Funded by the European Union

Farm to Fork Academy for Green Western Balkans – Our shared European Future

Duration: 16.01.2023 - 15.01.2027

Countries:
Albania

EU contribution: € 1 297 965

Total budget: € 1 442 183

Implementer:
Albanian Rural Development Network

Social media:
facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064874312826, instagram.com/farmtoforkacademyproject

Website(s): anrd.al/ongoing/farm-to-fork-academy-for-green-western-balkans/

Project description:

The Western Balkans' rural communities are facing growing challenges from climate change, biodiversity loss and the need to adapt to European Union agricultural standards. Small-scale farmers and rural civil society organisations often lack the knowledge, resources and opportunities to actively contribute to this transition. The Farm to Fork Academy supports a greener, more resilient and inclusive future for agriculture by strengthening civil society across the Western Balkans. Through regional training, knowledge exchange and local capacity building, the project equips National Rural Development Networks and grassroots organisations to support farmers in adopting sustainable food systems and climate-smart practices.

The project also finances innovative community-led initiatives, demonstration activities and awareness campaigns that showcase practical solutions for sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods. At the same time, it promotes participatory policy dialogue, ensuring that the voices of farmers, women, young people and rural communities contribute to agricultural reforms and EU integration. By connecting people, knowledge and local action, the Farm to Fork Academy helps build stronger rural communities, more sustainable food systems and a fairer green transition throughout the Western Balkans.

Expected results:

•Civil society organisations and National Rural Development Networks across the Western Balkans have strengthened their capacities to promote sustainable food systems, climate-resilient agriculture and inclusive rural development, while increasing public awareness of the Farm to Fork approach and the benefits of the green transition.

•Innovative, community-led initiatives addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable rural livelihoods have been successfully implemented through financial support, accompanied by stronger cooperation, knowledge exchange and transfer of good practices among civil society organisations and rural stakeholders.
•Farmers, women, youth and other rural actors are better supported by civil society organisations through improved advisory capacities, demonstration activities and locally adapted solutions that facilitate the transition towards more sustainable and resilient food systems.
•Participatory consultation processes and structured policy dialogue between civil society, rural stakeholders and public institutions have been strengthened, ensuring that the needs and priorities of rural communities are better reflected in agricultural and rural development policies.
•National Rural Development Networks and the Balkan Rural Development Network have increased their contribution to the EU integration and approximation process by providing evidence-based recommendations and supporting the alignment of agricultural and rural development policies with the EU Common Agricultural Policy, the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy.