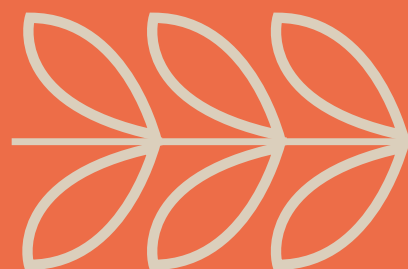




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Newsletter

No 6: January – June 2025

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Introductory Note

by Lefki Lambrou, Project Coordinator, IMH

As the GAEA project officially comes to an end, we take a moment to look back on an extraordinary three-year journey.

Together, we built more than platforms, curricula, and training materials — we built confidence, connections, and opportunities for women in agriculture across Europe. Through collaborative research, creative learning tools, and inclusive dialogue, GAEA has empowered migrant and NEET women to shape their own future in agribusiness, while also influencing education and policy at national and EU level.

From the first Knowledge Committee meetings to the final Innovation Bootcamp in Prague, each step of the project has been guided by a shared belief: that women in rural areas can lead sustainable change — if we remove the barriers and provide the right tools.

This final newsletter brings together our milestones, tools, partnerships, and reflections. It is not just a summary — it is an invitation to continue the work we've started.

On behalf of the entire consortium, we thank all our partners, contributors, trainers, stakeholders, and above all the women who trusted us with their stories and ambition. GAEA has planted the seeds. Now it's time for them to grow.

**With gratitude,
On behalf of the GAEA Consortium**





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GAEA Project Highlights & Achievements

- by Anna Rouvi, GrantXpert Consulting

As the GAEA project reaches its successful conclusion, we proudly reflect on a journey that turned vision into impact. Through digital innovation, collaborative training design, and inclusive outreach, GAEA has empowered hundreds of women across Europe to pursue careers in agriculture, agrifood, and agrotourism.

What We Built

- **GAEA Digital Platform:** A multilingual, open-access hub for training, mentoring, and networking, co-designed by 13 partners.
- **AI-powered Mobile App:** A skill-profiling tool aligned with the ESCO classification, matching users to the right training path.
- **Four tailored curricula:**
 - VET Programme (EQF 5)
 - HE Curriculum (EQF 6)
 - Training for career counsellors and coaches
 - Micro-credential for Agribusiness Knowledge Angels (14 ECTS)
- **GAEA Training Toolbox:** Over 40 modules including case studies, toolkits, video presentations, and handbooks – available in all partner languages.

What We Delivered

- A comprehensive **Training Needs Report**, based on 240+ surveys and over 110 expert interviews
- A successful **GAEA Innovation Bootcamp** in Prague (March 2025), with 80+ participants from 10 countries
- Hands-on mentoring and **peer learning activities** tested with real-world stakeholders and support networks

GAEA in Numbers

- 150+ women trained or engaged
- 13 partners across 11 European countries
- 40+ modules created and translated
- 5 stakeholder groups mobilised (mentors, SMEs, educators, NGOs, policymakers)
- 1 AI-driven app
- 1 interactive digital platform

GAEA became more than a project. It became a Launchpad for women-led innovation in sustainable agriculture.

150+

WOMEN TRAINED
OR ENGAGED

1

INTERACTIVE
DIGITAL PLATFORM

11

EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES

13

PARTNERS
ACROSS

40+

MODULES CREATED
AND TRANSLATED

1

AI-DRIVEN
APP

5

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
MOBILISED (MENTORS,
SMES, EDUCATORS, NGOS,
POLICYMAKERS)

Key Findings from the GAEA Training Needs Analysis Supporting the Growth of Young Women Agri-preneurs in Rural Europe

by Alexandra Fountouki, University of Patras

As the GAEA project reaches its final stage, essential insights into the training needs of young women have been produced, especially NEETs and migrants—interested in agri-preneurship. The analysis aimed to identify knowledge gaps, skill shortages, and barriers to entry in the agricultural sector, providing a foundation for future educational interventions and policy development.

Research Approach and Scope

The needs analysis combined qualitative and quantitative research methods, including:

- A review of over 210 agri-preneurship programs across 11 EU countries
- 89 interviews with HE and VET educators
- 240 surveys from women NEETs, migrants, supportive organizations, HE professors and training providers
- Integration of key EU competence frameworks (ESCO, EntreComp, DigiComp)

These efforts helped to identify both the current state and the ideal future state of agri-preneurship training for women in rural areas.

