

## **WINNOVATORS Erasmus+ Project Hosts Joint Multiplier Event for Policymakers**

On October 14, 2024, the WINnovators Erasmus+ project successfully hosted a Joint Multiplier Event for policymakers, attracting over 47 attendees from partner countries, including representatives from Romania, Italy, Slovenia, Estonia, and Serbia. This virtual event facilitated a rich exchange of insights on strengthening education systems to better support young women and rural communities in developing entrepreneurial, STEM, and sustainability skills.

Professor Kai Pata from Tallinn University introduced the WINnovators project's core objectives and milestones, emphasizing the transformative potential of higher education institutions in sustainable community development. The project promotes innovative, lifelong learning for underserved communities, particularly for young rural women. During the event, participants explored strategies for embedding STEM and entrepreneurship into educational frameworks to empower these women as change agents in their communities.

A central aspect of the event was the presentation of three country-specific case studies from Estonia, Slovenia, and Serbia. Each case highlighted unique approaches to community engagement, skills development, and project-based learning. For instance, in Estonia, higher education students collaborated with rural women on community projects, creating digital learning modules on sustainability and technical skills. Similarly, in Slovenia and Serbia, students and young women co-developed entrepreneurial initiatives, supported by local mentors and an innovative online learning platform.

Irina Saghin concluded the event with an interactive session aimed at drafting a policy white paper to reinforce sustainable, equitable educational opportunities. The session invited participants to discuss systemic barriers and propose policy solutions for long-term mentorship, community engagement, and digital education resources.

The WINnovators event underscored the importance of collaborative partnerships between universities, policymakers, and local communities. It serves as a critical step toward creating scalable, impactful programs for lifelong learning, particularly for young women in underserved areas. More information on the project's ongoing initiatives and outcomes can be accessed through the WINnovators website.