject of the courses already developed in the FIELDS project and the training materials made available, as well as the I-Restart project and the skills needs that are currently being assessed, also included the subject of animal health training for producers and veterinary staff.

Figure 17. Agenda for Portuguese Open Day

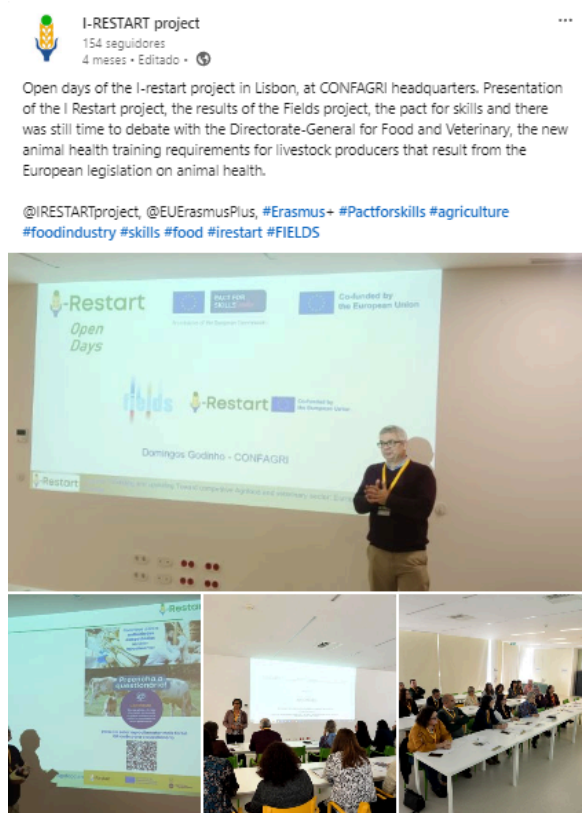
Portuguese National Open Day was organised on the same day that CONFAGRI and the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra were planning to organise a conference for dissemination and discussion about the Pact for Skills in Portugal. The venue chosen was CONFAGRI's headquarters. The session took place in the morning and early afternoon, at the same venue as the conference for the Pact for Competences in Lisbon, Portugal.



Figure 18. Portuguese Open Day.

The session was shared in Twitter and LinkedIn with the aim of gaining impact through social media.

Figure 19. Portuguese Open Day shared in social media.



❖ Participants

Number of participants per VET/HEI training centre was 24 in total, from 11 local organizations.

The workforce involved were diverse. The responsible and employees in the training department of the organizations, advisors of the farmers that deliver their production in the agri-food organizations, some trainers and members of the administration.

❖ Feedback & Survey response

Some of the highlights of participant feedback during the events were: the difficulty of older farmers and owners of small agro industries in responding to current and future demands to produce food; Also, the difficulty that occurred in Portugal in obtaining financing for training was also mentioned (it was a situational situation hoping that it will be overcome in 2024); Last but not least, the lack of available trainers was highlighted, considering that most livestock producers must have training, within the scope of the European ANIMAL HEALTH Law.

The urgent and innovative skills identified by participants during the survey were:

1. The need of skills in digitalization.
2. The need of skills in the use of data from remote sensors (satellite).
3. The need of skills in animal welfare.
4. The need of skills animal feed efficiency (climate change).

The survey was promoted, but we do not know the results of the participants in the open days, because the answers were submitted anonymously.

4.8 Open Day – Romania

❖ Planning and Organization

The I-RESTART Open Day was integrated into the annual General Assembly of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) held at the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, on April 12th. To ensure broader engagement, online participation options were extended to the public, facilitated through invitations disseminated across EBVS social media platforms (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram) as well as via email to I-RESTART partners and the EBVS Community.