Main Challenges for Women in Agri-preneurship

While women represent nearly 30% of farm managers in the EU, they remain significantly underrepresented in formal training and decision-making roles. They often face:

- Limited access to land, finance, and market information
- A lack of formal education in business and agriculture
- Time constraints due to caregiving and household responsibilities
- Discrimination and gender stereotypes in rural settings

State of Current Training Provision

Most agri-preneurship training is delivered at the higher education level, with limited options in vocational or lifelong learning. Many programs focus on theoretical content, with less emphasis on practical and entrepreneurial learning. Training is frequently not tailored to women or to the realities of rural life.

Key Skills Gaps Identified

The research revealed that women seeking to engage in agri-preneurship need targeted support in the following areas:

- **Entrepreneurial skills:** business planning, investment readiness, project management
- **Digital skills:** use of ICT in administration, digital marketing, smart farming tools
- **Sustainability and innovation:** circular economy, climate resilience, green practices
- **Marketing and communication:** customer engagement, branding, sales strategies
- **Soft and transversal skills:** negotiation, decision-making, leadership, resilience

These skills are often underrepresented in existing training programs but are critical for success in a competitive and rapidly evolving sector.

Specific Needs of NEETs and Migrant Women

Surveyed women expressed strong interest in:

- Learning about legislation, funding, and operational management in agri-business
- Gaining confidence and skills to launch their own initiatives
- Accessing training formats that are flexible, practical, and inclusive



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Recommendations Going Forward

To effectively support women in agri-preneurship, training must be:

- **Practical and hands-on**, focused on real-world applications
- **Flexible and digital**, incorporating mobile tools and online platforms
- **Inclusive**, addressing the social realities and needs of NEETs and migrants
- **Supportive**, backed by mentoring, networks, and access to finance

GAEA's findings emphasize the need for integrated, gender-responsive training models that empower women as key players in the green and digital transformation of agriculture.

GAEA Training Curricula Overview

Empowering Women in Agri-preneurship Through Structured Learning

As part of its mission to support young women—especially NEETs and migrants—in rural agribusiness, the GAEA project has designed a robust training structure. These curricula are aligned with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and tailored to different levels (5 & 6) and professional needs, including VET, HE, trainers, and micro-credential programs.

Curriculum for Women at VET Level (EQF 5)

This 14 ECTS (350-hour) modular curriculum is designed to help women start or expand businesses in agriculture, agrifood, or agrotourism. It combines face-to-face learning, e-learning, work-based learning (WBL), and self-study. Each module is practically oriented and grounded in real-world agribusiness needs.

Modules:

- Introduction to Agribusiness and Agri-preneurship Aspects
- Agribusiness Models and Agribusiness Planning
- Agribusiness Management
- Networking and Collaborations in Agri-business
- Strategic Planning in Agribusiness, Green and Sustainable Development
- The Fundamentals of Agribusiness Finances
- Agricultural Marketing and Value Creation
- Digital Skills and Digital Agribusiness Transformation
- Soft Skills and Personal Development
- Special Issues of Women Inclusion into the Labour Market

Curriculum for Women in Higher Education (EQF 6)

Targeted at HE students and graduates, this program also totals 14 ECTS (350 hours) and mirrors the VET curriculum's structure but dives deeper into strategic, leadership, and analytical skills for managing complex agribusiness challenges.

Modules:

- Introduction to the Entrepreneurship Aspects of Agribusiness
- Agribusiness Models and Planning
- Agribusiness Management
- Networking and Collaborations
- Strategic Planning in Agribusiness, Green and Sustainable Development
- The Fundamentals of Agribusiness Finances
- Agricultural Marketing and Value Creation
- Digital Skills and Agribusiness Technological Transformation
- Soft Skills and Personal Development
- Special Issues of Women Inclusion into the Labour Market



Professional Curriculum for Trainers and Career Counsellors

This upskilling course (1 ECTS / 25 hours) is aimed at VET trainers and career counsellors. The content of the curriculum includes learning units related to the understanding of the specific characteristics of women involved in agribusiness, as well as NEETs and migrants, gender equality issues, intercultural communication, and the application of gender – responsive/inclusive training and consulting methods and techniques

Training Content Includes:

- Understanding the Characteristics and Needs of Women in Agribusiness
- Gender Equality and Intercultural Communication
- Inclusive Training and Consulting Methods
- Social Inclusion Strategies for NEETs and Migrant Women

Delivery is blended, involving partnerships between HEIs, VET institutions, and private sector actors.

Micro-credential Curriculum for Agribusiness Knowledge Angels

This short, flexible curriculum (75 hours) prepares participants HE students, HE graduates, Professionals in business consulting and Agronomist to perform as “knowledge angels” who supports small agri-businesses innovate and grow by applying and translating knowledge into actionable solutions.

