

## Research and interviews for the MINECROP project

As part of the Work package n°2 - 'Raising awareness of sustainable crop farming techniques': Training Framework in 'climate-friendly' agriculture & guidelines for sustainable techniques project partnership started work by preparing Desk Research and a Case Study.

**Keywords: Desk Research, Case Study, Data analysis, Collection of key information**

The development of Desk Research by each partner from different countries is a key element at the very beginning of the project for several important reasons. Firstly, it enables the collection of up-to-date and accurate information on the state of research, policies, practices and initiatives related to the project themes in each partner country. This allows each partner to gather relevant data and understand the local context, enabling project activities to be better tailored to the specific needs and challenges of each region. Secondly, desk research enables the identification of best practices and examples from other countries, which can provide a valuable source of inspiration and knowledge for all partners. In addition, it avoids duplicating existing solutions and focuses on innovative approaches. Finally, the development of desk research at the initial stage of a project enables partners to build a shared knowledge base and understanding of the global context, which can foster effective communication and collaboration throughout the project. Therefore, the proper execution of desk research by each partner is a key step in ensuring the effectiveness and success of the overall project.

Desk Research for the MINECROP project covered issues such as:

- National situation regarding sustainable agriculture + legal framework
- Climate neutrality – plans for the future in the country
- Crop situation regarding ecology

In each of these countries, sustainable agriculture is a key element in the move towards more sustainable and resilient food systems, in line with international commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The national climate neutrality situation in Poland, Spain, Romania, the Netherlands, Greece and Estonia varies, but they all aim to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. In Poland, Spain and

Romania, the main focus is on developing renewable energy sources, improving the energy efficiency of buildings and modernising the industrial sector towards sustainability. The Netherlands, known for its advanced agricultural practices, focuses on green technologies in agriculture and innovations in water management.

The crop situation with regard to organic farming in Poland, Spain, Romania, the Netherlands, Greece and Estonia reflects the diversity of approaches to sustainable agriculture in these countries. In Poland and Romania, there is a growing trend towards organic farming methods, increasing agricultural biodiversity and support for small and medium-sized organic farms.

There is a growing interest in organic farming and sustainable cultivation practices in each of these countries, contributing to a more sustainable and greener future for agriculture in Europe.

The next stage was for the partners to develop a Case Study - with both farmers and experts in the field of agriculture.

A case study is a tool used in research, education and business to explore the details of a particular case, phenomenon or problem. By collecting, analysing and presenting data on a particular case, it is possible to better understand its context, causes and effects, and to draw conclusions and suggestions for further action. Through a case study, researchers, scientists, project managers and other professionals can delve deeper into the complexities of reality, draw conclusions from specific situations and use this information to take further steps towards project development.

Case Study for the MINECROP project covered issues such as:

- What area of agriculture are you involved in and what experience do you have?
- To what extent is the Green Deal applied in your area and which practices are most often adopted?
- What are the barriers to implementing Green Deal on farms from an expert's point of view?
- What practices do you notice that are harmful to the environment?

After obtaining information from each partner country, the consortium will develop modules to cover the knowledge needs of specific topics. Such topics include: Sustainable fertilisation pesticide-free and chemical-free agriculture, Organic farming methods, Resource management in agriculture: optimising water, soil and energy use, Biodiversity in agriculture: importance and methods of conservation and others.

Follow the MINECROP project and read the Case Study report from each partner country, the Case Study and soon the Curriculum and the developed modules!