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Project Result 5: Digital Course in Circular Agriculture

“SKILLS”

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“Strengthening Key Competences in Agriculture
for Value Chain Knowledge”



VYTAUTO DIDŽIOJO
UNIVERSITETAS



Erasmus+



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Digital Course in Circular Agriculture

Chapter 6: Case studies of CA and Best Practices implied in CA

6.2. Best practices implied in CA

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Overview



- The aim of this presentation is to identify **exemplary case studies/successful projects** from different geographical regions and agricultural sectors that provide valuable insights into successful implementations and results, in line with the principles of Circular Agriculture (CA).
- The material also explains what best practices in agriculture mean and why these are important.
- This course presents practical examples of best practices.
- The course also includes a general report on agritourism best practices.

I. Best practices in agritourism based on the principles of CA



- Best practices in agritourism are optimal methods and strategies for agricultural enterprises that integrate tourism activities.
- The goals of the best practices:
 - to ensure sustainable development,
 - to enhance visitor experiences,
 - to preserve cultural heritages,
 - to foster economic growth within local communities.
- These include promoting organic farming, conserving natural resources, offering educational programs, partnering with the community, ensuring visitor safety, and maintaining high-quality standards.

II. The importance of best practices in agritourism



- Agritourism combines agriculture with tourism, honoring traditions, promoting sustainability, and offering immersive visitor experiences.
- The benefits of implementing best practices in agritourism are:
 - **Integration:** seamlessly integrate farming with tourism and engage visitors in farming processes and cultural traditions.
 - **Sustainability:** employ organic farming methods, conserve biodiversity and minimize environmental impact.
 - **Cultural preservation:** promote culinary traditions and cultural events and preserve regional identities and traditions.
 - **Enhanced visitor experiences:** offer farm tours, hands-on activities, and educational programs and ensure the deeper understanding of agriculture and rural life.
 - **Community and economic benefits:** stimulate local economies and create jobs; support small-scale producers and foster local partnerships.

III. Best practice examples in agritourism



The Cretan Olive Oil Farms

- Location: Crete, Greece
- Activities: olive oil production, cheese-making, pottery workshops, wine tastings
- Sustainability practices: organic farming, biodiversity promotion
- Website: [Cretan Olive Oil Farm](#)
- Takeaway: integrating diverse activities to enhance visitor experiences and promote sustainability

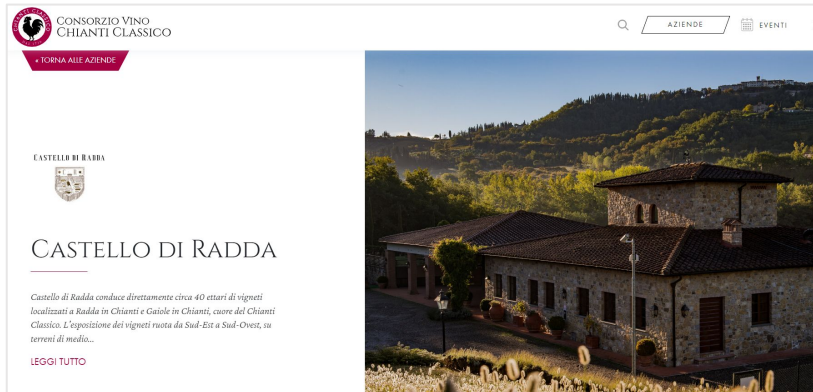
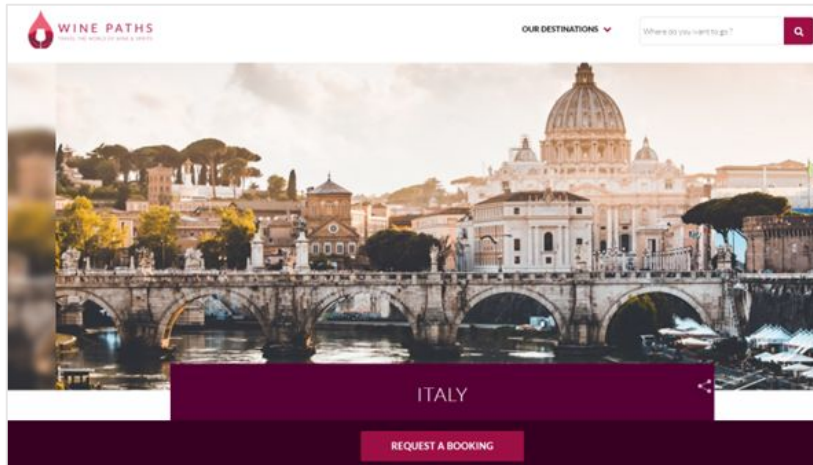
III. Best practice examples in agritourism



