

Vyšší odborná škola a Střední zemědělská škola, Benešov, Mendelova 131 (Agricultural College and Agricultural Secondary School in Benesov) starts European platform for urban greening

Together with partners in Denmark, Finland, Romania, Spain, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands, Vyšší odborná škola a Střední zemědělská škola, Benešov, Mendelova 131 will be building a European Platform for Urban Greening in the coming years.

Increase knowledge and skills of green professionals

The European Platform for Urban Greening aims to increase the knowledge and skills required to address biodiversity, climate adaptation and well-being in the urban, green living environment, and to broaden the expertise among professionals in Europe. The educational institutions from the mentioned countries work closely with business partners and governments in order to match the educational offer with regional needs.

From improvement of air quality to green facades

The challenges, expertise and climate zones differ per region. By joining forces and sharing good practices, regions can learn from green solutions elsewhere. Think for example of roof gardens and green facades, the capture of particulate matter by specific trees and shrubs, edible parks and green solutions for heavy rainfall and long periods of drought.

A selection of the main outcomes

- 6 *Centres of Vocational Excellence* for urban greening in Europe
- Relevant, innovative and attractive curriculum on biodiversity, climate adaptation and well-being in the urban, green living environment
- Urban greening training offer for a continuing professional development of VET teachers and green professionals
- An educational- and experience centre on vertical green landscaping
- Virtual and blended learning methods for students and employees
- Exchange of students, teachers, employees and employers

Partners

ITTEC, s.r.o. has been founded in 1995 as private company focused on Irrigation and Turf Technologies. Organisation quickly become leader in professional solutions in Turf Machinery and Irrigation system industry focused for Sport Fields (Machinery and Irrigation for Golf courses, football and baseball stadiums, etc.) and Municipality (eco-friendly machinery for Turf and Municipality, park irrigation systems etc.). Together with long term work with professional customers like public city parks, golf courses etc., the company become not only one of the biggest importer of garden, park and sport irrigation systems in central Europe, but also became education facility focused on program Intelligent Use of Water – program what helps to understand where, how and why save water during irrigation usage. With its product and knowledge range, it is successfully participating on projects with standards of LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). The company is together with Irrigation systems, importer of smart cities friendly machinery like small electric utility vehicles

and eco-friendly park grass mowers. With those products, they are helping to reduce noise and emissions while municipality machinery is used in cities around the Czech Republic.

In the other countries, comparable partners representing green education, the government and the business sector are participating. Umbrella project partner is the European Landscape Contractors Association for green professionals ELCA.

Erasmus+

The four-year project is funded by the European Erasmus + funding programme. The *European Platform for Urban Greening* is one of seven European *Platforms of Centres of Vocational Excellence* selected by the European Union in 2020. In total there were 55 applications, including more than 1,300 partners from the 27 EU Member States and 25 non-EU countries.