Content:

- Introduction
- Business Development in Agribusiness
- Sustainability, Growth, and Digitalization in Agribusiness
- The role of the agribusiness knowledge angel, professional and personal development
- Principles and Tools of Agribusiness Consulting

Micro-credentials are designed for portability and recognition across Europe and support personalized learning and rapid skills development.

Training & Assessment Methodology

The GAEA training programs follow a blended learning approach, combining face-to-face sessions, e-learning, work-based learning, and self-study. Rooted in adult learning and experiential education theories, the methodology encourages active participation, real-world application, and flexible learning paths. Assessment methods are practical and learner-centered, focusing on real-life tasks, feedback, and self-reflection. This ensures that participants not only gain knowledge but also build the skills and confidence to succeed in the agri-preneurship sector.

Validation and Accreditation

GAEA proposes frameworks for validation and accreditation of the curricula at national levels, ensuring that the GAEA outcomes are recognized across the 11 partner countries. This supports wider adoption and sustainability of the training.



Cultivating Skills: Multidisciplinary Training Materials for Women Agripreneurs

by Tina Ritlop, University of Maribor

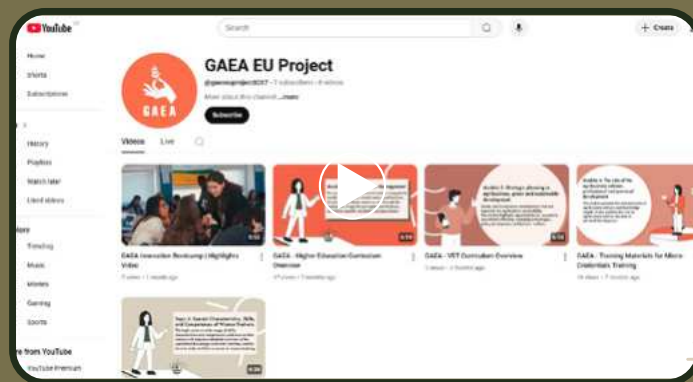
The aim of **GAEA Learning Resources Development** was to produce innovative and multidisciplinary training resources based on the needs that GAEA partners identified through the **Gaea Training Needs Mapping**. The main intellectual outcomes include the **Suite of Training Materials**, the **Short Handbook for VET Trainers**, PowerPoint presentations with short overviews of the learning content and case studies, and promotional video materials.

Suite of Training Materials is the most significant and extensive result of Learning Resources, providing theoretical and practical insights into various topics related to women's agricultural entrepreneurship. The materials contain different content formats and exercises as well as design-thinking tasks to make learning as dynamic and interactive as possible.

The content is divided into 4 main groups:

- **Modules for Higher Education Curriculum (10 modules)**
- **Modules for Vocational Education and Training Curriculum (10 modules)**
- **Learning Material for Professionals' Training (11 modules)**
- **Training Materials for Micro-Credentials Training (11 modules)**

The materials are available on the **GAEA website** and the **GAEA digital platform** in English in 10 partner languages. For a quick introduction to these learning materials, check our promotional videos on the **GAEA YouTube channel**.

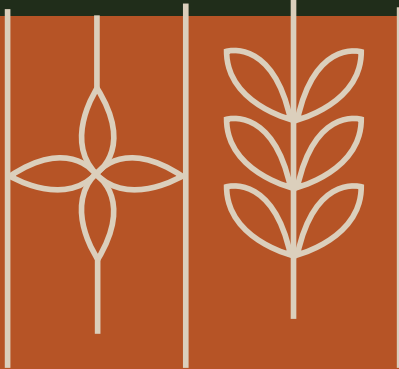


The **GAEA Short Handbook for VET Trainers** is divided into two main parts:

- 1. Module Descriptions** – Eleven standalone VET modules from the Suite of Training Materials. Each subchapter includes a module-specific overview and a table presenting the key content, prerequisites, aims, learning outcomes, topics, duration and EQF level.
- 2. Trainer Guidelines** – General advice on the trainer's role, session preparation, teaching strategies, and student evaluation.

The handbook is also available on the project website.





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Digital Innovation: Mobile App and GAEA Ecosystem

*by Michal Zak, CWEP, Clara Mutiarasari,
Skilllab and Janina Alvarez, INCOMA*

The GAEA project, focuses on the delivery of key digital tools: the **GAEA Digital Platform** and a the **GAEA Mobile App**. These tools are designed to support skills assessment and career navigation for women with interest in the agricultural field, particularly NEET women, women with migration background and women living in rural areas. The aim is to close the skills gap and increase employability in the agribusiness, food processing (agrifood) and agro-tourism sectors.

