

A large version of the TEAM#UP logo, where the '#' is replaced by an icon of two hands holding a plant with three green leaves.

TEAM#UP Newsletter, Edition #5, January 2026

Dear Vocational Education and Training providers, teachers, students, researchers, colleagues,

As we welcome 2026, we are delighted to share highlights from an extraordinary year of progress, collaboration, and innovation within the TEAM#UP project.

Together, we've advanced the provision of ecological restoration education across Europe, strengthened vocational training networks, and launched transformative resources that will shape the next generation of restoration professionals.

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DERTO – A New Digital Hub for Restoration Learning

One of the most significant milestones of 2025 was the official launch of the *Digital Ecological Restoration Toolbox (DERTO)* in October — an open-access platform designed to empower Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers, educators, practitioners, and learners with high-quality educational materials and tools. DERTO provides a multilingual, searchable resource base, structured learning modules, and innovative digital features to support restoration teaching and learning across Europe.



Practical Benefits for Teachers and Trainers:

Educators can **download ready-to-use learning modules, lesson plans, and case studies** covering topics from ecological principles to applied restoration techniques. All materials are freely accessible and reusable, allowing instructors to adapt content to different vocational levels, learning outcomes, and regional ecosystems. DERTO makes it easier to integrate restoration education into existing courses or develop entirely new learning pathways.

Virtual Demonstration Sites: Bringing Restoration Practice to Life

A unique feature of DERTO is its collection of **Virtual Demonstration Sites**. These interactive sites showcase **real ecological restoration projects from across Europe**, enabling educators to bring authentic field experience into classroom, online, or blended-learning environments.



Learning with Virtual Demonstration Sites

Virtual demonstration sites are interactive, virtual representations of real-world restoration projects. They showcase methods, progress and outcomes and allow users to explore and learn from practical examples of ecosystem restoration.

Often, best practice examples of ecological restoration in the field are difficult to reach or time is not available. Virtual demonstration sites offer VET teachers and students the opportunity to teach and learn using VR technology from the comfort of the classroom.

These virtual demonstration sites have been chosen to highlight the best examples of ecological restoration practices for students to learn real world skills valuable for success in the emerging ecological restoration market.

Teachers can use these virtual sites to:

- Illustrate real-world restoration methodologies and solutions
- Guide students through restoration planning and decision-making
- Support discussions on monitoring, stakeholder involvement, and long-term outcomes
- Provide hands-on experience for students even when field visits are not possible

Together, DERTO's learning resources and Virtual Demonstration Sites help bridge the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that vocational education in ecological restoration is both practically grounded and digitally innovative.

Explore the resources to discover how DERTO can support your teaching in ecological restoration.

[Explore the DERTO now.](#)

In case you missed it! A roundup of other great achievements in 2025!

Engaging Educators, Students, and Practitioners Across Europe

In 2025, TEAM#UP activities brought learners and educators together in exciting ways:

International Field Courses & Exchanges - A VET student exchange course on restoration ecology united learners from Norway, Germany, Spain, and the Czech Republic, giving hands-on experience in meadow restoration and landscape ecology.



Professional Development in Norway - Wildflower meadow courses in Norway attracted participants from multiple sectors, highlighting rising demand for biodiversity-focused skills.



Spotlights on Local Implementation & Events

Ecological Restoration Week in Spain



CIPFP El Palmeral hosted intensive theoretical and practical sessions in November — bringing together experts, educators, and students to strengthen restoration know-how, while showcasing DERTO resources throughout the week.

DERTO User Feedback & Ongoing Improvements



Earlier in the autumn, a **DERTO beta survey** invited educators and professionals to help shape the platform's evolution — a vital part of ensuring the toolbox meets end-user needs across Europe. This feedback has been supplemented by focus groups which discussed how to establish permanent, multi-sector collaborations to identify knowledge gaps in ecological restoration education and training.

Team Collaboration and Strategic Exchange



In October, our Steering Committee gathered in Norway for strategic planning, deepening collaborations and connecting education with real-world restoration practice through field visits to peatland and meadow restoration sites. These discussions will inform future curriculum development and extend TEAM#UP's impact across participating countries.

TEAMUP's public deliverables now available online!

VET schools, educators, project partners, and other stakeholders can explore and download key outputs – including curriculum development materials, business models report, and other practical resources, via our dedicated deliverables page: <https://teamup2restore.eu/deliverables>.

These open-access results are designed to support learning, innovation, and implementation across the VET ecosystem, and we invite everyone to make full use of them.

What's Next in 2026

The momentum doesn't stop here! Looking forward to the new year:

- **MOOCs on DERTO:** Free massive open online courses (MOOCs) launching in 2026 will expand learning opportunities for workers upskilling in ecological restoration.
- **Continued Course Development:** More international and advanced courses are planned, fostering professional growth across sectors.
- **Community Growth:** We will continue building a vibrant ecosystem of educators, learners, and restoration practitioners.

We invite you to contact us and collaborate with TEAM#UP!

Are you a Vocational Education and Training (VET) teacher or school interested in enhancing ecological restoration education? TEAM#UP invites VET schools and educators in partner countries to engage with our project and explore the opportunities offered by the Digital Ecological Restoration Toolbox (DERTO).

You are encouraged to contact us if you would like to:

- Access and integrate DERTO learning materials and Virtual Demonstration Sites into your courses
- Pilot new modules or adapt DERTO resources to your curriculum
- Participate in training events, workshops, or international exchanges
- Receive updates on upcoming courses, MOOCs, and professional development opportunities

By collaborating with TEAM#UP, you will contribute to the development of high-quality, evidence-based ecological restoration education and support the dissemination of knowledge across Europe.

[Contact TEAM#UP](#) today to learn how your institution can contribute to and benefit from DERTO and join our European network of educators and practitioners.



Thank You

2025 was a year of innovation, partnership, and commitment to ecological restoration education. Thank you to every educator, student, partner institution, and supporter — your contributions drive TEAM#UP's success and help shape a greener future.

Let's continue to grow and restore — together.



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TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project for sharing knowledge, tools, education and resources in ecological restoration for different communities in Czech Republic, Germany, Norway and Spain. This is a four-year project running from 15 June 2023 to 14 June 2027. TEAM#UP serves as a reference point for the incorporating educational and skills training of ecological restoration activities for secondary vocational schools, with the involvement of universities, and practical partners, facilitating the transition to a greener and more climate-resilient society.

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