Nemunas Delta Regional Park

- Location: Lithuania
- Activities: bird watching, kayaking, nature photography
- Highlight: Mingė's kaimo turizmo sodyba (Mingė Village Tourism Farmstead)
- Sustainability practices: integration of tourism with traditional farming, eco-friendly development
- Website: [Nemunas Delta Regional Park](#)
- Takeaway: balancing tourism with environmental preservation

III. Best practice examples in agritourism



Castello di Radda

- Platform: Wine Paths - Luxury wine tourism experiences
- Location: Italy
- Activities: wine tastings, tours, culinary experiences, visits to historical sites, artisan workshops
- Sustainability practices: organic and biodynamic farming, waste reduction, energy-efficient systems
- Website: [Castello di Radda](#)
- Takeaway: combines luxury experiences with sustainability, promotes biodiversity, and environmental stewardship

IV. General report on agritourism best practices



- Building upon prior research, this study compares best practices from five partner countries, highlighting their diverse approaches and common principles that define successful agritourism ventures across Europe:
 - [Olon Estate in Greece](#)
 - [Cascina Savino in Italy](#)
 - [Farmers Circle in Lithuania](#)
 - [Eagle Craft Nest \(“Sasfészek”\) in Romania](#)
- For more details about these good examples check the [SKILLS Practical Guide](#) on the project website.

IV. General report on agritourism best practices



- Key components of success in the case of analyzed best practices:
 - **Integration:** ideal blend of farming activities and tourism.
 - **Sustainability:** commitment to organic farming, biodiversity, and minimal environmental impact.
 - **Cultural preservation:** emphasis on local heritage through culinary traditions and cultural events.
 - **Education:** hands-on workshops and programs that deepen visitor engagement.
 - **Community impact:** job creation, local support, and economic benefits for rural areas.

IV. General report on agritourism best practices



- **Challenges in agritourism:**
 - **Traditional farming methods:** resistance to change
 - **Collaboration:** difficulty in forming partnerships
 - **Educational outreach:** limited awareness and education efforts
 - **Infrastructure:** need for improved facilities and services
- **Opportunities in agritourism:**
 - **Modernization:** adopting new technologies and practices.
 - **EU Recommendations:** aligning with European Union guidelines for sustainable tourism.
 - **Education programs:** expanding educational offerings.
 - **Sectoral partnerships:** forming partnerships with other sectors like hospitality and education.

Future outlook for agritourism



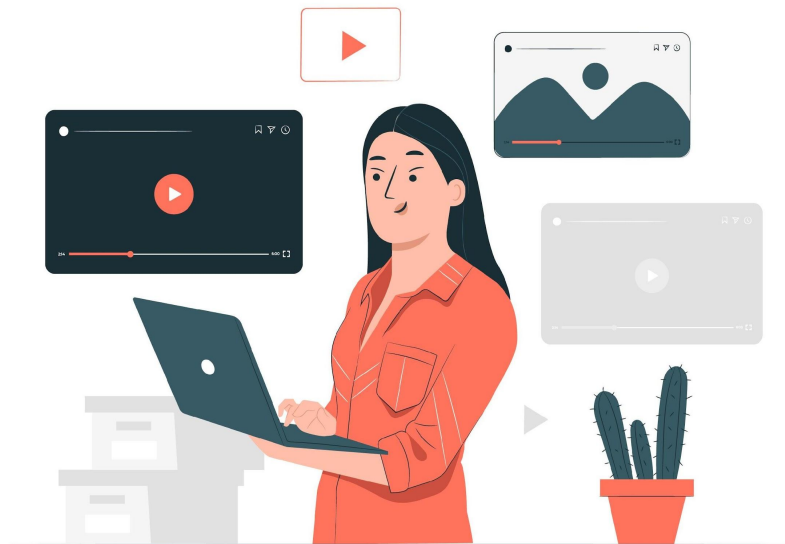
- **Growth potential:** increasing interest in sustainable and experiential travel
- **Innovation:** new and innovative agritourism activities
- **Policy support:** government and EU support for agritourism initiatives
- **Global trends:** aligning with global trends in tourism and sustainability