The GAEA Mobile App

Developed by SkillLab with the support from all consortium partners, the GAEA Mobile App reached beta version in February 2024. SkillLab trained partners who are responsible for the distribution of the application to the end users. All consortium partners also took part in translation and testing, providing feedback for enhancements. Furthermore, partner country Advisory Boards also reviewed the app to guarantee quality and relevance for users before its release.

The GAEA mobile app, built on the ESCO taxonomy and focused on agricultural roles, empowers women to identify their skills and discover related training and career paths. Following registration and onboarding, users can utilize three key features: Skills, Careers, and Learn. The Skills section enables users to document skills from various experiences using ESCO, create a skills profile, and generate a European standard CV tailored to their career interests. The Careers feature allows exploration of agricultural careers and provides recommendations based on their skills profile. Similarly, the Learn feature helps users find relevant training opportunities hosted in the GAEA platform. The training focuses on the agribusiness sector and is developed in the project based on training needs analysis. The GAEA app is available in all partner country languages.

Officially launched at the start of 2025, the GAEA App was also used by all participants of the GAEA Bootcamp. The Bootcamp provided a space to directly onboard women interested in the agricultural sector from various backgrounds to the GAEA App and assessed the short term impact of this innovative tool. The impact assessment generated many positive results, including:

- On average, participants rated their skill awareness higher after using the GAEA application for 30 minutes (from 3.79 to 4.08 on a 5-point Likert scale).
- Participants' career awareness also increased from 3.76 points to 4.04 points.
- There was a 19.65% increase in participants' confidence in knowing what skills they need for the agricultural career they are interested in.

The GAEA App is not a stand-alone tool. Together with the GAEA Platform, it forms the GAEA digital ecosystem. With the successful outcome of the GAEA App, we are confident that the GAEA digital ecosystem as a whole will be able to serve its goal in paving the way for women towards their agricultural careers.

The GAEA Platform

The digital platform acts as a one-stop centre for learning, networking and career guidance. Its mission is to equip rural women with the skills, resources and contacts to drive sustainable development in agribusiness.

The main objectives of the platform include:

- **Empowering rural women** by equipping them with the right skills and developing an entrepreneurial mindset.
- **Strengthening rural resilience and innovation** through digital and green transformation.
- **Facilitate career development** by connecting women with mentors, career counsellors and SMEs to reduce skills mismatches.

The GAEA platform is built on a **four-tiered, modular approach**, providing women with the opportunity to identify skills gaps:

Training Content - Multimedia modules covering entrepreneurship, agribusiness management and digital transformation.

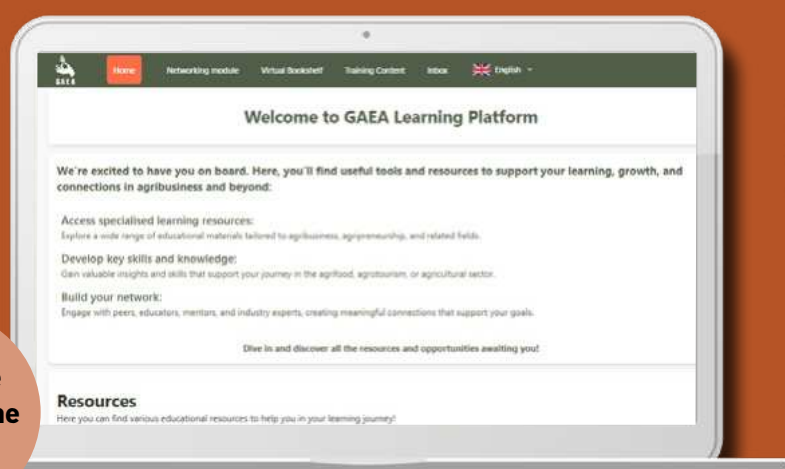
Networking Module - Space to join webinars, workshops and connect with mentors, SMEs and policy makers.

Virtual Bookshelf - A collaborative library where users can share and discover resources.

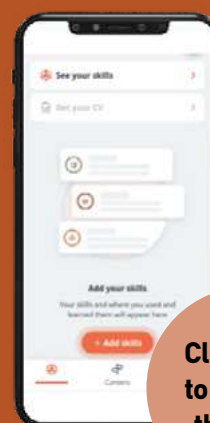
Matching Tool as part of the GAEA Apprenticeship Programme - A space where companies can search and connect with qualified candidates, and women looking for internships can find those that suit them. Furthermore, useful guidelines and templates for formalising those internships can be found in this section of the platform. These tools provide a comprehensive set of resources, including media-rich training content tailored to women.

To access the platform, you need to register. Importantly, the platform is available in many different languages.

