



Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes

CIHEAM BARI

Press release

29 May 2023

Digital SKILLS: the digital future on the move

CIHEAM Bari's Great Hall, 1st June 2023, 9.30 a.m.

Presentation of innovative solutions developed by 30 young trainees

With the digital market applied to the agri-food supply chain steadily growing, global agritech turnover is expected to reach \$15 billion, although business up-take remains limited. The main challenges include lack of expertise and difficulties in finding professionals to support business design and digitalisation processes. It is estimated that by 2030 the European labour market will need at least 20 million ICT experts while only 9 million are available today (Eu Commission's DESI 2022 Reports).

To meet the fast-growing demand of IT professionals by digital businesses in Puglia and across the regional cooperation area including Italy, Albania and Montenegro, CIHEAM Bari, Puglia's IT Production District and Dhitech, have collaborated to develop an advanced training course on digital skills, which will be officially concluded on 1st June at 9.30 a.m. at Cosimo Lacirignola Campus (Via Ceglie, 9 – Valenzano, Bari).

An innovative training method, which has involved 30 young graduates from different fields (Economics, IT, Agrifood), 19 from Albania, 2 from Montenegro and 9 from Puglia and Molise, seeking to improve digital skills through open innovation design thinking and in close collaboration with 17 Italian and 3 Albanian businesses to help the trainees develop innovative projects based on business needs.

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The course was run as part of the Food4Health project, funded by the Interreg IPA Cbc Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme and led by the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture. This initiative, which is intended to be a model for launching Puglia as an international HUB on digital training applied to the green and blue economy, will also mark the signing of a cooperation agreement between CIHEAM Bari, Puglia's IT Production District and Dhitech, with the aim to consolidate ongoing relations with Albania's and Montenegro's businesses and to include other southern Mediterranean and African countries.

The course's closing ceremony will be attended by Maurizio Raeli, Director of CIHEAM Bari, Carlo Batori, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Directorate General for Development Cooperation - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Alessandro Delli Noci, Councillor for Economic Development of Puglia Region, Gianna Elisa Berlingiero, Director of the Regional Department of Economic Development, Salvatore Latronico, President of Puglia's IT Production District and Angelo Corallo, President of DhiTech.

Teodoro Miano, Secretary General of CIHEAM, will deliver the concluding remarks while Damiano Petruzzella from CIHEAM Bari will moderate the meeting.

The six project works that have generated innovative solutions for business application will be showcased during the event.

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