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International



## EUROPEAN PROJECTS

### NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024

AKMI INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS' NEWS

**01** AKMI Hosts International Workshop on Experiential Learning and Competency Assessment

**02** AGRINNOHUB: Pioneering Precision Agriculture Across Borders

**03** Empowering Vocational Education: Design Together Project

**04** Re-Direction: Redefining Higher Education on a digital context, while promoting a common, inclusive and sustainable framework



### 01 | AKMI Hosts International Workshop on Experiential Learning and Competency Assessment

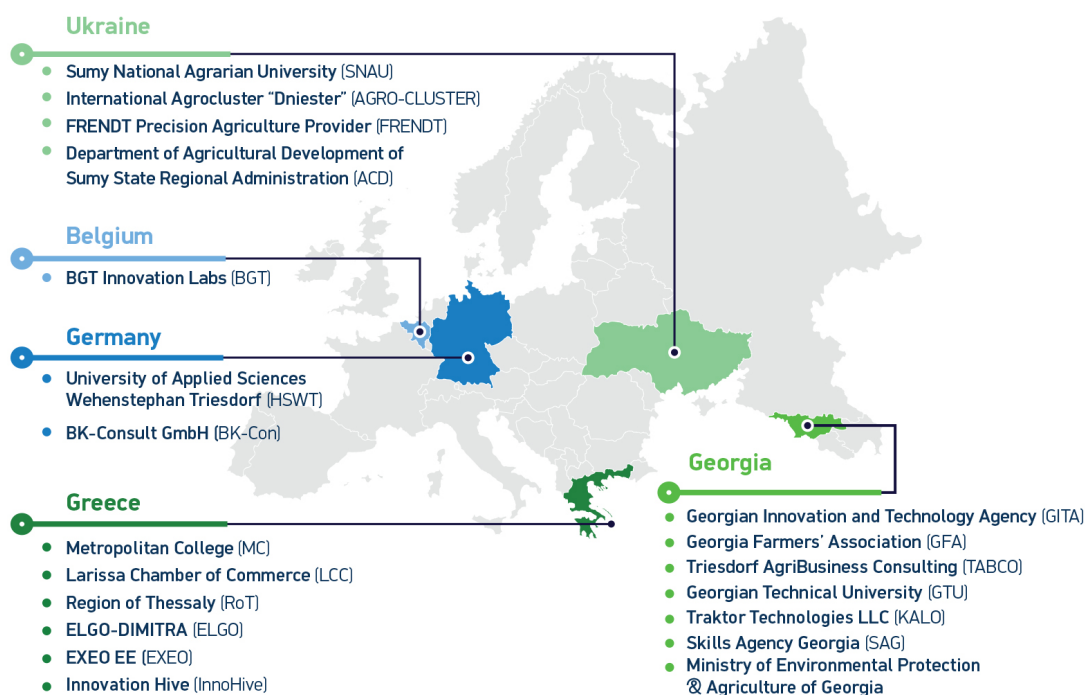
On Wednesday, March 13th, and Thursday, March 14th, we were delighted to host **32 esteemed experts** from the **Ukrainian Ministry of Education**, alongside **Mr. Giorgos Zisimos, Head of the Policy Advice & EU Programming Unit at the European Training Foundation**. Our event also featured distinguished speakers from **ETF, EVBB, EVTA, AfPA**, and **Mimbus**, gathering at our Metropolitan College premises located in Maroussi and Akadimias.

Over two days, participants engaged in a dynamic exchange of innovative ideas, immersive learning experiences, and inspiring activities focused on experiential learning and competency assessment. The first day of the workshop commenced with a special address by **Mr. Spyros Protopsaltis, Governor of DYPA**, who delivered valuable insights on the imperative of upskilling and reskilling the Greek labor force for the green and digital transition. Additionally, we had the privilege of hosting **Mr. Antonis Glaros, Head of Communication & Development Directorate at EOPPEP & EQAVET National Reference Point (NRP) Coordinator**, who shared invaluable perspectives on quality assurance methodologies for IVET Study Programs in Greece.

This collaborative endeavor yielded significant outcomes for **AKMI**, including active involvement in researching and discussing **VET qualification standards** across ETF member countries. Furthermore, AKMI is currently discussing its participation in the **upcoming ETF workshop** in Turin, focusing on the role of VET centers of excellence in providing adult learning opportunities.

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## 02 | AGRINNOHUB: Pioneering Precision Agriculture Across Borders



We're thrilled to announce that **Metropolitan College** has submitted a groundbreaking proposal titled **"Accelerating Cross-Regional Collaboration for Precision Agri-Tech**

**Development and Sustainable Agro-Ecosystems in Greece, Georgia, and Ukraine"** (AGRINNOHUB) under the call **HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07: Excellence Hubs**.

