Challenges for Agriculture in Central Europe

Workers in the agricultural sector often lack computer literacy, specialized digital competences. This it affects mostly traditional SMEs of the agri-food in Europe.
Moreover, an ever-decreasing percentage of youth chooses a career in farming and agriculture.

Technology providers and stakeholders should work together to innovate European agriculture and foster digitalisation and the use of ICT in the sector.

The has launched numerous initiatives to support digital **upskilling & reskilling** in the agri-food, such as:

- Skills Agenda;
- Digital EU Programme;
- Digital Decade policy programme;
- International Cooperation in Digital.

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Our objectives:

We're intervening with three main objectives:

- **Adapting Education Policies** to secure the upskilling and reskilling of farmers and agri-food workers
- **Promoting Living Lab approach** to advance on-field knowledge, stimulate participation and awareness about the importance of soil for the economy and the society
- **Fostering new talents** to orient the younger generations towards careers in the agri-food, a sector that is increasingly specialised and digitalised

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Precision Farming Knowledge Transfer Ecosystem

It brings together technology providers, machinery productors, professors, trainers, researchers, SMEs, and graduates to enhance digital competences in farming, improving the capacities and the competitiveness of the sector.

- By consulting specialists and all the stakeholders, our project has identified the key skills and competencies needed to develop Precision Farming Specialist profiles for Farmers and Manufacturers.
- Transnational workshops encourage collaboration among SMEs, local policy makers and support the implamentation of Research & Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3).
- Horizontal knowledge transfer activities are set to engage and train final users of the technology with field demonstrations, seminars, and participation to national and international exhibitions

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5 Transnational Pilot Courses

The courses are developed according to the skills and competences needed by the stakeholders by our partners with a long-established expertise in Education and Training, leveraging their previous experience and international connections.

The courses are directed to talented graduates & SME workers, focusing on Precision Farming key topics to bridge the competency gap between education and working skills required by the agri-food industries.

Agri-Digital Growth contributes to the development of an action plan for talent retention, SMEs digitalisation, and the improvement of education policies, providing valuable inputs to RIS3 managers in Central Europe.

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Living Labs approach

Our 5 Living Labs serve as platforms to stimulate peer-to-peer knowledge transfer in an informal manner through practical experience and fieldwork.

The Living Lab concept is the best cooperation approach on strategic topics, as it is founded on practical on-field knowledge, peer-to-peer interaction, and innovative methodology in the field of science education.

5 transnational pilot actions
Each Living Lab works on a site-specific Pilot Action for technology demonstration and transnational cooperation.

Each responsible partner coordinates and monitors the activities and run their validation tests, with dedicated knowledge transfer for SMEs and specialist, field technicians and Farmers and RIS3 managers.

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Expected outcomes:

Inputs to regional & national authorities to enhance their RIS3

Recommendations to educational institutions to integrate the appropriate digital skills

Tools & resources for agri-food stakeholders to bridge the digital gap

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