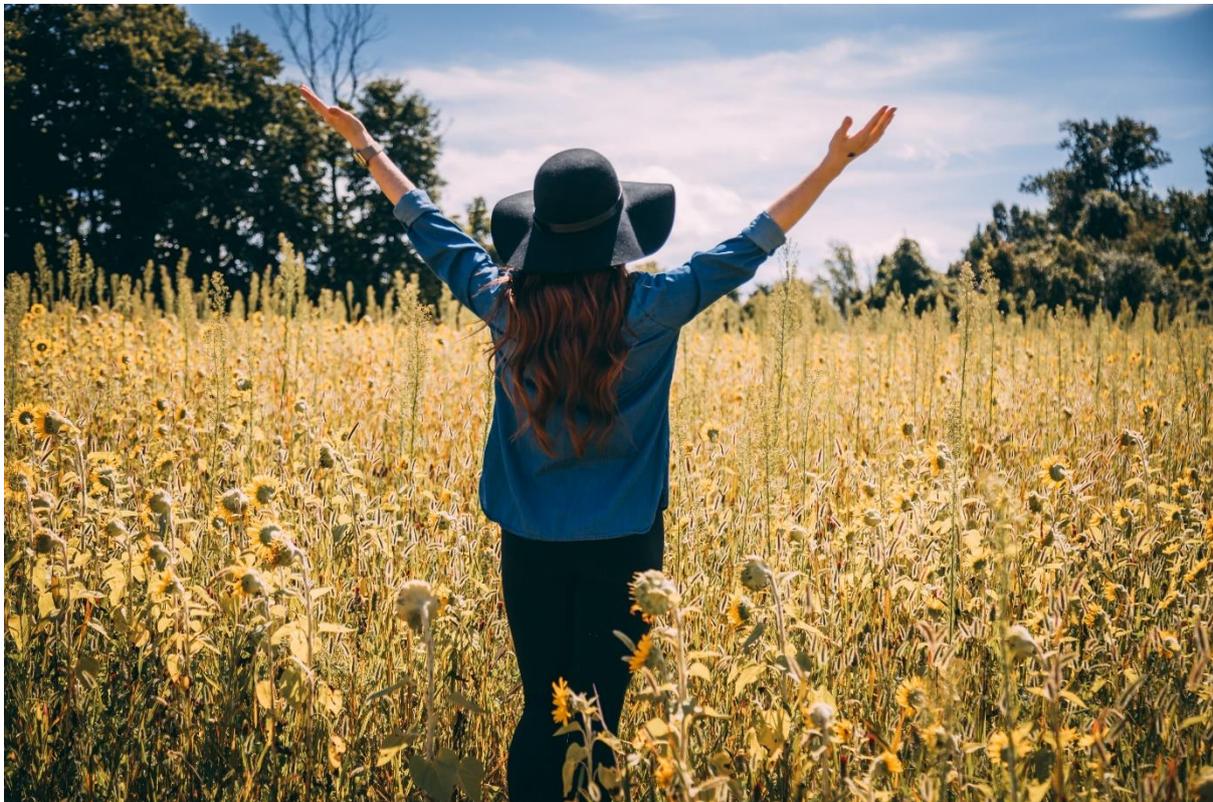


2020-1-HU01-KA204-078752

**EW4RD**

**Empowered Women For Rural Development**

**COMPENDIUM OF LEARNING, TRAINING &  
TEACHING ACTIVITIES**





## This Compendium

The team of the Erasmus+ project for the Exchange of Good Practices *Empowered Women For Rural Development (EW4RD)* is pleased to publish this **Compendium**, summarising the approach adopted in the **learning activities** carried out during the project and presenting the impact achieved on all the people and organisations involved.

Our aim is to provide a template and guidelines to transfer and replicate such actions to other Countries, sectors or Target Groups, thus enhancing the sustainability of our project results and contributing to support women-led businesses in agricultural systems of rural areas, throughout Europe and beyond.

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## Disclaimer

The project has been funded with the support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

## The project

Our project aims to *train educators* and provide *leaders in remote and rural areas* with the skills and knowledge necessary to cope with the difficult economic situation and the reduced presence of development activities in these areas, through the exchange of good practices between the partner countries, in terms of economic, ecological and other resources. The project has had a duration of 30 months, starting from September 2020 to May 2022. The partnership is composed of coordinator KDRIU (Hungary) e partners BASD (Bulgaria), Efektas Group (Lithuania), Promimpresa (Italy), Innetica (Spain) and Erbakan University (Turkey).