To ensure the platform and app reaches their end-users, a targeted recruitment campaign was launched. Over 650 mapped stakeholders were contacted by personalised outreach efforts via email, social media, press releases, and events. Thereby, GAEA connected SMEs, mentors, policymakers, and women across Europe. By tailoring messages to each group's interests and needs, the project built a diverse, cross-sectoral community ready to collaborate, share knowledge, and support inclusive growth in the agri-sector.



Click here
to access the
Platform



Click here
to explore
the APP:



GAEA Innovation Bootcamp

– by Jana Pitrová, Czech University of Life Sciences

GAEA Innovation Bootcamp: Women Growing the Future of Agribusiness

From March 18–20, 2025, the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague hosted the GAEA Innovation Bootcamp – a dynamic and empowering event that welcomed over 75 women from across Europe working in agribusiness, agri-food, and agritourism.

Designed as a space for collaboration, inspiration, and practical learning, the Bootcamp offered a rich mix of expert-led workshops, peer mentoring, and real-life business tools. Participants explored Business Model Canvas applications, engaged in Design Thinking for Sustainable Farming, and learned how to navigate EU agricultural policies and funding programmes for women-led enterprises.

A standout element was the GAEA Shorts, where participants shared their entrepreneurial journeys, exchanged insights, and built a strong sense of community. As one participant reflected: “The most inspiring takeaway for me was seeing how women started their businesses with such determination and passion. It’s clear how much energy they invest, and it really shows.” Another added: “Just do it – and never give up. That message came through loud and clear, and I’ll definitely carry it forward.”

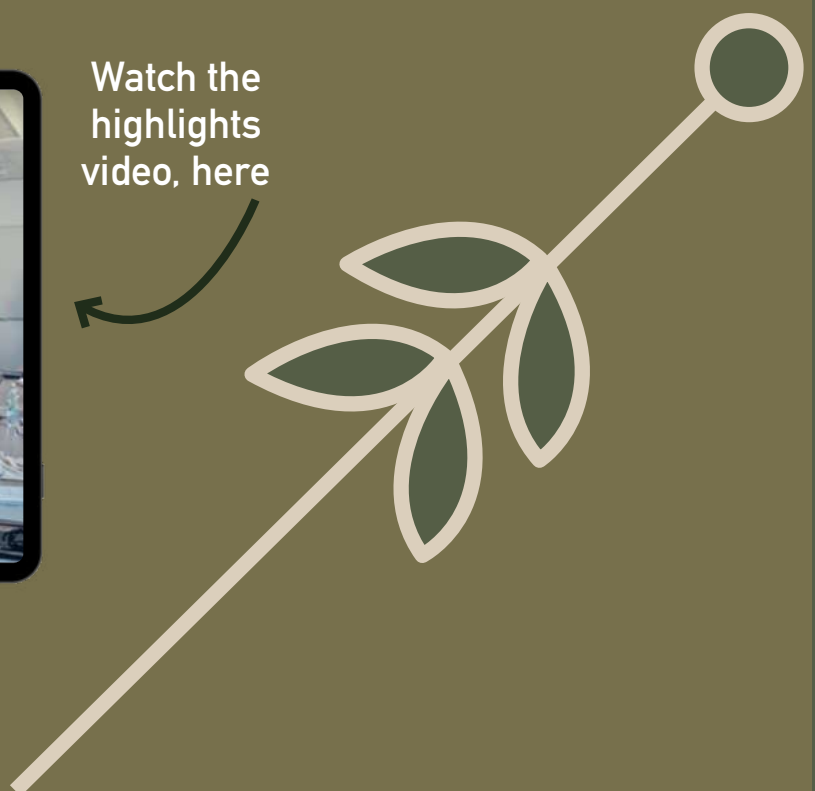
The Czech Agri Entrepreneurs Showcase featured local innovators who offered tangible examples of successful approaches in sustainability, digitalisation, and rural development. Study visits to CZU’s research facilities complemented the programme, exposing participants to cutting-edge agri-tech and food innovation.

The Bootcamp became a platform for building not just knowledge, but also lasting networks and momentum for future collaboration within the GAEA community.

Event photo gallery 



Watch the
highlights
video, here





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Shaping Policy for an Inclusive and Resilient European Agriculture

by Giuseppe Sirignano, Project Officer and Policy Advisor, Copa and Cogeca

Copa-Cogeca is proud to share the story behind GAEA's European **Policy Development Report**. What began as a pragmatic task "write the European report"—has turned into a collective journey that gives rural women, young people and other marginalised voices a seat at the policy table. Below you will find the narrative behind the numbers: why the stakeholders consultation matters, how we worked, what we learned and, most importantly, how those lessons are already fuelling change across Europe.

