TEAM#UP

TEAM#UP Newsletter, Edition #6, June 2026

We are looking for Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers in the **Czech Republic, Germany, Norway,** and **Spain** that are interested in integrating ecological restoration into the curricula of farming, forestry, and landscape gardening programs.

If your institution would like to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to support ecological restoration, we would love to hear from you. **Get in touch** to discuss how your organization can get involved and how we can support you in getting started!

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.

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

Welcome to the latest edition of the TEAM#UP newsletter. As we enter the final year of the project, we continue to advance ecological restoration education across Europe, strengthen VET networks, and develop practical resources that support the next generation of restoration professionals.

In this edition, we look back on the key milestones and achievements of the past six months, including new partnerships, learning resources, and project activities across Europe.

We hope you enjoy reading about our progress and thank you for your continued interest in and support of the TEAM#UP project!

In this newsletter, you will find...

Don't forget to follow the latest TEAM#UP project updates by subscribing to our biannual newsletter.

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.

Have you visited our Digital Ecological Restoration Toolbox (DERTO)?

The DERTO is one of the core products of the TEAM#UP project: an open-access platform designed to empower VET providers, educators, practitioners, and learners with high-quality educational materials and tools. The DERTO offers a multilingual, searchable resource base, structured learning modules, and innovative digital features that support restoration teaching and learning across Europe.

If you are a teacher or trainer, you 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 you to adapt content to different vocational levels, learning outcomes, and regional ecosystems.

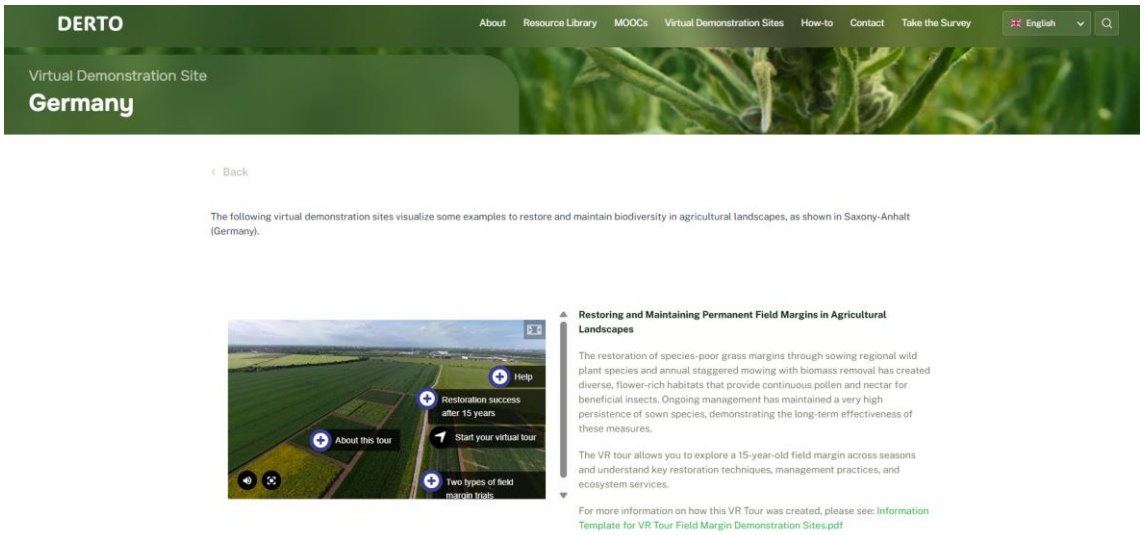
The DERTO makes it easier to integrate restoration education into existing courses or to develop entirely new learning pathways.

You can use these resources 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 learning experiences even when field visits are not possible

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.



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, helping bring authentic field experiences into classroom, online, or blended-learning environments.

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

Explore DERTO and discover how it can support your teaching in ecological restoration. 💻

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.

TEAM#UP joins leading European VET networks

TEAM#UP is proud to be a member of several key European VET networks, reinforcing our commitment to supporting excellence, innovation, and collaboration across the VET sector.