The *objectives* of the project are: to support *women* in rural areas to start-up *businesses* and develop their *careers*; to promote rural development, innovation and social enterprise in rural areas; to equip target groups with skills and knowledge on sustainable practices, *permaculture* development and *business creation*; to increase opportunities for economic growth and cooperation at local, regional, national and international level; to promote EU values, active citizenship and knowledge exchange.

The *Target Groups* of the project are:

*Adult Educators and Leaders* – The main task of EW4RD has been to benefit this target group. As they are expected to lead, inspire and deliver high-quality Adult Education in their communities, the activities aimed at training and preparing Adult Educators for such actions using effective and tailored approaches, acquired through the exchange of knowledge and innovative practices from partners and stakeholders. Moreover, EW4RD aimed to connect educators and trainers, as the consortium believes that connectivity, exchange and networking are key for the rural development sector: through collaboration, awareness of organisations active in the field, and the incorporation of their tested best practices, adult educators can increase their capacity and self-confidence.

*Lifelong Learning Organisations and Local Public Authorities* – The project has increased the awareness of this target group regarding the ethical and organisational considerations and requirements of rural adult education, presenting best practices from the environments of the consortium organisations, as well as providing practical guidance for the application of this knowledge.

*Adult Learners* – The project has promoted adult education among adult learners, in particular women, both established or aspiring rural entrepreneurs, including those with lower qualifications, no prior experience in entrepreneurship or coming from other disadvantaged groups or vulnerable backgrounds.

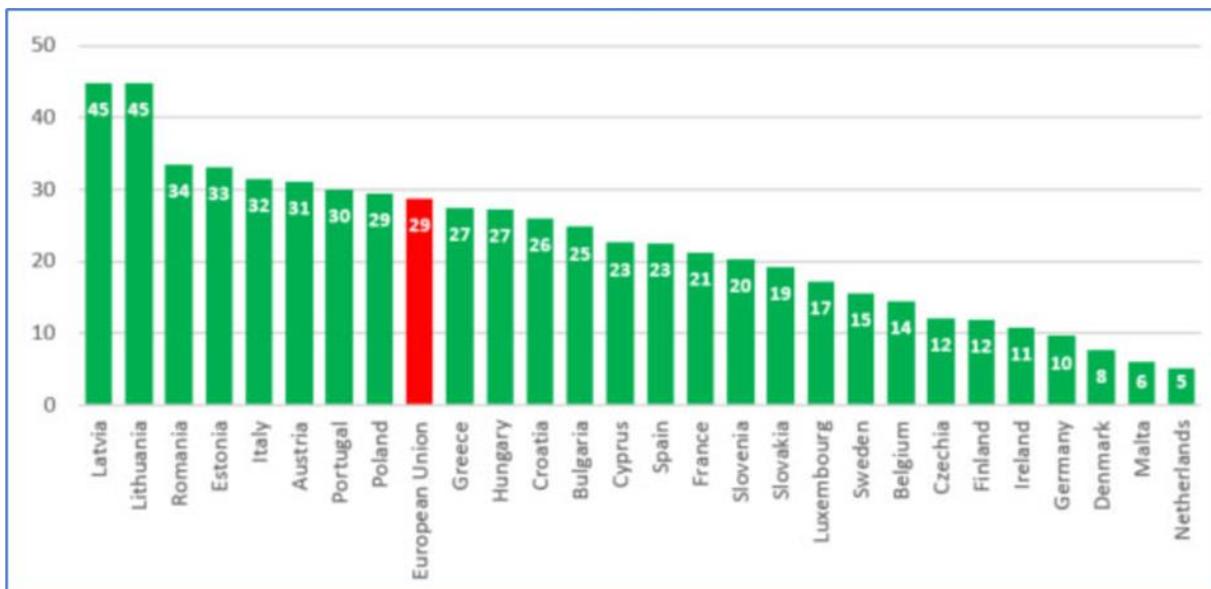


## Why is this important?

Around 50 years ago, the idea of a female entrepreneur managing her own company would have seemed ambitious at best. This situation has completely changed in the last 20 years. Women entrepreneurs statistics have shown that the amount of female business owners has increased by 114%. A similar trend can be observed in rural areas and in the agriculture sector.