Why Stakeholders Consultation matters

European farming is at a crossroads. Farmers' incomes have fallen, input costs are rising, and climate shocks are biting hard. Within this testing environment, women manage fewer than a third of EU farms and have markedly less access to land, credit and accredited training (only 8.9 % hold a full agricultural qualification). If the green and digital transitions are truly to succeed, policy must be built around the people who make agriculture work—especially those whose contributions are too often invisible.

Public Consultation and Policy Reform set out to do just that. It gathers empirical evidence from eleven countries, checks it against EU-level priorities and turns it into concrete, actionable recommendations that ministers, MEPs and local authorities can adopt without reinventing the wheel.

How we listened

- 1. National mapping.** Each partner country drew up a stakeholder map, covering training providers, women's organisations, rural youth groups, migrants' associations and local authorities.
- 2. Structured interviews.** Over 60 in-depth interviews and focus-groups were held, guided by a common questionnaire so that Belgian dairy farmers and Cypriot olive-growers could be compared on equal footing.
- 3. GAEA Innovation Bootcamp.** In Prague, educators, entrepreneurs and policy shapers met face-to-face to test early findings and rank the most urgent barriers representation, age, training gaps and regional disparities topped the list.
- 4. EU-level consultation.** Copa-Cogeca, Corteva, EVBB and other Brussels-based bodies stress-tested our emerging ideas, ensuring the final recommendations dovetail with the new EU Vision for Agriculture and Food adopted in February 2025.

This blend of local voices and European perspective shows whether fine-grained national realities reinforce—or contradict—Brussels-level hopes.

What we found

- Persistent gaps. Women run just 28.7 % of EU farms and the average female farm manager is over 60 years old. Land, credit and advisory services remain harder to secure for women, newcomers and NEET youth.
- Patchy good practice. Inspiring schemes Belgian peer-led cooperatives, German LandFrauen mentoring circles, Hungarian micro-finance for start-ups already exist, but they are small, under-funded and rarely scaled.
- A hunger for flexibility. Learners want modular, hybrid and bite-sized training that fits around family and seasonal workloads, plus formal recognition for skills mastered on the farm or in care work.

Most strikingly, national and EU stakeholders are saying the same thing: we know the problems, we know many of the solutions let's close the policy gap and roll them out everywhere.

Five flagship recommendations

- 1. Formalise the new agribusiness roles.** Recognise 'agribusiness administrators/managers' in EU skills taxonomies so that training, funding and career pathways follow naturally.
- 2. Scale up mentorship.** Stress the importance of establishing mentor-led networks in every rural region.
- 3. Simplify micro-finance.** Replace paperwork-heavy grant calls with trust-based "micro-sparks": small, rapid loans or blended-finance vouchers that can be approved in days, not months.
- 4. Gender-proof risk assessment.** Ask lenders to report on gender bias in their start-up scoring models and reward those who close the gap.
- 5. Accredit flexible training.** Ensure all GAEA modules whether completed online, on-the-job or in a local classroom carry portable ECTS/ECVET credits, and weave green skills into every unit rather than tacking them on at the end. Collectively, these actions create a virtuous circle: women receive the skills and finance they need, lenders gain reliable clients, and rural Europe gains a new generation of climate-smart entrepreneurs.

What happens next

Copa-Cogeca will champion these recommendations in upcoming CAP strategic-plan reviews and rural-pact dialogues. At national level, partners are already piloting the "micro-spark" finance model and preparing mentor-training toolkits. We are also feeding the insights into the evolving GAEA digital platform, turning dense policy text into interactive learning quests and peer forums.



GAEA in the Spotlight: Sharing Our Work Across Europe

Empowering Women in Agri-Food: The GAEA Project at the Cretan Food & Drink Expo

by Heraklion Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The “Cretan Food & Drink Expo” was held at the International Exhibition Centre of Crete, gathering a wide range of stakeholders from politics, academia, research, and entrepreneurship. Among the many highlights of the two-day event was the presentation of the GAEA project, which focused on strengthening women’s access to employment and entrepreneurship in the agri-food sector.

During the thematic session dedicated to the GAEA project, participants discussed the multifaceted challenges that women face in rural and agri-food environments, emphasizing the importance of equal access to education, training, financial tools, and support networks. The project aimed to showcase successful case studies and promote inclusive practices that help women develop viable and sustainable businesses within the sector.

The speakers also highlighted the critical role of female entrepreneurship in revitalizing local economies, preserving traditional knowledge, and driving innovation. GAEA was presented not only as a support program but also as a strategic initiative aligned with broader European goals of social cohesion, sustainable development, and gender equality.

