



## **RELIEF engages territories: with training and new networks, we foster the bioeconomy in agriculture in your region**

This autumn has brought significant updates for European agriculture, with new policy developments reshaping the sector. The [Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture](#) has emphasized the importance of the bioeconomy in driving the green transition. In alignment with this vision, the RELIEF project supports these goals by offering training for agricultural operators and fostering knowledge exchange through two major initiatives: the launch of training pilot programs and the establishment of rural Bioeconomy Hubs in our partner countries.

## Free courses on Bioeconomy: join us!

This autumn marks the launch of the pilot phase of the RELIEF bioeconomy training courses. Agronomists, farmers, and students from Italy, Greece, Sweden, and Portugal are invited to participate in this innovative curriculum designed to enhance skills and knowledge in sustainable farming practices and bioeconomy integration.

### What's the Goal?

- Enhance skills in sustainable farming practices
- Integrate bioeconomy concepts into agricultural operations
- Gather feedback to refine the curriculum for regional needs

**Why Bioeconomy?** The bioeconomy is crucial for:

- Reducing reliance on fossil fuels
- Creating new value chains
- Promoting sustainability in agriculture



**TRANSITION TO A  
CIRCULAR ECONOMY**



**BIODIVERSITY**



**TRANSITION TO A  
LOW- CARBON  
ECONOMY**



**A GREENER  
INDUSTRY**



**NEW VALUE  
CHAINS**



**MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO  
CLIMATE CHANGE WHILE  
SUPPORTING LOCAL  
ECONOMIES**

These initiatives are in line with the EU's broader strategy to incorporate circular economy principles and accelerate the transition to renewable resources in agriculture.



**In 2019, the EU launched its Green Deal with which it aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050, and decouple economic growth from resource use, all while leaving no person or place behind. Bioeconomy contributes to this undertaking.**



**The EU's bioeconomy strategy aims to:**

- **ensure food and nutrition security;**
- **manage natural resources sustainably;**
- **reduce dependence on non-renewable and unsustainable resources;**
- **mitigate and adapt to climate change;**
- **strengthen European competitiveness and create jobs.**

[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/environment/bioeconomy\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/environment/bioeconomy_en)  
[https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/bioeconomy/bioeconomy-european-green-deal\\_en](https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/bioeconomy/bioeconomy-european-green-deal_en)

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## What does RELIEF offer?

The courses offered in the RELIEF training programme are divided into five general modules, each organised into four key units. They are tailored to two levels: Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education (HE). These courses are designed by mixing face-to-face sessions, e-learning via our platform and work-based learning.

Here is an overview of modules and units:

## Agricultural sustainability

This module focuses on integrating sustainable practices into agriculture, covering topics such as:

- **Renewable energy:** exploring how renewable energy sources can be integrated into agricultural practices
  - **Climate change:** understanding climate change and the challenges it poses to the agricultural sector
  - **Water management:** studying the water cycle and sustainable water management practices
  - **Organic residuals in agriculture:** learning about the circular system of managing agricultural residuals
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## Digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence

This module delves into the role of digital technologies in modern farming, including:

- **Data science:** the importance of data science in agriculture for decision-making and optimizing productivity
  - **Remote sensing:** applications of remote sensing technology in farming
  - **Smart Farming:** exploring smart farming solutions for enhanced efficiency
  - **Automation Technology:** understanding the role of automation in modern agricultural practices
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## Bioeconomy, circular and biobased economy

This module introduces the concepts of bioeconomy and circular economy, including:

- **Circular economy:** the importance and principles of the circular economy model
  - **Biorefineries:** technologies and processes involved in biorefineries
  - **Bioenergy:** understanding bioenergy and the role of energy crops
  - **Bioeconomy:** exploring the broader concept of bioeconomy and its impact on sustainable agriculture
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# Agriculture in a controlled environment

Focusing on controlled environment agriculture, this module covers:

