

BLUE & GREEN FARMS

NEWSLETTER



Sustainable Farming Training Week in Hofsós, Iceland 27 April – 1 May 2026

The BLUEGREEN Project proudly brought together participants from Austria, Greece, and Iceland for an intensive week of learning, collaboration, and innovation in sustainable agriculture. Hosted by Ísponica in the picturesque village of Hofsós, Iceland, the training week took place from 27 April to 1 May 2026, providing participants with valuable knowledge, practical skills, and intercultural experiences focused on the future of sustainable food production.



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Growing Green Solutions Across Europe

The mobility activity formed an important part of the BLUEGREEN Project's mission to promote environmentally responsible agricultural practices through vocational education and international cooperation. By exploring innovative methods such as aquaponics and vertical farming, participants gained firsthand experience in solutions that can contribute to climate resilience, efficient resource management, and sustainable food systems.



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Welcome to Iceland and Introduction to Sustainable Farming

The week began with a warm welcome at the Icelandic Emigration Center, where participants met their international peers and took part in icebreaker and brainstorming activities designed to foster teamwork and intercultural exchange.

The afternoon focused on introducing the core concepts of aquaponics and vertical farming, providing participants with a foundation for the practical activities that would follow throughout the week. A visit to Ísponica's facilities offered an inspiring first look at how innovative agricultural systems operate in Iceland's unique environment.

The day concluded with a cultural visit to Grafarkirkja, one of Iceland's oldest turf churches, where participants had the opportunity to learn more about local heritage while strengthening group connections.

The second day focused on sustainability and problem-solving. Through presentations, discussions, and collaborative activities developed in cooperation with Eimur, participants explored environmental challenges facing modern agriculture and discussed innovative solutions. A highlight of the day was the visit to a traditional Icelandic farm, where participants observed local farming practices and compared them with agricultural realities in their own countries.



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Cultural Exploration and Team Building

These discussions encouraged valuable exchanges of experiences and demonstrated how sustainable practices can be adapted to different climates and contexts. The travel day allowed participants to discover the beauty of Northern Iceland while strengthening international friendships. Groups explored nearby destinations including Siglufjörður, Dalvík, and Akureyri, experiencing Icelandic landscapes, culture, and local communities.

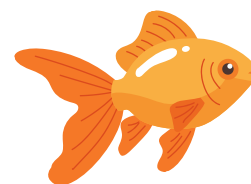
This informal learning environment contributed significantly to intercultural understanding and helped participants build strong connections that will continue beyond the project.

Hands-On Learning and System Design

One of the most practical days of the programme focused on direct engagement with aquaponic and vertical farming systems.

Participants worked at specialized stations at Ísponica, gaining practical experience in:

- Aquaponic system operation
- Water management and nutrient cycles
- Plant cultivation techniques
- Sustainable food production methods
- Troubleshooting and system maintenance.



In the afternoon, participants collaborated in a System Design and Troubleshooting Workshop, where they developed ideas for implementing sustainable farming solutions within their own communities. The day concluded with presentations and reflections, allowing participants to share their findings and receive feedback from peers and trainers.



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Looking Ahead

The last milestone of the training week was the testing and validation of the BLUEGREEN Training Guide, a key educational output developed by the project partners. The guide brings together modules on sustainable agriculture, aquaponics, vertical farming, resource management, entrepreneurship, and cross-cultural cooperation, aiming to provide practical learning resources for VET students, young people, educators, and aspiring farmers. Throughout the week, participants actively engaged with the guide's learning content through workshops, discussions, field visits, and practical activities at Ísponica's facilities. Their experiences allowed the partnership to assess the relevance, clarity, and effectiveness of the training materials in real-life learning environments.

The final day focused on reflecting on the week's achievements, evaluating learning outcomes, and discussing how the knowledge gained in Iceland can be applied in local communities. Beyond strengthening participants' technical knowledge, the training fostered intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and lasting international connections. The learning journey continues as participants share their experiences and promote sustainable farming practices within their schools, organizations, and local communities.



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