This particular session underscored that empowering women in the agri-food sector is not only a matter of fairness but a key factor in building resilient and future-ready food systems in Crete and beyond.



Showcase of GAEA Project at EU CAP Network Event in Prague

by Czech University of Life Sciences

At the recent EU CAP Network Brokerage Event hosted at CZU Prague on 29th and 30th April, Jana Pitrová (CZU Prague) presented the GAEA EU Project to a wide range of stakeholders from research, policy, and rural practice. As part of a guided campus tour, she introduced GAEA's core mission of empowering women agripreneurs and highlighted the outcomes of the recent GAEA Innovation Bootcamp — from peer mentoring tools and digital platforms to impactful stories from the field. Her presentation sparked strong interest in gender-responsive innovation and showcased how GAEA is contributing to more inclusive and sustainable rural development across Europe.



The GAEA Project in Focus: Advancing Gender Equality Through Rural Entrepreneurship

by Heraklion Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The event "Gender Inequality & Stereotypes About Women," held at the Polykentro of Moires, focused on highlighting persistent social inequalities and promoting gender equality. In his speech, the President of the Heraklion Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Vangelis Karkanakis, emphasized the importance of collective efforts to eliminate gender disparities, particularly in rural and entrepreneurial settings.

A key point of the discussion was the empowerment of women in rural areas through entrepreneurship. Mr. Karkanakis presented the Chamber's ongoing support for women via business guidance, training, and access to necessary tools. Initiatives such as the Heraklion Business Hub and the Business Support Office were noted as critical resources in fostering female-led innovation and business development.

A central feature of the event was the detailed presentation of the GAEA project by Maria Symeonidou, Head of European Programs at the Chamber. The GAEA initiative is designed to strengthen women's roles in the agricultural sector, equipping them with the skills and resources needed to build sustainable rural businesses.

The event concluded with the message that gender equality is not only a women's issue, but a fundamental human rights concern and a pillar of social and economic development. The initiative was organized in collaboration with the Municipality of Phaistos, the Region of Crete, and the Heraklion Chamber of Commerce.



GAEA at the 4th Cyprus Job & Career Festival 2025

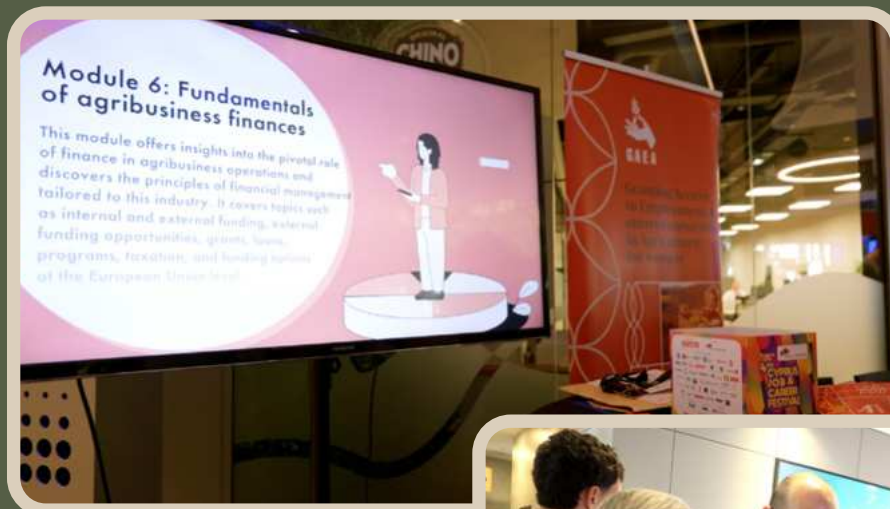
by IMH

On May 30th and 31st, the Cyprus Job & Career Festival 2025 was held in Nicosia, drawing thousands of young attendees from across the island, including students, job seekers, early-career professionals, and aspiring entrepreneurs. As one of the most significant career-oriented events in Cyprus, the fair provided a dynamic platform for networking, information exchange, and career guidance.

Within this vibrant environment, the IMH team actively participated by hosting an informational booth dedicated to presenting the European project. The team engaged with visitors by offering insights into the project's aims and activities, with a particular emphasis on the tools and resources developed to support women in the rural entrepreneurship sectors. These included specially designed educational materials, e-learning modules, and digital platforms aimed at enhancing skills, increasing access to information, and promoting best practices in sustainable agricultural entrepreneurship.

The booth attracted significant interest, particularly from young women seeking viable pathways into entrepreneurship in rural and agricultural settings. IMH representatives emphasized that GAEA seeks not only to equip women with practical knowledge but also to address systemic barriers, such as limited access to finance, training programs, markets, and mentorship, that hinder women's active participation in the agrifood value chain.