- **Vertical farming:** methods, technologies, and benefits of vertical farming
  - **Entrepreneurship:** developing entrepreneurial skills specific to vertical farming and controlled environment agriculture
  - **Sustainable practices:** assessing the level of sustainability in controlled environment agriculture
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## Horizontal Skills

This module covers essential skills for the agricultural sector, including:

- **Soft and Green Skills:** developing skills that promote sustainability and effective communication in agriculture
- **Entrepreneurial skills:** encouraging innovation and business acumen in the agricultural sector
- **Digital Skills:** enhancing digital literacy for modern agricultural practices

### Italy

Courses are available through the University of Florence, CESIE, and Dream Italia.

If you would like to participate in one or more of the Italian courses or request further details, please [fill out the interest form here](#).

### Sweden

Swideas and Mälardalen University are offering a range of courses. To sign up or receive more information about the courses in Sweden, [complete the form](#).

### Portugal

Courses in Portugal are provided by the University of the Azores and TERINOV. If you're interested in the Portuguese courses or want more details, please [fill out the interest form](#).

## Greece

Courses in Greece are available through four institutions: UOP, OTC, ReadLab, and iBO/CERTH. Each offers specialized courses in various fields. If you wish to participate or learn more, please [complete the Greek interest form here](#).

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## RELIEF Rural Bioeconomy Hubs: connecting and empowering local communities

RELIEF is launching [four Bioeconomy Hubs in Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Sweden](#). These Hubs are designed to foster local networks that bring together stakeholders in the field of bioeconomy, encouraging collaboration, knowledge sharing, and practical application of sustainable agricultural practices.

### Key Features of the Rural Bioeconomy Hubs:



**1. Regional focus:** Each hub addresses the specific needs and opportunities within its local agricultural community, ensuring relevance and tailored support.



**2. Networking opportunities:** Connect with farmers, agronomists, researchers, students, and local partners to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and build a stronger bioeconomy network.



**3. Access to educational resources:** Members will have priority access to RELIEF's cutting-edge training programs and materials on bioeconomy, with courses designed for university students, professionals, and farmers.



**4. Ongoing support:** Participants will receive guidance on integrating bioeconomy principles into their agricultural practices, helping them contribute to a more sustainable future.

Whether you are a farmer, researcher, student, or advisor, we invite you to join your local RELIEF Bioeconomy Hub and become part of a community committed to advancing sustainable agriculture in your region.

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## How to join the Relief Bioeconomy Hubs:

To join, simply visit our registration page and fill out the form to connect with your local Hub. By joining, you will gain access to further resources, networking opportunities, and support for implementing bioeconomy practices in your work.

**Register here:**

- <https://relief.uop.gr/hub-greece/>
- <https://relief.uop.gr/hub-italy/>
- <https://relief.uop.gr/relief-portugal/>
- <https://relief.uop.gr/hub-sweden/>

Whether by joining a course, connecting with your local Bioeconomy Hub, or simply sharing RELIEF's mission with others, your support is key. Together, let's build a resilient, innovative, and sustainable agricultural sector.

## About Relief

Relief is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, Partnership for Innovation, Alliances for Education and Enterprises.

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## Visit the website

[relief.uop.gr](http://relief.uop.gr)

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## Partnership



*Coordinator*

[UOP – University of Peloponnese](http://www.uop.gr) (Greece)



[UNIFI – Università degli Studi di Firenze](http://www.unifi.it) (Italy)





[UAc – University of Azores](#) (Portugal)



[MDU – Malardalens Universitet](#) (Sweeden)



[OTC – Olympic Training & Consulting LTD](#) (Greece)



[CESIE](#) (Italy)



[SwIdeas](#) (Sweeden)



[Innovade LI](#) (Cyprus)



[Terinov](#) (Portugal)



[IBO-CERTH – Centre for Research and Technology Hellas Greece](#) (Greece)



[ReadLab P.C.](#) (Greece)



[Dream](#) (Italy)

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