

 KOUVOLA 04062026

SOME ONGOING PROJECTS

KOORUOKO (SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM WITH HIGH EXPERTISE IN KOUVOLA)



OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- »» To build an innovation ecosystem around a higher education institution
 - »» enabling state-of-the-art research, development and innovation
 - »» educating high-level professionals for business and industries
- »» To develop the food sector into one of the key growth sectors of Kouvola and the Kymenlaakso region
- »» Project lasts 3 years, funded by Regional Council of Kymenlaakso



HOW TO REACH THE OBJECTIVES

- » By developing our study programmes
- » By enabling RDI activities (new laboratories)
- » By researching e.g. green logistics (road map for local food industry), sustainable business models in food sector, how to add value from Nordic cereals (introducing innovative processing and the biorefinery concept), use of AI in food innovation
- » By building networks with local stakeholders
- » By boosting internationalization

Driving Climate Positive Futures DREAM+PLAN





ABOUT DREAM+PLAN

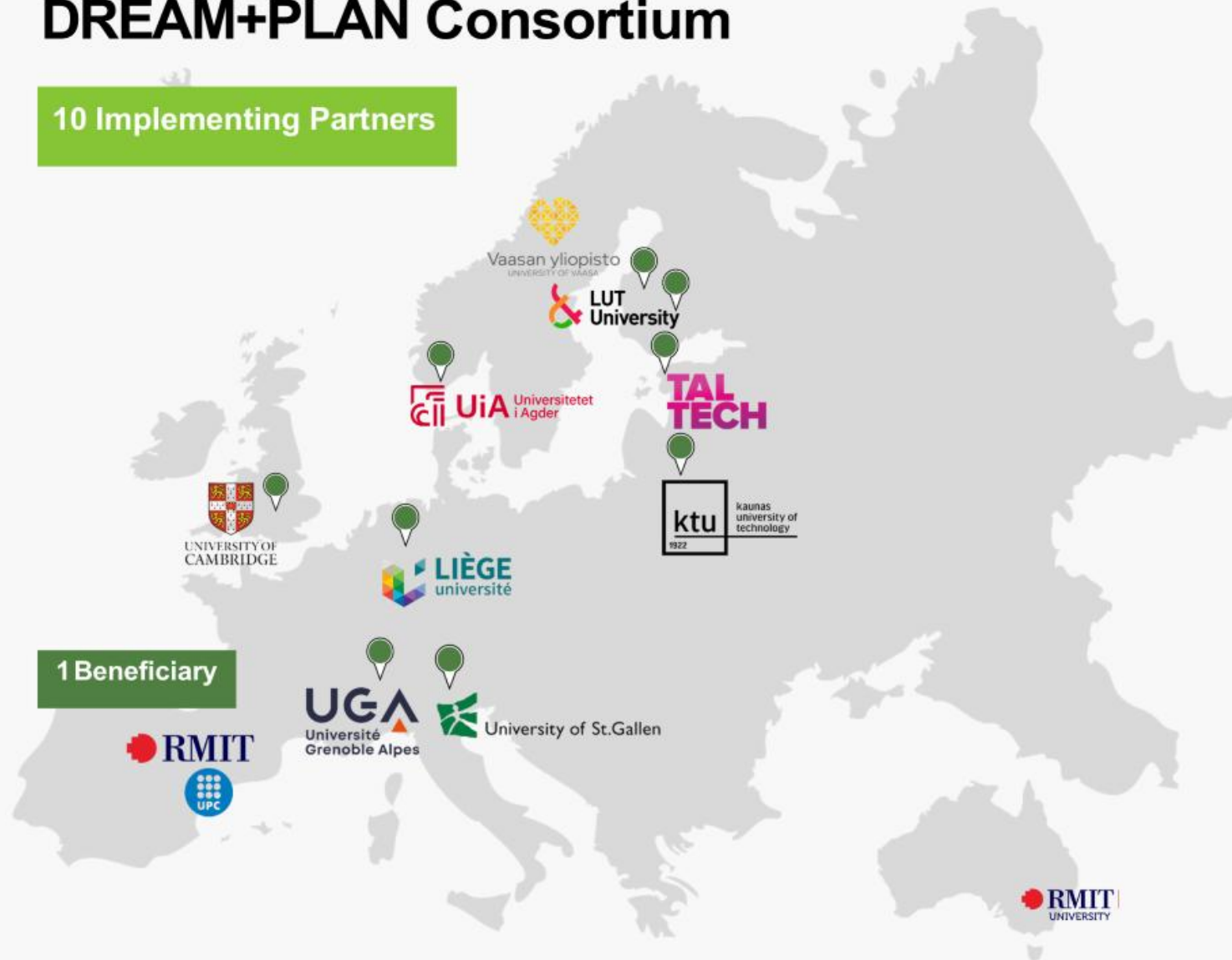
Driving Climate Positive Futures (DREAM+PLAN), a truly **interdisciplinary**, **international**, and **intersectoral** PhD program, uniting European and Australian research via 32 doctoral positions, many for double degree. DREAM+PLAN brings together a community of **visionary changemakers**, leaders, who dream big and develop tangible pathways for solving local and **global climate-related challenges**, all united by a mission to create a **positive impact**, towards a more **sustainable, fair, inclusive** and thriving planet for future generations.

