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**WEBSITE:**

<https://www.nextfood-project.eu/>



## Nextfood - Educating the next generation of professionals in the agrifood system

### Practice Abstract #35: Finding solutions to learners' acquisition of hands-on experience during the pandemic

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At the University of Oradea, Romania, in the interdisciplinary course "Students and farmers taking food innovations from idea to market", learners work in teams on product development thereby training competences and skills ranging from technical, soft, to entrepreneurial and ICT skills. In dedicated reflection sessions, learners are made aware of connections that are normally established in real life during product development within the research teams performing cooperative learning working together on specific projects.

Following the pandemic hitting Europe in the spring of 2020, however, communication was disrupted among team members and among and with facilitators, teachers and other actors involved in the course. Thus, communication was transferred to the digital environment. The lack of real life experiences in the product development process was also significant as learners could not acquire hands-on knowledge and skills related to the technology, products and operation of machinery. Thus, real life experiences were replaced with videos supporting the learning process. Furthermore, due to the limited amount of learners present during course meetings, brainstorming sessions and learner arenas - usually providing space for presenting and debating research results in a very specific and focused way and leading to self-reflection and collective reflection - were no longer available in a face-to-face format. It took time until facilitators found solutions to create space for online conferences, workshops and reflection sessions in the digital arena. This process came to place through listening and learning from other partners' experiences in the peer learning working groups supporting the NextFood cases.