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**Funding:** Horizon 2020, European Union

**Call:** Rural Renaissance – Fostering Innovation and Business Opportunities

**Topic:** RUR-13-2017 Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice

**Grant agreement:** No 771738

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**Coordinator:**

Dr Martin Melin, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp, Sweden

**WEBSITE:**

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



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

### Practice Abstract #59: Strategies for improvements of the educational system through meeting with stakeholders

Author: Davide Viaggi, Yaprak Kurtal, Giacomo Rinaldi, Federica Savini (UNIBO, Italy)

In NEXTFOOD, strategies have been identified for improving the educational and training system in the Agriculture, Food and Forestry (AFF) sectors through a round of 10 workshops in different regions of the world with the participation of more than 60 stakeholders (academics, advisors and officers from a variety of public and private organizations). Despite the different origins and contexts, stakeholders shared the same vision for many aspects of a new educational agenda in AFF sectors. On some points, diverging opinions reflected the different backgrounds of each workshop and each participant. The most relevant strategies identified were: i) increasing practical knowledge and experiences; ii) improving skills and competences, mostly in the field of digital skills; iii) enhancing collaborations among different actors involved in the educational process (schools, professional institutes, universities, research institutes, ministries, advisors, etc.); iv) setting up a dialogue with stakeholders external to academy. Furthermore, widespread opinions were both the importance of attracting new targets (e.g. young urban people) and making the sector gender neutral (breaking down barriers for females). Various indications also pointed directly to suggested areas of improvement of existing policies, such as: a) reduction of administrative burden to allow a more flexible construction of educational and training processes; b) sharing of a common accreditation system across the EU to enhance international mobility and networking; c) filling the digital gap with financial and technical support; d) facilitating social inclusion to young people and women in education processes leading to better employment opportunities.



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

### Practice Abstract #59: Strategie per migliorare il sistema educativo attraverso l'incontro con gli stakeholders

Authors: Davide Viaggi, Yaprak Kurtal, Giacomo Rinaldi, Federica Savini (University of Bologna)

Il progetto NEXTFOOD ha identificato strategie per il miglioramento del sistema formativo nell'agroalimentare e nel settore forestale (settori AFF) attraverso 10 workshop in diverse regioni del mondo e con la partecipazione di più di 60 stakeholder invitati (accademici, ricercatori, consulenti e funzionari di organizzazioni sia pubbliche che private). Nonostante la diversità di origine e contesti, i partecipanti condividevano per molti aspetti la stessa visione di una futura agenda formativa nei settori AFF. Su alcuni punti, opinioni diverse hanno rispecchiato le peculiarità di ogni workshop e ogni partecipante. Le più rilevanti strategie individuate sono state: i) incrementare il sapere pratico e le esperienze sul campo; ii) aumentare le competenze, soprattutto quelle digitali; iii) aumentare le collaborazioni tra gli attori coinvolti nella formazione (scuole, istituti professionali, università, ministeri, consulenti, ecc.); iv) impostare un dialogo con attori esterni al mondo formativo (industria, comunità locali, paesi esteri, ecc.). Inoltre, opinioni diffuse sono l'importanza di attrarre nuovi soggetti (es. i giovani da aree urbane) e la neutralità di genere nel settore (abbattendo le barriere per le donne). Varie indicazioni hanno poi suggerito aree di miglioramento delle politiche esistenti, come: a) ridurre la pressione amministrativa per una più flessibile costruzione dei processi educativi; b) condividere un sistema di accreditamento comune tra gli Stati UE, per potenziare la mobilità internazionale e il fare rete; c) colmare le lacune digitali con supporto tecnico e finanziario; d) facilitare l'inclusione sociale di giovani e donne nei processi educativi al fine di migliorare le opportunità lavorative.