A key highlight of the fair was the presentation of the project and its key outcomes to the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance, emphasizing the critical need to support women in rural areas through integrated, results-driven approaches that combine professional training, digital upskilling, and entrepreneurial empowerment.



GAEA at the 1st Pan-Cretan Women's Entrepreneurship Conference

by Heraklion Chamber of Commerce and Industry

On April 12–13, the city of Rethymnon hosted the **1st Pan-Cretan Women's Entrepreneurship Conference**, with international participation, highlighting the significant potential and future prospects of women's entrepreneurship.

The conference aimed to strengthen the presence and participation of women in the entrepreneurial, corporate, and scientific spheres and acknowledged the crucial role women play in driving economic growth, social development, and innovation.

The event aimed to foster an open and dynamic dialogue on the challenges and opportunities faced by women entrepreneurs. Discussions focused on strategies to enhance women's engagement across all areas of business, while showcasing their potential and leadership in the business world.

Participants also gained insights into emerging challenges, form new partnerships, expand their networks internationally, and contribute to shaping a stronger footprint for women in entrepreneurship.



GAEA Project Results Showcased at Hungarian Multiplier Event

by Union of Hungarian Women's Association

On April 24, 2025, the Hungarian Multiplier Event of the Erasmus+ GAEA project took place in Szolnok, organized by the Union of Hungarian Women's Association (UHW) in partnership with FOCENOSZ. Held under the "Women's Lab Education Workshop" umbrella, the event focused on presenting the key outcomes of the GAEA project to local stakeholders and international guests.

Central to the event was the live demonstration of the GAEA digital platform, including its multilingual mobile app and training materials aimed at supporting NEET women and female entrepreneurs in agriculture and digital literacy. Mónika Aliz Mészáros, UHW project manager, highlighted the app's user-friendly design, 11-language accessibility, and practical tools for rural women.

Participants received QR-coded leaflets for direct engagement with the resources, while panel discussions and networking sessions reinforced the platform's relevance and potential. The event successfully amplified GAEA's impact and strengthened ties between stakeholders working toward inclusive digital empowerment.



Showcasing Impact: The Norwegian Multiplier Event of the GAEA Project

by Prios Kompetanse

On May 28, 2025, the Norwegian Multiplier Event of the Erasmus+ GAEA project was held at Mære VET School for Agriculture, bringing together key stakeholders from the education, farming, business, and policymaking sectors. The event was organized to showcase the project's final outcomes and promote the tools developed to support women in rural entrepreneurship.

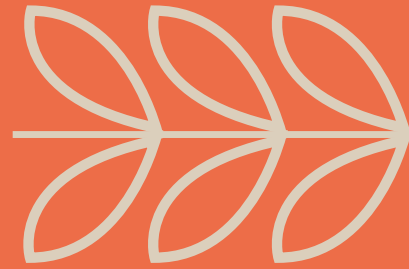
Hosted in collaboration with local partners, the event featured presentations, demonstrations, and interactive sessions designed to highlight the practical impact of GAEA. A central focus was placed on the project's educational materials, digital tools, and best practices aimed at empowering women in agriculture through targeted training and digital upskilling.

Participants had the opportunity to explore the GAEA platform and its resources firsthand, engage in knowledge exchange, and discuss future opportunities for implementation and collaboration. The event served as a powerful conclusion to the project, celebrating its achievements and reinforcing its long-term potential to support gender-inclusive innovation in the agri-food sector.





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Marking the End, Inspiring New Beginnings

by Lefki Lambrou, IMH

As the GAEA project reaches its conclusion, we take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all individuals and organizations who contributed to its successful implementation.

We thank the trainers, researchers and educational experts whose work shaped the content and methodology of GAEA.

We acknowledge the efforts of our local and European stakeholders, including mentors, SMEs, public authorities and NGOs, who actively supported the project's objectives.

We recognise the commitment of all consortium partners, whose collaboration, professionalism and dedication enabled the timely and high-quality delivery of results.

Above all, we thank the women who participated in GAEA — for their trust, engagement and the valuable perspectives they shared.

The GAEA project has delivered a comprehensive set of open-access resources, including a digital platform, a mobile application, four tailored training programmes, and a transnational policy roadmap. These outputs remain publicly available to support future initiatives, training providers, and policy actors working to strengthen women's entrepreneurship in the agri-food and agrotourism sectors. All project materials and updates will remain accessible via the official communication channels.

On behalf of the consortium,
IMH (Project Coordinator)

