



Newsletter 6

Learning together for sustainable development in higher education

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Between 2021-2024 the Winnovators project was encouraging and implementing educational innovations about the capacity development across universities and the rural communities. This action was aligned to exploring how universities and communities together can be the promoters of SDG 4 and SDG 5.

The project facilitated a cross-border capacity development approach in higher education through teamwork with formal education HEI students, OIE entrepreneurs and experts with young rural women.

The project initiated and transformed the careers of under-represented and marginalized 133 young women in Estonia, Serbia and Slovenia towards sustainable digital and STEM/STEAM entrepreneurship.

The project built the Winnovators Space learning platform with gamified learning badges support for motivation that comprises two modular e-learning courses for self-learning and an area for formal-informal learners teamwork on their projects.

The project carried out elearning and eTraining activities with 133 young rural women, 105 HEI students, 10 mentors and HEI educators, and 83 educational policymakers and facilitated their transformation into change agents in the communities.

The lessons Winnovators learnt during the piloting years are useful to outline new educational policies that support SDG 3 and SDG 4 in higher education and the rural communities and business ecosystems.

- HEI management should promote more flexible study courses programmes that can be aligned to project work where HEI students can contribute to the community needs.

Project **WINNOVATORS**

"Boosting young women entrepreneurial spirit and skills to become the Women INNOVATORS of the future"



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- The students should be provided during the studies the opportunity to work for the community benefit, so that they can take the role of change agent after graduation.
- It is needed to rethink the agency of students in the university courses, giving them more responsibility in the tasks where they work with the community.
- The systematic peer mentoring approach from HEI students online is suitable to create learning for new career opportunities among the young women who are not in HEI education.
- The teamwork between HEI students, young rural women in the communities and business women creates trustful relationships and improves the access to the competencies, ideas, networks that the rural young women may lack, as well as transforms their careers.
- The Lecturers need to rethink how such community targeted learning activities could be set up as part of their course tasks and graded for competences and larger capacity building goals.

The universities should share open e-learning resources to support the SDG4 and SDG5 about accessible education for all for promoting women with lesser opportunities.

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