

Teacher training: Didactic Implementation of the VET Programme 'Arboriculture for Gardeners'

In November 2023, teacher training took place in Arboretum Volčji Potok in Slovenia. In today's educational landscape, the effective implementation of VET programmes is essential. The 'Arboriculture for Gardeners' programme stands out, addressing environmental concerns and the demand for skilled professionals in urban green spaces management – arboriculture.

Experts from Arboretum Volčji Potok and teachers from partner organizations: Biotehniški center Naklo (SI), Gospodarska škola Čakovec (HR) and Stredná odborná škola Pruské (SK) organized the training. 5-day comprehensive teacher training was crucial for deep knowledge and understanding of arboriculture principles, urban forestry practices, and tree care technologies to build effective teaching strategies. At the training teachers listened to presentations of 4 training modules: Tree biology and



pedology, Tree pathology, Plant identification and selection, Tree operations and work safety. Training was organised also with the work on the field, where teachers tested new teaching methods and shared experiences.

Practical methodologies are essential, including hands-on experiences and simulated scenarios. These foster a dynamic learning environment, enabling students to apply theoretical concepts practically. Innovative teaching tools like interactive simulations and online application enhance programme accessibility and relevance, catering to diverse learning styles.

Ongoing professional development is crucial for sustained programme efficacy. Workshops and mentorship programmes empower educators to stay abreast of emerging trends, fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

In conclusion, the 'Arboriculture for Gardeners' VET programme's success depends on effective teacher training. Equipping educators with knowledge, skills, and resources empowers them to inspire the next generation of arborists, addressing tomorrow's environmental challenges.

Granada, Spain – Partner meeting

Spanish project partner On Projects hosted 3rd project partner meeting in a beautiful city Granada in May 2023. The partners discussed the progress and review of all the results of the project, which are being developed over a period of one and a half years. The curriculum of the new VET 'Arboriculture for Gardeners' programme is now complete. Partners are now writing the content of the four modules (Tree biology and pedology, Tree pathology, Plant identification and selection, Tree operations and work safety) and preparing the self-evaluation assignments for those who will be trained in the programme. Partner On Projects

is preparing a e-Training Platform where training content will be accessible to all. Partner presented solutions and graphic design of the platform.

The expert Mirko Silan from Arboretum Volčji Potok SI, gave advice and feedback to the partners on the relevance of the content that partner have already prepared. Matjaž Mastnak give to partners an informative lecture on the examples of good and bad practices in working with urban trees.

During the meeting an arboriculture expert took us through gardens of the Alhambra. The Gardens are renowned for their beauty, historical significance, and intricate design. These gardens are an integral part of the Alhambra complex, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most visited tourist attractions in Spain. Arboriculture, or the cultivation and management of trees and shrubs, plays a significant role in the landscape of the Alhambra gardens. The gardens feature a diverse array of plant species, including various trees, flowers, and hedges, carefully arranged to create a harmonious and visually stunning environment. Arboriculture techniques such as pruning, shaping, and grafting are employed to maintain the health and aesthetic appeal of the trees and plants within the gardens. Skilled gardeners work diligently to ensure that the vegetation thrives and continues to enhance the overall ambiance of the Alhambra.

