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*Can apprenticeships and internships strengthen the  
agro-food sector in Europe?*

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The agro-food sector in Europe is one of the most important productive sectors, creating more than 20 million jobs each year, representing approximately 10% of all EU employment. Especially in recent years, it has been one of the key factors in overcoming the economic crisis.

However, although agricultural production has increased by a large number in recent years, it seems that its growth rate is much lower compared to other non EU countries.



A key factor for this phenomenon seems to be the human resources of the sector, who do not possess the necessary skills and knowledge that could help increase the competitiveness of agricultural production in EU.

In order for the agro-food sector to be able to contribute effectively to the EU economy in the coming years, it is necessary to modernize it by strengthening the access to and the use of new technologies, and also by attracting young people with fresh ideas to the sector.

The Apprenticeship hubs programme, seeks to provide better professional employment opportunities for students and graduates of Vocational Education and Training, through the participation of small and medium enterprises of the agro-food sector in apprenticeship programs.

In order to raise awareness among agricultural enterprises, regarding the benefits of participation in apprenticeship programs, and in order to increase the employment opportunities of young people in the agro-food sector, 4 Apprenticeship hubs have been created throughout Europe (in Croatia, Greece, Hungary and Italy). The aim of the hubs is to inform the involved parties, to facilitate the participation process in apprenticeship programs and to increase the employment positions in agro-food enterprises.

If you are a student, a VET provider or a company interested in participating in the project, you can find useful material and information on the current platform. In addition, you can find or post open apprenticeship positions in your company.

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