The number of women in farming has been slowly increasing in recent years. The most recent data (Eurostat 2016) suggests that, on average, 29% of farms across the EU are managed by a woman. But this data masks some considerable differences between countries. In Lithuania and Latvia, nearly half of all farms are managed by women. By contrast, in Malta, Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands the proportion of female farm managers does not exceed 10%.

**Proportion of farm managers who are women, 2016 (%)**



Source: Eurostat

This problem is particularly acute as attracting Europe's next generation of farmers is proving to be a key challenge. Europe's farming sector is dominated by an older population and this is certainly true when it comes to female farmers – current data shows that just 4.2% of female farmers are under the age of 35. Given that 42% of women working in agriculture are over 65 (by contrast to just 29.2% for men), there is the potential for the gender gap in farming to widen in future years.



Additional problems are as follows:

- Rural women concentrated in informal, micro-size, low-productivity and low-return activities.
- For many rural women, entrepreneurship is part of a broader livelihood strategy, often undertaken on a part-time basis, and where it is difficult to separate production and reproduction tasks, as well as market and non market work.
- With few employment choices, women often start businesses in highly saturated sectors, in the informal economy and in low-productivity and low return activities, where they benefit from little or no social protection.

The situation for women has been complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as 84% of women in rural areas had negative effects on their income during the Covid pandemic. Markets were closed, people scared to shop or get in contact with other people, and family farms were left for themselves. An overwhelming majority, 87% of the women reported a decline in incomes resulting from the crisis, with growing concerns of rising unemployment and declining demand for products even after the crisis.

In this context, we believe it is particularly important to communicate the results of our project. It is crucial to highlight good examples that can inspire and empower future women entrepreneurs.

We would like to share this information with you below.

## The First Training

The First Training of the project had a duration of 3 days, held on *November 10, 11 and 12, 2021*. It took place in the mountainous and rural region of the *Madonie* in Sicily, hosted by the Italian partner *Promimpresa*.

**Objective** The main aim of the training is to transfer an innovative approach to participants for the development of the rural economy and to introduce and exchange good practices among the local communities in the participating countries. The training enabled attendees to acquire knowledge, key skills and tools related to the rural economy and to the support of marginalised women living in rural areas, thus contributing to build alternative models for income generation to be integrated into their work and mission.

**Participants** The group consisted of 21 international participants from all 6 partner countries, including: members of the project team and partner organisations; educators, trainers and trainers; aspiring women entrepreneurs and rural entrepreneurs; local leaders; representatives of local public authorities; members of other NGOs and local communities; students of environmental and agricultural sciences; other interested groups.

**Topics** Each day of the training has been dedicated to the exploration of one main content area and has been held in a different setting. The first day focused on the role of Local Authorities. The second day on the importance of valorising rural areas. The third day on Women entrepreneurship in rural areas.

**Methodology** Because of the host's strong connections to this local area and its unique configuration as a *rural microcosm*, Promimpresa proposed the *Madonie* as the training's destination. In order to enhance the impact and provide an insight into the reality of the area's delicate equilibriums, getting off the usual beaten path, the partnership agreed on an *itinerant* or 'travelling' approach. This meant combining more traditional *classroom sessions* – including discussions, brainstorming, group activities and dynamic exercises, sharing through storytelling – to *study visits* and a hands-on learning approach. Through a non-formal and informal learning methodology, participants had the chance to assume an active role as protagonists of their journey, witnessing and experiencing a roundtable of government authorities and local stakeholders, a visit to a local agricultural and ecological enterprise in the surrounding rural area and meeting a successful rural entrepreneur.

## Our Study Visits

### Parco Madonie Institution



Based in Petralia Sottana, it is the institution managing the rural and mountainous area of the Madonie, spreading over 160 square kilometres of land. It includes 15 municipalities and it manages the Madonie Geopark, its trekking and horse riding trails, camping areas, museums, sports initiatives, centres for environmental education and more.

