ASC4INN
Innovation for Agriculture Supply Chains

Co-funded by the European Union

NEWSLETTER

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Driving Innovation in Europe's Agricultural Supply Chains

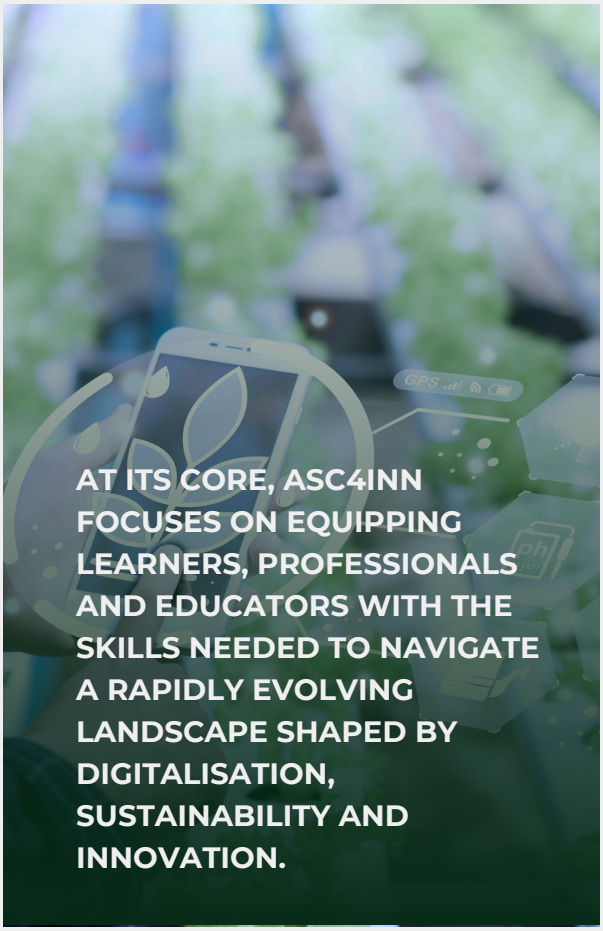
We are pleased to announce the official launch of ASC4INN – Alliance for Fostering Innovation in Education and Enterprises through the Digitisation of Agricultural Supply Chains.

This European initiative brings together universities, vocational education providers and industry partners with a shared ambition: to accelerate innovation, sustainability and digital transformation across the agri-food sector in Europe.

ABOUT THE PROJECT - WHAT IS ASC4INN?

ASC4INN is a forward-looking European project designed to strengthen the connection between education and the labour market in the agricultural supply chain sector. By building strong bridges between higher education, vocational training and industry, the project aims to modernise learning systems and make them more responsive to real-world challenges.

ALLIANCE FOR FOSTERING INNOVATION IN EDUCATION AND ENTERPRISES THROUGH DIGITIZATION OF AGRICULTURE SUPPLY CHAINS.



WHY ASC4INN?

Agricultural supply chains are undergoing a profound transformation. Emerging technologies, environmental challenges and changing market demands are reshaping how value chains operate across Europe.

This shift creates an urgent need for professionals who can combine technical knowledge with digital, green and managerial skills. ASC4INN addresses this gap by identifying key competencies and developing targeted educational programmes that respond directly to these evolving needs.

KEY FOCUS AREAS - KEY INNOVATION DOMAINS

To support this transformation, ASC4INN focuses on four strategic technological domains that are driving change in the agri-food sector:

- Robotics and drones, enabling automation and precision agriculture
- IoT and blockchain, improving traceability, transparency and data reliability
- Big data and advanced analytics, supporting smarter and evidence-based decision-making
- Investment and risk management, ensuring sustainable adoption of new technologies

These areas form the backbone of the project's training programmes and innovation activities.

WHAT WE DO - OUR APPROACH

ASC4INN develops innovative curricula and training tools tailored to both Higher Education (HE) and Vocational Education and Training (VET). These programmes are designed to combine theoretical knowledge with practical application, ensuring learners gain relevant and transferable skills. The project also fosters close collaboration between universities, training centres and enterprises, creating a dynamic ecosystem where education is aligned with industry needs and real-world challenges.

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LEARNING INNOVATION -TRANSFORMING THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

A key strength of ASC4INN lies in its modern and flexible learning approach. The project integrates advanced methodologies to enhance engagement and effectiveness, including:

- Blended learning environments combining online and in-person activities
- Game-based learning to foster interactive skill development
- Virtual and augmented reality simulations for immersive training
- Micro-credentials and flexible learning pathways to support lifelong learning

These solutions aim to create an inclusive, engaging and future-oriented educational experience.

EXPECTED IMPACT - WHAT ASC4INN WILL DELIVER

ASC4INN will produce a range of tangible and long-lasting results, including:

- Innovative and ready-to-use curricula aligned with labour market needs
- Advanced training materials, digital tools and immersive learning resources
- A strong European network connecting education providers and industry stakeholders
- A concrete contribution to the digital and green transition of agricultural supply chains

By doing so, the project will enhance employability, strengthen innovation capacity and support the competitiveness of the agri-food sector.

PROJECT KICK-OFF

ASC4INN officially started with a two-day kick-off meeting held in Thessaloniki and hosted by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. During the meeting, partners aligned on the project's objectives, structure and implementation plan, while also discussing key aspects such as quality assurance, dissemination and future activities.

This initial gathering laid the foundation for a strong and coordinated collaboration among all partners involved.

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THE FIRST PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The ASC4INN Consortium is currently advancing Work Package 2: Development of Curricula and ECVET Profile, to adapt HE and VET provision to the skills needs of the modern Agricultural Supply Chain sector. The first phase of work focused on validating and adapting the needs of HE institutions, VET providers, and enterprises in the areas of digitalisation, sustainability, and innovation in agricultural supply chains, with particular attention to robotics & drones, IoT, blockchain-based traceability, big data analytics, and investment risk management. Extensive desk research and field studies have been carried out across the partner countries (Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Spain, Belgium, and Bulgaria). These activities included the review of existing curricula, policy mapping, skills gap analysis, and stakeholder surveys involving educators, training providers, businesses, and industry representatives.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The next steps will focus on comparing and synthesising the findings in order to design innovative curricula, modular training pathways, and micro-credentials that respond directly to labour market needs and support the twin green and digital transition of Europe's agri-food sector. In this context, the project partners will meet in Milan on 17–18 June to discuss the results achieved so far and define the next implementation steps.

The Consortium Behind ASC4INN

Coordinator

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki — LASCM

Partners

Frederick University — Mobile Devices Lab

ECOLE Enti Confindustriali Lombardi per l'Education

Politeknika Txorierri

dlearn European Digital Learning Network ETS

Coopération Bancaire pour l'Europe - GEIE

GAIA

farmtechsociety International Network

INNOBRIDGE Business & Innovation Centre Ruse, Bulgaria

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