A leading EU umbrella nonprofit association of a large network of TVET stakeholders to secure a voice in policymaking and practice arenas. Learn more: https://efvet.org

---

A network of agricultural, environmental, and rural VET institutions that fosters collaboration, mobility, and innovation in vocational education across Europe. It unites 24 national EUROPEA networks and represents several hundred Green VET Schools all over Europe. Learn more: https://europea.org

---

An initiative of the European Commission that brings together governments, businesses, social partners, education providers, and other stakeholders to strengthen the quality, supply, and attractiveness of apprenticeships across Europe. Learn more: https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/skills-and-qualifications/working-together/european-alliance-apprenticeships_en

---

European community that connects Centres of Vocational Excellence and their partners to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and support excellence and innovation in vocational education and training. Learn more: https://coeplatform.eu

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.

EfVET Magazine Fátima D. Gigante & Ryan E.Campbell

Open Educational Resources platform for integrating Ecological Restoration topics into European VET teaching

Fátima D. Gigante
Society for Ecological Restoration Europe

Ryan E. Campbell
Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, TEAM#UP Centre of Vocational Excellence Project

Europe's ecosystems are under unprecedented pressure: 81% of habitats are in poor condition, biodiversity is declining, and climate change is intensifying the risks to food security, water systems, and human livelihoods. At the same time, the continent's workforce faces growing expectations, including implementing sustainable practices, navigating the emerging green and digital transitions, and supporting the achievement of Europe's climate and environmental objectives. In this context, vocational education and training (VET) has the opportunity to evolve and equip professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world shaped by environmental, technological, and socio-economic transformations.

TEAM#UP is a European Union-funded Erasmus+ project that strengthens green VET across Europe by mobilizing expertise in ecological restoration. As the EU advances toward greener and climate-resilient economies under the European Green Deal, there is an urgent need for skilled practitioners who can implement ecological restoration on the ground: a key tool to increase biodiversity, safeguard essential ecosystem services (such as clean water and air, pollination, and flood protection), limit global warming to 1.5°C, enhance Europe's resilience and strategic autonomy, reduce risks to food security and natural disasters, and support the achievement of the EU's climate mitigation and adaptation objectives. By training skilled "green workers," TEAM#UP equips professionals to translate National Restoration Plans into effective local action, implement sustainable land management practices, and strengthen both ecological and societal resilience across Europe.

To achieve this, TEAM#UP brings together 15 partners across five European countries, forming knowledge triangles that connect VET institutions, the scientific community, and the business sector. This collaborative model ensures that training is practical, theory-based and tailored to the needs of local ecosystems, industries, and communities. Through its programs,

EfVET Magazine Fátima D. Gigante & Ryan E.Campbell

TEAM#UP shapes a generation of VET professionals skilled to implement environmental and climate-smart solutions. Its holistic vision integrates education, research, and professional practice, offering a model for modern VET that addresses both environmental and socio-economic priorities.

Building on this vision, TEAM#UP developed the Digital Ecological Restoration Toolbox (DERTO): an open-access online platform that provides practical, interactive learning resources to help VET professionals apply ecological restoration in real-world settings. DERTO offers structured educational materials, immersive 360° virtual demonstration sites showcasing real-world restoration practices, and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). It serves a broad audience, including VET providers, students, landscape gardeners, farmers, foresters, governmental agencies, and nature enthusiasts. By combining modular, flexible, and interactive content, DERTO allows learners to explore practical case studies, engage with restoration practices, and upskill or reskill for green jobs at their own pace and from anywhere.

DERTO demonstrates how digital tools can expand the reach and effectiveness of VET, enabling institutions to modernize curricula, integrate new technologies into teaching, and respond efficiently to emerging skills needs. By linking theory, hands-on experience, and digital learning, TEAM#UP ensures that VET professionals are ready to meet the challenges of the green and digital transitions, contributing actively to Europe's ecological restoration and climate objectives.

Through its practical tools, collaborative model, and forward-looking educational programs, TEAM#UP provides a good practice example of how VET can transform in a disruptive era: fostering adaptability, innovation, and competitiveness while directly addressing Europe's environmental and socio-economic priorities.

More information can be found here: TEAM#UP and DERTO

TEAM#UP featured in the EfVET Magazine

The TEAM#UP project and DERTO were featured in the March 2026 issue of the *EfVET Magazine*, published by the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EfVET), an EU non-profit umbrella organization established in 1991 that brings together VET stakeholders across Europe and beyond to strengthen the voice of vocational education and training in policy and practice.