### GAM Association – Policies for the territories

Based in Gangi, the **GAM Association** (*Giovani Amministratori Madoniti - Young Madonite Administrators*) aims to facilitate the convergence of experiences gained by local administrators engaged in positions of various responsibilities in the **local authorities** and to acknowledge and fully apply the principles and contents of the "European Charter for the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life". Thus, to create a stable network, made up also of professionals with different skills and experiences, which decides in an organic and permanent way to plan, elaborate and implement lasting, integrated and widespread actions to ensure adequate and effective answers to territorial needs.



### Presidio Slow Food



The Presidia are communities tirelessly striving to sustain quality production at *risk of extinction*, protect unique regions and ecosystems, recover traditional processing methods, safeguard native breeds and local plant varieties. Today, more than 600 Presidia involve more than 13,000 producers in 70 Countries. Sicily, and the Madonie area in particular, register several protected species. Find out about all of them [here](#).

### Porto di Terra



Based just outside of Polizzi Generosa, **Porto di Terra** is a collective of young entrepreneurs, all females. It is a cultural and educational centre for agricultural production based on the principles of sustainability, permaculture, ecology and green transition. Their main areas of action are: Agro-food culture, Education and Training, Cultural events, Advocacy. They also act as a *hub* for other local farms and NGOs in the area and for a number of initiatives: a self-managed permaculture veggie garden and olive field, [Nepeta](#) - personal care products based on local-sourced medicinal plants and essential oils - and [Armònia - Il tempo della strada](#) - aiming to stimulate the creation and rediscovery of existing connections between humans and ecosystems, territorial awareness and knowledge of activities intrinsically linked to the biodiversity of natural environments, through workshops and excursions, sometimes on the back of donkeys.



### [Rural enterprise Sandra Invidiata](#)



Based in Collesano, it is an educational and cultural social farm focusing on the production of natural cheeses, led by **female entrepreneur Sandra Invidiata**. It is a medium-sized, multifunctional enterprise that has always been attentive to issues of ecology, the environment, organic farming, environmental protection and the importance of food. The guided tour of the farm centre and its didactic cycle is centred in the production chain *from animals to milk to cheese*. The organisation and structuring of the farm centre enables to clearly illustrate the

entire production cycle and the different activities carried out on a livestock farm.

In fact, it is possible to visit the breeding areas, starting with the resting and feeding areas of the animals, the production areas with the milking parlour, the mini-cheese factory and the premises for maturing, packaging and sale of processed products. In addition, Ms. Invidiata, an agronomist graduate, uses her indoor spaces to carry out a clear and immediate didactic action to illustrate the activities of her farm in a more theoretical setting.



## Training Agenda

<b>Activity type</b>	Short-term joint staff training event (C1)
<b>Activity leader</b>	Promimpresa (IT)
<b>Activity venue</b>	Several locations in the rural Madonie mountains: <a href="#">MAP</a>
<b>Dates</b>	From <b>10/11/2021</b> to <b>12/11/2021</b>

### Day 1 | November 10 → *The role of local authorities*

Time	Activities
09.15 - 09.45	Transfer from accommodation to Petralia Soprana
09.45 - 10.00	Arrival of participants to Petralia Soprana Municipality ( <a href="#">Piazza del Popolo, 1, 90026 Petralia Soprana PA</a> ) & Welcome
10.00 - 10.10	Opening the training: introduction by coordinator; presentation of the programme and objectives; general guidelines
10.10 - 10.30	Team-building and ice-breaking games: introduction of participants
10.30 - 10.40	Group expectations and aim for the training experience
10.40 - 11.00	<i>Carosello game</i> : the role of public authorities, policy makers and local actors in rural contexts
11.00 - 11.20	Fostering cooperation among the public sector, local associations, the private sector and individuals (Promimpresa)
11.20 - 11.40	Coffee break ☕
11.40 - 13.00	Joint elaboration of Policy Recommendations points to present to the authorities in the afternoon session
13.00 - 14.20	Lunch break 🍽️ at <i>Lu Carmè Restaurant</i>
14.20 - 15.20	Guided visit of <a href="#">Petralia Soprana</a> : <i>elected most beautiful village in Italy 2019</i>
15.20 - 15.40	Coffee break ☕ served by local café
15.40 - 16.00	Transfer to Petralia Sottana ( <a href="#">Corso Paolo Agliata, 16 Petralia Sottana (PA) 90027</a> )
16.00 - 17.30	Institutional meeting and roundtable in Petralia Sottana: <i>Ente Parco Madonie, GAM Municipalities, Presidio Slow Food</i>
17.30 - 17.45	Closure of the day and <i>aperitivo</i>

