

PRESS RELEASE

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Novel Curriculum Developed

Important milestone for the qualification of experts in traditional orchards reached

The preservation and maintenance of traditional orchards, modern strategies for marketing of their products and ensuring of European educational standards are the focus of the European project ESTO - EUROPEAN SPECIALIST IN TRADITIONAL ORCHARDS, coordinated by the Thüringer Ökoherz e.V. in Weimar. The first milestone is now accomplished: The curriculum for the qualification of „experts in traditional orchards“ for students at vocational schools, universities and adult educational institutions was developed. Based on this curriculum, the pilot course will be tested in "pilot orchard schools" in partner countries before the project end (December 2014).

The curriculum and other supportive teaching materials are on-line available for all interested. On the ESTO web-page (www.esto-project.eu) you will find important information on the project and about traditional orchard topics in six different languages. Among others, the web-site offers an extensive collection of materials to traditional orchards with information on literature, public courses, links and key contacts in partner countries.

Background

Cultivation and management of traditional orchards have a long tradition in Europe. But nowadays, thousands of unattended traditional orchards shape European landscapes: More than 80 percent of all traditional orchards disappeared within the past 60 years. In most other regions changes in land use, lacking marketing activities and loss of expertise is severely threatening their viability. Thus the absence of educational schemes, presenting comprehensive expert knowledge on different aspects of traditional orchard care and management, is projects' main motivation.

About ESTO

The ESTO Project „European Specialist in Traditional Orchards“ is a project funded by the Leonardo da Vinci Lifelong Learning Programme. It involves partner organisations and other associated experts in the field of traditional orchard farming, management and education from six European countries - Austria, Poland, Hungary, Denmark, France and Germany. Meanwhile, the ESTO project started the second half of its duration (Jan. 2012 - Dec. 2014).



More information:

www.esto-project.eu

Contact:

Lenka Kovacova

Thüringer Ökoherz e.V., Schlachthofstrasse 8 - 10, 99423 Weimar

Tel. 0049 (0)36 43 / 49 53 090

E-mail: l.kovacova@oekoherz.de