The overarching objectives of DREAM+PLAN research **training program** is to create and deliver, **legacy-worthy**, novel, cutting-edge, 3i-centric training through best-practice multi-faceted, group and individual training options for DC's.

DREAM+PLAN Consortium

10 Implementing Partners

1 Beneficiary



17 Associated Partners



**Kouvola
Innovation**



H/AUS



DIVERSIUNITY



PhD Topics **MUST** fall under at least of the three overarching Themes

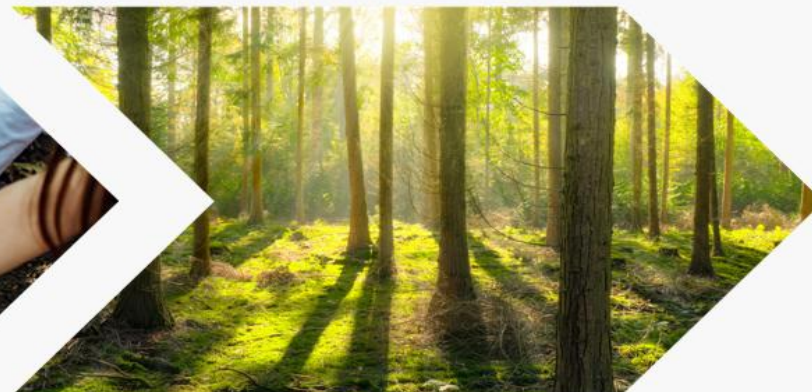
Resilience



Restoration



Regeneration



Examples of possible Sub-Themes

Clean Technologies

Green Finance

Regenerative Futures

Entrepreneurship

Renewable Energy & Innovation

Nature-Based Technologies & Solutions





What is a COFUND?

MSCA COFUND programs provide **co-funding** for regional, national, and international **doctoral** and postdoctoral **training programs**. Their goal is to enhance the career prospects and training of researchers by encouraging **international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral** mobility. COFUND promotes best practices in researcher training and strengthens global collaboration through **partnerships** with universities, research institutions, and industries.



- HIGHLIGHTS
- ✓ **32** intercontinental PhD double-degree positions
 - ✓ **11** European partners + RMIT Australia
 - ✓ **16** Associated Partners (multinationals, SMEs, NGO, unicorn, innovation agencies, clusters and policymakers)
 - ✓ Cutting-edge training program with 3 annual doctoral schools
 - ✓ **7** implementing partners having received the HR Excellence in Research Awards
 - ✓ Unique intercontinental PhD supervisory model, dedicated industry mentor
 - ✓ Multidisciplinary research on Resilience, Restoration, and Regeneration
 - ✓ Legacy with repository of training materials

MARIE Skłodowska-CURIE ACTIONS COFUND



Staff Mobility to Action Resilient, Restorative, and Regenerative Transitions & Societies



What is the Staff Exchanges (SE) scheme?

Funded by Horizon Europe, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Program



The Staff Exchanges (SE) scheme aims to promote inter-sector and international collaboration among organisations engaged in research and innovation (R&I) activities via the exchange of R&I personnel (staff members), to bring knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa).



SE involves R&I organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors, based in Europe (EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries) and outside Europe (third countries). The organisations constituting the partnership contribute directly to the implementation of a joint R&I project by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members.

About SMAR3TS and Secondments

SMAR3TS will adopt Open Innovation practices and support staff exchange secondment across its Consortium of 35 partners, across 16 countries (and 4 continents) to undertake cutting-edge research on resilience-restoration-regeneration capabilities, and accelerate pathways to economic, environmental, and societal impact.

Up to **360** Person Months of Staff Mobility

Secondments will support the maturation/advancement of the ~24 INNOVATE-3X (I3X) across socio-technical transitions in SMAR3TS 4 key areas of Human Need:



CODEBIO

Co-Innovation with digitalization for
Regenerative and Resilient Bio-
Production in the Western Balkans



Co-funded by
the European Union

Our Objective

Build practical skills for regenerative, circular & digital agriculture

How



Practical Training



Real-Life Pilots



Micro-Credentials



Who



VET Providers & Trainers



Learners & Young Professionals



Farmers & Agri-Businesses

Why



Skills for Market Needs



Sustainable Agriculture

What Success Looks Like

At the End of CODEBIO

- VET curricula aligned with real labour-market needs
- Trainers confident in teaching regenerative and circular practices
- Learners equipped with practical, applicable skills

Micro-credentials awarded and recognised by stakeholders

- Strong cooperation between **education, industry, and policy**

Long-term Impact

- More sustainable agricultural practices
- Stronger link between education and innovation
- Skills that remain useful beyond the project