## Day 2 | November 11 → *Valorising rural areas*

Time	Activities
09.15 - 09.45	Transfer from accommodation to <i>Porto di Terra</i> ( <a href="#">C.da San. Nicola s.n.c.</a> )
09.45 - 10.30	Arrival of participants & Welcome
10.30 - 10.45	Ice-breaking and energising games (Promimpresa)
10.45 - 11.45	<i>Porto di Terra</i> : presentation of the project, team, activities, mission and visit of the spaces
11.45 - 12.00	Coffee break ☕
12.00 - 13.00	<i>Porto di Terra</i> - Rural areas and re-discovery of rural origins: <i>valorising resources, overcoming issues, strategies; permaculture and eco-tourism</i>
13.00 - 14:30	Lunch break 🍽️ and free time
14.30 - 16.00	Women entrepreneurship in rural areas: roles, strategies and opportunities (Efektas Group)
16.00 - 16.30	Transfer to Polizzi Generosa

## Day 3 | November 12 → *Female entrepreneurship in rural areas*

Time	Activities
09.30 - 10.00	Transfer from Polizzi Generosa to Collesano (Invidiata Farm)
10.00 - 10.15	Arrival to Invidiata Farm ( <a href="#">Azienda Agricola Grazia Invidiata, C.da Sant'Anastasia 90016 Collesano</a> )
10.45 - 13.30	Study visit of Invidiata Farm: the production process <i>from animals to milk to cheese</i> . Guided visit of the facilities and observation of the activities
13.30 - 14.30	Lunch break 🍽️ - bread and sausage; frittata (omelette); slices of bread topped with spread, olive oil and oregano; various cheeses and cottage cheese; black and white olives and cold cuts; salad, fruit; milk-based dessert; milk and water
14.30 - 14.45	Final de-briefing and evaluation of the training
14.45 - 15.00	Certificates of Attendance Ceremony
15.00 - 16.00	Transfer to Polizzi Generosa and departure of participants

## Photo Gallery















## The Second Training

The Second Training of the project had a duration of 3 days, held on *April 12, 13 and 14, 2022*. It took place in Kaunas and rural areas nearby Kaunas district, hosted by the Lithuanian partner *Efektas Group*.

**Objective** The main aim of the training was to educate young and senior adult women and women farmers to start their business successfully and maintain it in late business development stages. The training allowed to acquire necessary knowledge for participants about starting business in the rural area (on the Lithuanian case-study). Participants also learned future potential venture handlings and how to implement innovative initiatives while being based in the rural/slightly populated areas.

**Participants** The group consisted of 24 international participants from all 6 partner countries, including: members of the project team and partner organisations; educators, trainers and trainers; aspiring women entrepreneurs and rural entrepreneurs; local leaders; representatives of local public authorities; members of other NGOs and local communities; students of environmental and agricultural sciences; other interested groups.

**Topics** Each day of the training has been dedicated to the exploration of one main content area and has been held in a different setting. The first day focused on the role of personal and professional development. The second day on the discovering of new products and services in rural areas. The third day on the importance of marketing and brand-identity in the daily life of women entrepreneurs.

**Methodology** All the activities with a theoretical perspective took place in Kaunas (Best Western Santaka Hotel). In order to enhance the impact and provide an insight into the reality of the area's delicate equilibriums, getting off the usual beaten path, the partnership agreed to head over towards the rural area of Lithuania where one of the best practices of rural entrepreneurship took its place. Participants have visited a 'viking village' where they have experienced all the realities of rural entrepreneurship in Lithuania. Moreover, visit of Kaisiadorys municipality brought its own importance into the entire program implementation of the training due to the local insights on rural entrepreneurship. Through a non-formal and informal learning methodology, participants had the chance to assume an active role as protagonists of their journey, witnessing and experiencing a direct interaction with local stakeholders and authorities. They have also met successful business ladies of the Kaunas Business Club for women that have realised themselves from the literate 'zero' and currently have different high management positions.

