

# RURASL 3.0

SERVICE-LEARNING FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## Welcome

to the 4<sup>th</sup> issue of the electronic newsletter of the RURASL project, where both public and stakeholders will be able to find information about the project's progress regularly. We invite you to join our wide group of SL promotors and to send us collected feedback.

### RURASL

is a knowledge alliance between different European higher education institutions (HEI) and rural partners that aims at setting up and implementing a framework for an integrated transnational approach of academic teaching and learning and thus contribute to the development of rural areas. This is achieved through an innovative methodology that not only meets the needs of these communities and increases innovation in these areas but also leads to closer community-HEI partnerships.

### Service-Learning (SL)

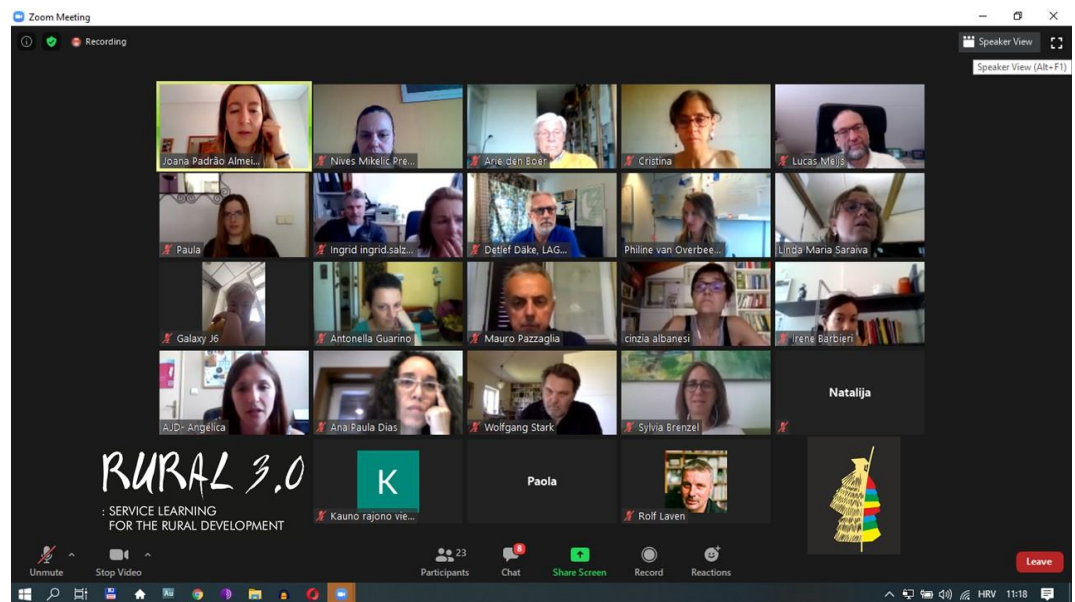
An educational approach that combines learning objectives with community service in order to provide new educational standards for students by tackling real-life needs in their community.

### Social Entrepreneurship (SE)

Recognises social problems and uses entrepreneurial values to create and organise innovative ways to promote social change

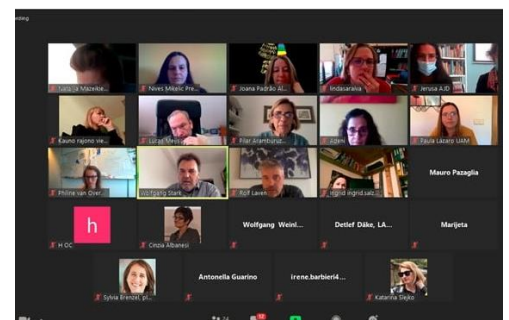
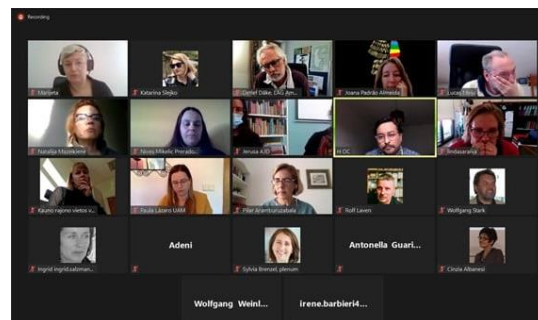
### RURASL

The consortium wants to create a rural SL and a teaching model that combine the strengths of SL strategy with SE and that could be implemented worldwide.