The article, titled "Open Educational Resources Platform for Integrating Ecological Restoration in European VET Teaching", highlights the project's contribution to advancing ecological restoration education in vocational training across Europe.

You can read it here.

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.

This is what we have been working on during the first half of the year! Here you will find a selection of key activities, milestones, and achievements from across the TEAM#UP project. 👇

From Feedback to Better Learning Materials

Our partners in the Czech Republic have been testing and refining the project's educational materials based on feedback from teachers, students, and practitioners: the primary audiences for these resources.

This collaborative process is helping ensure that the materials are not only scientifically robust and comprehensive, but also practical, relevant, and effective in supporting ecological restoration education across Europe.

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.

Building Knowledge for Better Peatland Restoration

As part of the TEAM#UP project, we are working on the development of four Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), which will be available in spring of 2027. One of these is focused on peatland restoration and is being developed by our Norwegian partner, the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA).

It aims to support learners in exploring these unique ecosystems, combining scientific knowledge with practical learning approaches, and building the skills needed for effective restoration.

Stay tuned for our updates, as we will be announcing when the MOOCs become available so you can be among the first to strengthen your skills in ecological restoration.

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.

Bringing Nature Back to Campus: Launch of the Renaturalisation Project in Alicante

The TEAM#UP project has officially launched the renaturalisation process at CIPFP El Palmeral in Orihuela (Alicante, Spain), marking an important step toward transforming the center's outdoor spaces into a greener, more biodiverse, and more sustainable learning environment.

The kick-off meeting brought together school representatives, local authorities, researchers, and academic partners to share a common vision: turning the campus into a living example of ecological restoration within vocational education and training.

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.

Learning Ecological Restoration Through Wildflower Seeding in Germany

In late March 2026, 14 students from the Haldensleben VET School in Germany took part in the first of two annual seedings as part of the TEAM#UP project. The activity is integrated into their training as future "State-Certified Agricultural Business Managers" and combines ecological restoration learning with practical agricultural education.

The students worked at a local demonstration site near Haldensleben, established in partnership with the city and designed as both a learning space and a long-term public awareness site for sustainable agriculture. After preparing the plot earlier in the month, they sowed a mixture of 25 wildflower and grass species, adapting to challenging windy conditions that required teamwork and improvisation to ensure even seed distribution.

This hands-on activity is part of an experimental approach comparing autumn and spring sowing, with students and teachers continuing to monitor the site to observe germination and ecosystem development over time.

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.

Take a look at some of the other articles we have published to discover what our partners have been working on across Europe and behind the scenes of the TEAM#UP project.

Promotion of TEAM#UP and DERTO at the National Conference of the Faculty of Education, Charles University, Prague

Our partners in the Czech Republic presented the TEAM#UP project and the Digital Ecological Restoration Toolbox (DERTO) at a national conference hosted by the Faculty of Education of Charles University in Prague, helping raise awareness of ecological restoration education and the project's resources.

Integrating Ecological Restoration into Infrastructure Projects

Our partners in Norway, Hæhre Entreprenør AS, integrate ecological restoration into ongoing infrastructure projects, where environmental objectives are balanced with safety requirements, technical standards, and construction schedules. As part of the TEAM#UP project, they have developed an ArcGIS StoryMap based on the E10 Hålogalandsvegen project in Northern Norway. The StoryMap offers insights into how ecological considerations are incorporated throughout planning, construction, and environmental follow-up in a complex infrastructure setting.

From the Field to International Committees: Our Journey and Cooperation in the TEAM#UP Project

Since joining the TEAM#UP project in June 2023, our Spanish partner Agresta S. Coop. has been working to bring practical ecological restoration experience into VET classrooms. As part of the project, Agresta has contributed to a collaborative effort involving 15 partners across Europe, helping connect restoration practice with the skills and knowledge needed by the next generation of restoration professionals. In a recent reflection on their journey, they share some of the key milestones, achievements, and lessons learned from their involvement in the project, from international collaboration and governance to hands-on field activities.

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.

Thank you for being part of the journey 🌼

As this season of growth and learning continues, thank you for being part of the TEAM#UP journey. We look forward to sharing more progress and stories from across Europe with you soon.

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone on your network who is interested in teaching or learning more about ecological restoration.

Co-funded by the European Union

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement N°101103653.

Co-funded by the European Union

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.

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA is responsible for the views expressed.