## Our Study Visits

### Vikingu Kaimas



"Viking Village" is an open-air museum of experience founded recently for all children, ages and hearts. Here all the items, exhibits and tools can be touched,

inspected, tasted, tested (try on weapons, bake pancakes on a campfire, etc.). Vikingu Kaimas mobile education travels all over Lithuania. Educational programs for students take place in a school classroom or hall, adapted in duration to the lessons. A mini-museum with 100 percent is created for students in the classroom with touching, historical, real exhibits. In education, children learn the history of their ancestors through experience. Viking Village accept guests in groups (from 10 to 50) only after pre-registration, from 1 May until October 30. Individual visitors can visit the Viking Village during open events.

### Kaišiadorys municipality

Lying down between two big Lithuanian roads with the ribbon of railway and a bustling motorway, Kaišiadorys district is located in the middle of the heart of Lithuania, between the most important cities: Vilnius and Kaunas. There is the real Lithuania – between the four historical capitals and two largest rivers, moreover, three ethnographic regions meet in Kaišiadorys land. There is wonderful landscape and plenty of cultural places that attract tourists: the ancient farmsteads, mounds, tumuli, stones, trees, churches, the graves of soldiers, monuments, manors, etc. One of the most attracting places is the open air folk museum of Lithuania in Rumšiškės. Kaišiadorys is the center of diocese. There are 12 churches and many chapels in Kaišiadorys district. Such famous people as the unifier of Lithuanian spirit Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevičius and the President of Lithuanian Republic Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas grew up in Kaišiadorys district. Kaišiadorys is famous for its local entrepreneurship achievements, in particular, in the rural areas.



## LOCALI



LOCALI is a place where one can buy products created by the residents of the Academy (it is located in the Kaunas district). We are the first sustainable shopping platform in Lithuania, uniting local producers, growers, developers and members of the community in one convenient place. Buyers will find here the quality goods and services of local developers made with love and care for the whole family, home, gifts,

leisure... And the cooperating manufacturers will have the opportunity not only to sell their goods comfortably but also to refinance the socio-cultural life of the community. Let's create joy together. We do not doubt the successful cooperation between you and us and encourage you to join our various activities.

## Kaunas Chamber of Commerce



Kaunas Chamber of CIC as a non – governmental and a non – profit seeking organization is one of the five chambers of commerce in Lithuania. Based on private law with its main goal in supporting the development of companies' economic activity and representing, and defending the interests of business community. The community is comprised of various businesses, and educational, and scientific, and high technology institutions. Kaunas CCIC has a long-standing reputation for best practices in providing information and consulting services to entrepreneurs. As part of a national representation of business community, Kaunas CCIC performs opinion surveys of companies in the region as regards business – related legislature. Towards achieving its strategic objectives, Kaunas CCIC has developed a work programme, involving concrete activities and initiatives aimed at improving the business environment in Kaunas region, attracting new investments, promoting export and helping Lithuanian companies in entering European and world markets, improving labour market conditions, enhancing competitiveness of the regional business.

## Training Agenda

<b>Activity type</b>	Short-term joint staff training event (C1)
<b>Activity leader</b>	Efektas Group (LT)
<b>Activity venue</b>	Kaunas city and surroundings
<b>Dates</b>	From <b>12/04/2022</b> to <b>14/04/2022</b>

### Day 1 | April 12 → *Personal and Professional Development*

Time	Activities
10.00-10.30	Meeting at <a href="#">Best Western Santaka Hotel Conference Hall</a> Address: J. Gruodžio g. 21, Kaunas  Welcome opening of the training by organisers; ice-breakers and group expectations. Presentation of the programme and objectives.
10.30-11.30	Workshop on personal development. How to get started with personal development. Wheel of life activity (Suat Aksu, Efektas Group)
11.30-11.45	Coffee-break ☕
11.45-13.15	Creative problem-solving (Suat Aksu, Efektas Group)
13.15-14.00	Fundraising and financing business (EU and non-EU existing funding, investors and sponsorship opportunities for businesses) - Margherita Angelucci, <b>Promimpresa</b>
14.00-15.00	Lunch break (venue – hotel) 🍽️
15.00-16.00	NLP for personal branding (Linas Starselskis, Efektas Group)
16.00-17.30	Social and sustainable business in 21st century (Linas Starselskis, Efektas Group)
17.30 - onwards	Closure of the day and dinner