Like the whole world, our project has moved to online implementation. Instead of in Munich, our host Wolfgang Stark from SCE-Germany organised a project meeting at Zoom on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. We had a special guest at the meeting, Mr. Héctor Opazo from ABC Lab\_USCH-Chile, who is the external evaluator of the RURASL project. The external evaluation of our work so far has been focused on Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact and Sustainability.

Through the extraordinary efforts of our coordinators Linda Saraiva and Joana Padrão from IPVC Portugal, we have successfully submitted an Interim Report to the European Commission (EC). In November, the Interim Report positively evaluated by the EC, made our RURASL team very proud and happy of the project's valuable results. Despite the problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project activities have been under its aims and objectives, and all work packages are making progress.



# WHO ARE WE?

## Higher Education Institutions (HEI)

Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo - Portugal

University College of Teacher Education Vienna - Austria

University of Zagreb - Croatia

Rotterdam School of Management Erasmus University - The Netherlands

Strascheg Center for Entrepreneurship - Germany

Autonomous University of Madrid - Spain

Vytautas Magnus University - Lithuania

University of Bologna - Italy

## Rural Partners

AJD - Portugal

LAG 5 - Croatia

LAG Ammersee - Germany

Kaunas district LAG - Lithuania

Galsinma - Spain

Stichting Schutsluis Alblasserdam - The Netherlands

Plenum - Austria

LAG L'Altra Romagna - Italy

LAG = Local Action Group

# ONLINE WORLD CAFÉ

<https://zoom.us/j/93947583608>



30  
SEPTEMBER  
2020

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

possibilities in future SL projects. The Online World Café was a space where a hospitable and safe dialogue occurred, inviting and encouraging everyone's participation and ideas. You can watch the full recording of the event on [Rural 3.0 YouTube Channel](#).

Beginning with jazzy music, like in a real street café, [the Online World Café](#) took place on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, with more than sixty participants. The main topic was "Service-Learning Cooperation between universities and rural partners." During the online world café session, that was made up of three rounds, participants shared their Service-Learning (SL) experiences and discussed opportunities, challenges, threats and obstacles in the SL implementation. Participants also discussed how academic ideas and rural needs meet best, how can barriers in mutual understanding be overcome, how can new communication channels be established, and even potential and



## Service-Learning projects in Austria: Bird saving project



The Austrian team has realised a transdisciplinary co-creation project with students of two different universities and disciplines, and with two rural partners: PhWIEN (University College of Teacher Education Vienna) and BOKU (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna) and representatives of the rural partners' PLENUM and EBI VEREIN. They started with two "live" modules in March 2020 but were stopped by the Covid-19 lockdown in Austria.

**WERKZEUGE:**

- NUSSENKLEBER
- BOHRMASCHE
- BEHÄLTERFOLIE

**MATERIAL:**

- HOLZLEHRE
- JUTEBAND
- NUSSE

**DER NUSSTRAUM**

1. KLEBE NUSSE IN DER HALBE AUF.
2. BOHR IN EIN BREIT AN EINEM RAND 2 CM LOCHER.
3. FÜLE MIT DER BEHÄLTERFOLIE DIE NUSSE AUF DAS HOLZLEHRE.
4. FÜLE DEN JUTEBAND DURCH DIE 2 CM LOCHER UND NICHE EINEN ANDEREN.
5. HÄNG DEN NUSSTRAUM AUF.



Hallo Kinder! Das ist unser Stundenplan für die kommenden Wochen zum Thema Vogel!

### WIE, WO UND WAS - DER VOGEL

1. Geschichtestunde zum Vogel
2. Vogelbilder malen
3. Vogel Trivia
4. Spazierang im Wald

## INFO

Project Reference number:  
599382-EPP-1-2018-1-PT  
EPPKA2-KA

Project Acronym:  
RURASL

Project Title:  
Rural 3.0: Service-Learning for  
the Rural Development

EU grant:  
999.138,80€

Program:  
ERASMUS + KA2: Knowledge  
Alliances

Duration of the project:  
2019 – 2021

Contact:  
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This made the real conversion of the developed ideas impossible. However, the students were innovative and developed an idea book with many creative works (e.g., children's book for biodiversity issues, podcasts, birds' paths, birds dance, songs for children, etc.). You can find more about this SL project here: <https://anyflip.com/qfww/cmpq/>. You can also have a look at all project examples at <https://medienarchiv.phwien.ac.at/>.