**AGRINNOHUB** aims to revolutionize R&I ecosystems in **Thessaly** (Greece), **Kakheti** (Georgia), and **Sumy** (Ukraine). Our goal? To advance R&I capacities in scalable precision agriculture technologies, focusing on agroforestry, horticulture, and crop production. This initiative will not only enhance scientific excellence but also promote sustainable agro-ecosystems through a cross-regional **Excellence Hub** that engages 20 partners from three widening countries (Greece, Georgia, Ukraine) and two subject-matter expert EU countries (Germany, Belgium).

The statistics reveal that **80% of Greeks**, **99% of Georgians**, and **98% of Ukrainians** are small-holder farmers and medium-sized producers. Large corporations, constituting a small portion of a nation's production power, are the primary adopters of precision technologies. The former refrain from using precision technologies due to insufficient resources and capacities. Precision technologies, as demonstrated in international literature, have been shown to lower farming costs, improve food security, and reduce pollution. **AGRINNOHUB** consortium will design and implement a **long-term visionary R&I Strategy** along with an investment action plan aimed at increasing R&D efforts, enhancing the uptake of precision technologies, and fostering innovation in the deep agri-tech sector.

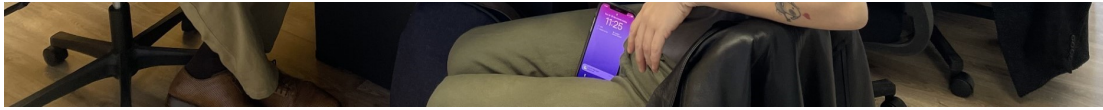
Why does it matter? The submission of **AGRINNOHUB** to the **Horizon Europe program** is a landmark achievement, underscoring our commitment to pushing the boundaries of research and innovation. Despite the outcome, this step forward in our application to one of the most prestigious research and innovation frameworks globally marks a significant milestone in our journey.

Stay tuned

### 03 | Empowering Vocational Education: Design Together Project







The "**Design Together**" project is a bold initiative aimed at bridging the gap between **Vocational Education and Training (VET)** and the ever-evolving needs of the **labor market** across **Europe** and **Sub-Saharan Africa**. Recognizing the widening chasm between the skills imparted in VET programs and those demanded by employers, especially amidst rapid digital transformation, this project emerges as a beacon of innovation and adaptability.

At its core, "**Design Together**" seeks to rejuvenate VET curricula, rendering them more pertinent, flexible, and attuned to the dynamic shifts within workplaces.

### **Unveiling Insights: The Study Visit**

Recently, a pivotal moment unfolded with the two-day Study Visit hosted at the premises of **AKMI** in Athens, Greece. This event marked a significant capacity-building opportunity for AU VET providers. Here, they were immersed in the intricacies of a modern **VET curriculum assessment system**, witnessed firsthand the vibrant atmosphere of VET classrooms, and explored the cutting-edge facilities at AKMI.

Beyond the tangible, the Study Visit served as a nexus for invaluable exchanges. Participants engaged in insightful discussions, delving into the practical nuances and challenges of curriculum modernization within their respective countries. Moreover, they gleaned from best practice examples and forged meaningful connections with **EU organizations**, paving the way for future collaborations between **African** and **European VET Schools**.

Adding a cultural flair to the enriching experience, the Study Visit culminated in a captivating excursion to the iconic archaeological site of **Akropolis**, fostering a deeper appreciation for Greece's rich heritage.

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## **04 | Re-Direction: Redefining Higher Education on a digital context, while promoting a common, inclusive and sustainable framework**





On 19-21 March, the **Re-Direction** project launched its kick-off meeting in **Tbilisi, Georgia**. This ambitious initiative, funded under the **Capacity Building in Higher Education Erasmus+ Call**, aims to revolutionize the digital landscape of higher education in Ukraine and Georgia.

The project unites 13 universities from **Germany, Greece, Georgia, and Ukraine**, along with 2 ministries from Georgia and Ukraine, and one international Quality Assurance Company from Germany in a concerted effort to reshape and align higher education with contemporary digital frameworks, sustainable practices, and the demands of the labor market.

**Metropolitan College** was present at the meeting and, as the lead partner of **WP2 - Development of a Methodological Framework** for the readjustment of the current pedagogical methods applied, presented the working methodology, timeline, and expected results.

Two study visits to **Caucasus University** and **Georgian International University**, as well as a meeting with representatives of the **Ministry of Education**, marked the successful completion of the Kick-Off Meeting and laid the groundwork for efficient communication among partners and the smooth implementation of the project.

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