## Day 2 | April 13 → *Discovering new products and services in rural areas*

Time	Activities
09.00 – 10.30	Leaving Kaunas and drive to <a href="#">Vikingu Kaimas</a>
10.30 - 13.30	Arrival of participants & Welcome by the hosts. Starting business in Lithuanian rural areas: management, obstacles, opportunities. Discovering of the area (Judita, Edita, Mindaugas)
13.45 – 14.30	<i>Lunch break</i> (venue – DOMIrestorana) 🍽️
14.30 – 15.30	Travel to Kaisiadorys
15.30 - 16.30	Kaisiadorys municipality: ways of support of the rural areas business and role of women
16.30 – 17.30	Travel to Kaunas
17.30 – 19.00	'Locali' (Local business presentation) - Kaunas
19.00- onwards	<i>Dinner</i>

## Day 3 | April 14 → *Marketing and brand identity*

Time	Activities
10.00 – 11.00	Women entrepreneurship club of the Chamber of Commerce
11.10 – 12.00	Marketing and its importance in business development. Techniques of the business plan design (Joshua Fayomi, Efektas Group)
12.00 – 12.15	<i>Coffee-break</i> ☕
12.15 – 12.45	Handing out of the certificates. Reflections and de-briefing
12.45 – 13.30	Discussion of the on-going issues of the project
13.30- onwards	<i>Lunch break</i> 🍽️; Departure of participants

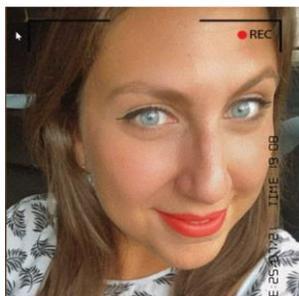
## Photo Gallery







## Testimonies from our Participants



### **Ornella Basile**

Monreale, Italy – Aspiring entrepreneur

Taking part to EW4RD was an amazing experience. If I had to choose a word to describe it, I would say inspirational. As a young future entrepreneur who wants to contribute to the local rural development, it was very inspiring being with people - especially young women- who had already implemented and developed successful stories and examples of rural development and related business. Actual visiting the rural areas instead of reading of them, was crucial for the full understanding and the full immersion into the topic. Above all, what I will take with me are the people I have met, their stories, the valuable networks and the common values shared.



### **Seyma Akin**

Konya, Turkey, Project team member

I participated in both LTTA's and felt very lucky to be part of them. Being able to witness the success stories of women entrepreneurs in different contexts and fields was very inspirational. I will share these stories to help and motivate others. They will further create a base to develop new projects in the area.



### **Davide Marfisi**

Palermo, Italy – Fundraising Expert

Joining the EW4RD was very special and extremely interesting. Before our departure I wasn't sure what my expectations were, however, this experience was nothing short of amazing. The balance between the workshops and the activities was just ideal and overall, these blended into each other very well. I enjoyed the topics discussed and the activities we did in groups, which gave us a practical sense of aspects of entrepreneurship such as a business plan, communication styles and the funding aspect of it. Visiting



Vikingu Kaimas was fascinating and just an experience for all the senses. To see the rural side of Lithuania and to see the business that Judita and her family have built was most certainly inspiring. Coming to Kaunas was definitely a highlight and an experience one does not easily forget.



**Gabriella Nagy**  
Paloznak, Hungary – Entrepreneur

I feel very lucky and grateful being part of the EW4RD project and had the chance to visit Lithuania. I've just started my own business and it's motivational, inspirational to see how other women entrepreneurs in the rural areas succeed with their business ideas. To gain experience in a foreign country also highlights that often we have the same struggles in our business (and/or private) life, but also teaches us new methods to conquer the obstacles. The presentations of the workshop were interesting and useful, I'm sure that I can use some part of them in my business thinking. Visiting local businesses in the rural areas and municipality of a rural town and meeting women entrepreneurs were instructive and exciting. Overall I can say that this whole journey will charge me for a long time to reach success in my own business.