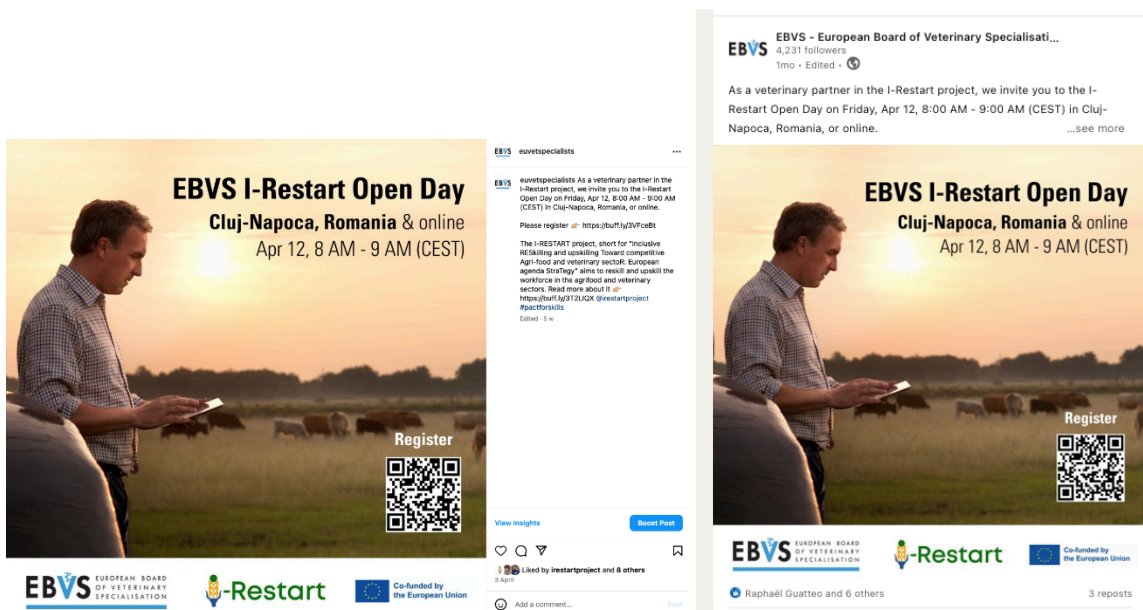


Figure 20. Invitation on EBVS Social Media (Instagram and LinkedIn).

❖ Participants

The EBVS General Assembly convened representatives from each of the 27 European veterinary specialty colleges affiliated with EBVS, alongside guests from prominent organizations within the veterinary domain: the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), the AVMA Veterinary Specialty Committee (VSOC), and the Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe (VetCEE). Altogether 47 participants.

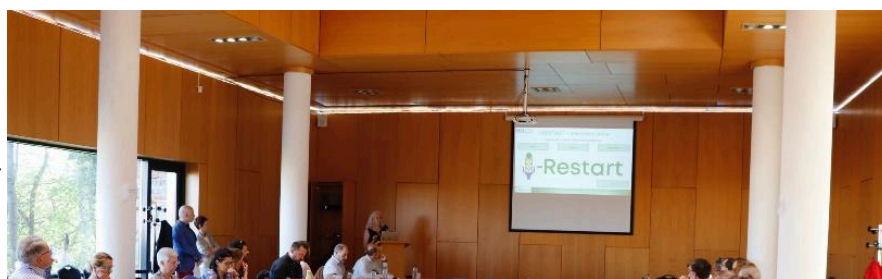


Figure 21. Open Day in Romania.

The session was chaired by members of the EBVS Executive Committee: Zoe Polizopoulou, Gonalo da Graa Pereira, Rapha l Guatteo, along with EBVS CEO Julie Rosser and EBVS Director of Education Mark Bowen.

Presenters shared The Training Outline presentation, centered on the prioritization of materials to be developed by the consortium. Key areas identified for content development most relevant for the EBVS members included data literacy, clinical statistics, including big data and AI. A second module will be developed around skills for business, including communication skills. The third priority will be around responsible medicines and chemical use that will include content in antimicrobial resistance, use of biocides and their alternatives. Notably, the production of high-quality video content was emphasized to elucidate concepts within these domains. Printed leaflets elucidating the project's scope were distributed among participants to facilitate further understanding.



Figure 22. Open Day in Romania.

❖ Feedback & Survey response

Feedback was gathered at the end of the presentation with a positive support of the project. And participants were invited to send additional questions via e-mail to EBVS or irestart@ebvs.eu.



Figure 23. I-RESTART shared through leaflets.

5. Annexes

The signature sheets that register the attendance to the National Open Days are attached as Annexes. See table of Annexes.

- Anex 1. Signature sheet - Spain.
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