Conclusions



- Successful agritourism ventures seamlessly integrate agriculture and tourism while emphasizing **sustainability, cultural preservation, educational engagement, and community development**. They exemplify how these elements collectively advance sustainable practices and foster deeper connections between visitors and rural environments.
- By prioritizing environmental responsibility, fostering community relations, and celebrating local traditions, these ventures embody **sustainable agritourism practices** that benefit both visitors and local communities, showcasing the diverse charm and authenticity of rural landscapes worldwide.

Recommended videos on the topic



- [Tuscany, Italy: Farm to Table - Rick Steves' Europe Travel Guide - Travel Bite](#): this video presents the essence of Italian gastronomy while immersing you in the region's farm-to-table traditions.
- [Farm Pioneering Organics in Croatia](#): this video showcases the innovative practices of a pioneering farm dedicated to organic agriculture against the backdrop of Croatia's breathtaking natural beauty.
- [Three Friends Build Sustainable Farm in Europe's Wealthiest Country](#): this video presents the remarkable story of three friends who have embarked on a mission to build a sustainable farm amidst stunning landscapes.
- [Combining Agriculture with Tourism - A Common Farm Discovers a New Way of Bio-Economy - EU Science](#): this video shows a farm that uses environmentally friendly practices in crop and livestock production, while inviting visitors to share the farm experience.

References



- Photos: freepik.com
- Best Practice Guidelines for Sustainable Agritourism: <https://ec.europa.eu/enrd/index.html>
- European Commission's Agritourism Policy and Practice: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/rural-development_en
- Donald V. L. Madleod, Steven A. Gillespie – “Sustainable Tourism in Rural Europe” (2011)
- Mingè Village Tourism Farmstead: <https://www.mingeskaimas.lt/>
- Ruraltour - European Federation of Rural Tourism: <https://www.ruraltour.eu/>
- The Cretan Olive Oil Farm: <https://www.cretanoliveoilfarm.com/>, <https://www.instagram.com/cretanoliveoilfarm/>
- Wine Paths Italy: <https://www.winepaths.com/destination/italy>
- Castello di Radda: <https://www.chianticlassico.com/aziende/castello-di-radda/>
- Tuscany, Italy: Farm to Table - Rick Steves’ Europe Travel Guide - Travel Bite: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGjYqFYK8qE>
- Farm Pioneering Organics in Croatia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRxymTETvXk>
- Three Friends Build Sustainable Farm in Europe’s Wealthiest Country: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWYftfc9LJk&list=PLVQDfYEdBPj4Exe4DHm1BPRoJNT_egDR3&index=12
- Combining Agriculture with Tourism | A Common Farm Discovers a New Way of Bio-Economy - EU Science: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etPfAYWh7-s>

“Strengthening Key Competences in Agriculture for Value Chain Knowledge”

Programme: Erasmus+

Key Action: Cooperation among organisations and institutions

Action Type: Cooperation partnerships in higher education (HED)

Call: 2021 – Round: 1

Grant Agreement No.: 2021-1-EL01-KA220-HED-000023289

Project Duration: 28/02/2022 – 27/08/2024 (30 Months)

Total Budget: 138.158,00€



<https://www.euskills.info/home>

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