**Andrea Morabito**  
Palermo, Italy – Entrepreneur

Being part of the EW4RD project was a really great experience. We all had the chance to visit Lithuania, to grow our network and met entrepreneur (especially women) that already start their own business in rural areas. Visiting the areas surrounding Kaunas, gave us the opportunity to feel the territory and understand the vision of development that is desired for these rural areas. Meeting other people from different places, hearing their stories and taking inspiration from them will certainly be very helpful for the development of our business idea. After all, I can say that the experience in Lithuania was inspiring and enriching from a cultural, social and human point of view.



### **Petya Varbisha**

Sofia, Bulgaria – Project Team member

I was amazed by the whole experience. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to be a part of this project. Despite being a very peaceful place, Lithuania is full of entrepreneurs. I was amazed by the collaboration within those communities and by the fact that you could feel the spirit of the young people. Every part of this event was exciting for me, especially the meeting in Kaisiadorys. Kaisiadorys and my hometown are very alike. So I am very familiar with the problems that our municipalities face every day. The passion which I could see in these young people there was really inspirational.



### **Kevser Cinar**

Konya, Turkey – Project team member

These two LTTA meetings were an amazing opportunity for me to experience how women entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds working in a variety of different sectors in local areas have set up their own businesses. Their stories are all impressive for me since most of them are traditionally well-connected within their communities, and are often in charge of raising future generations. Moreover, they employ other women and, thereby, expand their own economic empowerment. They also tend to create female-friendly working environments, and their products or services often take into account women's needs as well. As a woman it is something really proud of for me. Considering this, bringing more women to social entrepreneurship is a key factor in contributing to a more equal society and to development that is inherently sustainable. I strongly believe such kind of projects and LTTA meetings are really meaningful to empower such a social community for the sake of women entrepreneurs especially in rural areas.



**Dafne Modaffari**  
Palermo, Italy – Entrepreneur

It was a great pleasure for me to participate in the learning training activities of the EW4RD project. Since I'm just entering the world of work, it was inspirational for me to meet successful women and learn from them. But I also learned a lot of new skills while attending the very interesting workshops that the organizers set up for us, especially those regarding personal and professional development and personal branding (I'm sure they'll be very useful for my future career). Furthermore, to know and understand that everyone and every business idea can be successful boosted my confidence and gave me the right energy to pursue my dreams. Finally, according to me one of the best part of the training was getting the chance to visit Lithuania and meet all the participants: everyone has had a great impact on me and I'm grateful for this!



**Yordan Georgiev**  
Sofia, Bulgaria – Entrepreneur

The chance of visiting Lithuania and attending the EW4RD project meeting was once in a lifetime opportunity. A unique chance to meet so many resourceful and experienced people in this field. Every lecturer who took part in the 2nd LTTA gave its own perspective. The meetings on site with young and successful entrepreneurs were motivating and inspiring. I left Lithuania full of hope and practical advices. The 2nd LTTA in one sentence: “An invaluable source of information”.



**Dimitar Grudev**  
Sofia, Bulgaria – Entrepreneur

I had the honor to take part in the activities in Sicily, where we had the unique opportunity to meet with the local authorities and entrepreneurs in rural areas. It was really useful and related with the subject of the project, which gave us really good idea how the women in Sicily have possibility to succeed and which are the challenges that they have in front of them when chasing with rural activities and small business ideas. We had time to share thoughts and experiences and to enrich our knowledge, which could help us when we disseminate the information to our local women entrepreneurs as well as giving them some good practices. I'm happy that our team had the possibility to participate.

## Contacts



[www.ew4rd-erasmusplus.eu](http://www.ew4rd-erasmusplus.eu)



@ew4rd



**Gabriella Baráth**  
@gbarath@kdriu.hu  
W [www.kdriu.hu](http://www.kdriu.hu)



**Anna Lalkovska**  
@alalkovska@balkanagency.org  
W [www.balkanagency.org](http://www.balkanagency.org)



**Linas Staršelskis**  
@linas@efektasgroup.com  
W [www.efektasgroup.com](http://www.efektasgroup.com)



**Margherita Angelucci**  
@margherita.angelucci@promimpresa.it  
W [www.promimpresa.it/euprojects](http://www.promimpresa.it/euprojects)



**Arturo J. González Ascaso**  
@ajgonzalez@innetica.org  
W [www.innetica.org](http://www.innetica.org)



**Cemile Dogan**  
@cemiledogan370@gmail.com  
W [www.erbakan.edu.tr](http://www.erbakan.edu.tr)