



HortifoodInclusion: Cultivating Skills, Processing Inclusion

An Erasmus+ initiative empowering people with special needs through sensory-based vocational training in horticulture and food processing

Newsletter #1

The HortiFoodInclusion project officially launched with a successful kick-off meeting in Vienna, bringing together international partners to improve vocational training for individuals with special needs. This inaugural newsletter highlights the project's core objectives, the participating partner organizations, and the inspiring outcomes of our first transnational gathering.

About HortiFoodInclusion

The HortiFoodInclusion project aims to enhance the skills of Vocational Education and Training (VET) professionals working with hearing-impaired individuals and those with learning disabilities. Scheduled to run for 36 months, the initiative officially started on November 1, 2025, and will conclude on October 31, 2028. By developing sense-based teaching materials—utilizing haptic, acoustic, and visual methods—the project focuses on systemic thinking and sustainability within horticulture and food processing. Ultimately, this tailored approach will increase the flexibility of VET opportunities and improve labor market access for people with special needs.

Our European Partnership

A diverse consortium of five organizations from across Europe drives this initiative, combining expertise in pedagogy, social inclusion, and sustainable agriculture. Each partner plays a specific role in researching best practices, creating the didactic concept, and developing digital learning formats.

-  **Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik** - Lead partner; green care pedagogy, project management, and MOOC development
-  **Lišov Múzeum** - Rural development and traditional crafts; leading the SWOT analysis and good practices collection
-  **Berufsbildungswerk Mosbach - Heidelberg** - Vocational training institution for young people with special needs; elaborating the competence profile for teachers
-  **Fundación Monte Mediterráneo** - Organic farming and inclusive training; leading the didactic concept and interactive handbook
-  **Wonderchapter - Unipessoal, Lda.** - Psychological research and marketing; managing the Blended Learning Course and dissemination

Kick-Off Meeting in Vienna

From January 29 to 31, 2026, partners gathered at the Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik in Vienna to officially launch their cooperative work.

The agenda successfully focused on establishing project management structures, aligning work packages, and setting a clear timeline for collaborative deliverables.

Furthermore, participants engaged in vital initial discussions regarding the upcoming needs analysis, good practices, and the foundational didactic concept.



Inspiration from 3erHof



A highlight of the visit was the farm's bakery, which provides meaningful daily employment and workplace integration for people with learning disabilities.

Partners also observed the farm's animal-assisted therapy (animotherapy) activities, demonstrating the powerful educational and therapeutic role of human-animal contact in an inclusive setting.

The meeting program featured an educational excursion to the 3erHof, an inclusive organic farm near Vienna that seamlessly integrates sustainable agriculture, education, and social care.



Let's Grow Together!

Thank you for being part of our journey toward a more inclusive future in vocational education. If you have any questions or would like to collaborate, feel free to reach out to us.

HortifoodInclusion is an Erasmus+ KA220 initiative dedicated to the professional inclusion of people with special needs. We focus on horticulture and food processing, developing innovative sensory-based teaching materials (sight, touch, sound, and smell) to support VET teachers and trainers. Our mission is to foster autonomy, develop professional skills, and create real opportunities in the labor market through a more human and accessible approach to learning.

Partners



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