### RURAL Service-Learning Summer School in Italy

The RURAL SL Summer School, organised by the UNIBO research team, was held in July 2020 in Appennino Romagnolo in three rural communities of Sarsina, Santa Sofia and Riolo Terme with the support of Local Action Group L'Altra Romagna. The social, health, and political situation in Italy and worldwide due to COVID-19 pandemic allowed UNIBO to implement in July the Summer School to re-build human relations in communities and respect the restrictive measures required by the pandemic. Sixteen students from different academic disciplines of the University of Bologna were selected and participated in eight projects developed and co-constructed with rural organisations, starting from an in-depth analysis of their communities' needs and resources. The SL projects aimed to develop students' transversal competences.



From the side of service, students had the chance to work with the communities in different domains such as culture for a municipal library; communication and marketing for an organisation that deals with touristic routes; community development for a cultural and youth organisation; and intergenerational re-connection for a voluntary organisation for elderly.

From the side of learning, students realised the following: the importance of communities needs and resources analysis when approaching rural communities, the use of context-related measures that allow to understand and explore rural communities and rural life (i.e., qualitative tools and informal approaches that respect rural times), the role of local tutors in mediating between university and community organisations, and the importance of participatory methodologies to empower communities and create trustworthy relations.



## FOLLOW US



<https://rural.ffzg.unizg.hr/>



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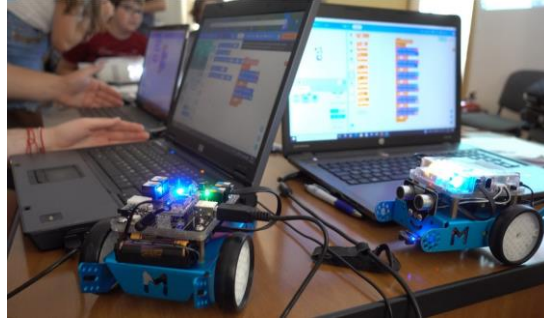
[Rural 3.0](#)



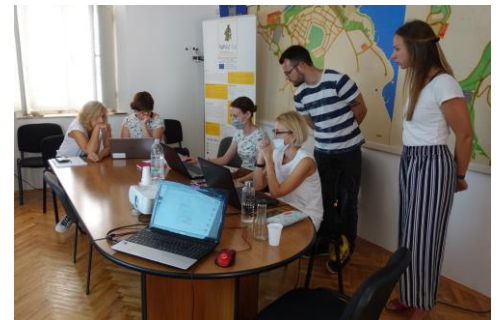
[Channel Rural 3.0](#)

## Service-Learning projects in Croatia

Students from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, went to the rural area on south Croatia (island Korčula and Pelješac peninsula) to participate in six SL projects supervised by the Local Action Group LAG 5. They responded on needs of a few rural institutions such as the Korčula Town Museum and the State Archives in Žrnovo. Also, students had led several robotics workshops with children from primary school and web design and advertising workshops for small local businesses.



The projects of most significant interest were [mBot and micro:bit for rural school children](#), which got the opportunity to discover a new, fun and interactive approach to learn, where the product of their efforts is seen immediately on the spot by the robot's reaction to a self-written computer program. With those workshops, SL contributed to children's informal education in the STEM field that is usually insufficient in rural areas.



## Social Hackathon on Rural Service-Learning



As part of Erasmus+ Days, our partner UNIBO organised the [Social Hackathon on Rural Service-Learning](#) held on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2020. In total, eighty-six participants, mostly students from eight EU countries, met online to discuss rural challenges and proposals for innovation and social

entrepreneurship. During the Social Hackathon students had the opportunity to report their rural SL projects developed in each country; share and give feedback on different experiences; discuss and reflect on the values and meanings of SL experiences and collaborate by improving solutions for the rural development. Sustainability, communities' digital empowerment, rural mobility, online communication and learning were the main challenges identified by students. They discussed the resources and needs of the different countries and tried to propose solutions that can be implemented in other contexts.