



Aim of the project **ArborTech** Erasmus+ is to provide a professional approach to the modern requirements of urban green infrastructure through vocational education and training (EQF level 4) for VET students. Development and implementation of a new VET programme 'Arboriculture for Gardeners' in already exist formal VET program in school centres, development of an educational platform and a physical and virtual dendrology laboratory, promotion of arboriculture and its importance.

What is ArborTech?

The Biotechnical centre Naklo from Slovenia, together with four other partners - Gospodarska Škola Čakovec from Croatia, Arboretum Volčji Potok from Slovenia, Stredná odborná škola Pruské from Slovakia and OnProjects from Spain – is implementing the project ArborTech, which covers the field of **arboriculture**.

Arboriculture, the study and cultivation of trees, remains an important field in modern times, with several key trends and developments shaping its practice

Urban Forestry With increasing urbanization, there's a growing focus on urban forestry and arboriculture to manage trees within cities. Urban foresters and arborists work to maintain the health and sustainability of urban tree populations, which provide numerous environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Tree Preservation and Conservation There's a heightened awareness of the importance of preserving trees and forests for biodiversity, ecosystem services, and climate mitigation. Arborists play a crucial role in conservation efforts by assessing tree health, implementing preservation strategies, and participating in reforestation projects.

Tree Risk Management As trees are integral parts of urban and rural landscapes, there's a need for effective tree risk management strategies to minimize hazards to people and property. Arborists assess the risk of tree failure and develop plans for tree care, pruning, and removal to ensure public safety.

Climate Change Adaptation Arboriculture is adapting to the challenges posed by climate change, including shifts in temperature, precipitation patterns, and the increased frequency of extreme weather events. Arborists are selecting tree species and cultivars that are more resilient to climate stressors and implementing management practices to support tree health in changing environments.

Education and Certification There's a growing emphasis on professional education and certification in arboriculture to ensure the competency and professionalism of practitioners.

Project started in December 2021. Within a year and a half, concrete project results will be developed and implemented

1. National and summary reports on state of VET for arborists.
2. Dendrology laboratory - physical and virtual
3. Curriculum 'Arboriculture for Gardeners' - VET program for students.
4. 'Arboriculture for Gardeners': VET program contents and associated training materials.
5. 'Arboriculture for Gardeners': Educational platform.
6. Guidelines for employers for inclusion of people with mild disabilities in arboriculture.

