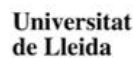


International Summer School on
DS-FOOD Design of sustainable food systems



Czech
University
of Life Sciences
Prague

Virtual component: 24th June 2026

Physical mobility: [Alpine Studies Centre of Pieve Tesino](#), Italy, 5th – 12th July 2026

The 6th edition of DS-FOOD summer school on “Design of sustainable food systems” arises from the growing attention that the issue of sustainability of food systems has gained at the international level. The **Farm-to-Fork** strategy launched by the European Union in 2020 brings agri-food issues to the heart of the **European Green Deal**, pushing for a transition of food systems towards a condition of sustainability that can lead to environmental, social, and economic benefits. This approach aims to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG 12: sustainable production and consumption).

The in-depth knowledge of these issues by students enrolled in courses dealing with the agri-food sector will be essential to allow them to work towards this transition in the next future. The **objective** of the summer school is to provide participants with a theoretical overview and a basic toolbox to design and assess sustainability in agri-food systems, in an international environment.

The summer school is organised by University of Tuscia (Viterbo, Italy), in partnership with Harokopio University of Athens (Greece), University Politehnica of Bucharest (Romania), Universitat de Lledia (Spain), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Uppsala, Sweden), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Wien, Austria), Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Prague, Czech Republic). The summer school will be held at the **UNITUS Alpine Studies Centre**, located in the small village of Pieve Tesino, in the Dolomites of Trentino, Italy, July 2026.



Aerial view of Pieve Tesino (left) and classroom of the Alpine Studies Centre (right)

The Summer School is based on an interactive programme of lectures, seminars, field visits and workgroups to explore key issues linked to the sustainability of food systems.

The major **thematic topics** reflect the four-pillar approach of the Farm-to-Fork EU strategy, thus combining sustainability of production, food processing and distribution, sustainable consumption styles and prevention of food waste.

Key information

The summer school is a Blended Intensive Program, co-funded by Erasmus+, which includes a **virtual component** (1 day) and **physical mobility** (8 days) at the premises of the Alpine Studies Centre. The language of the summer school is **English**.

Provisional program

The provisional program of the activities is shown in the table below. Lectures will be given by professors from the Universities promoting the summer school, and by selected invited speakers.

VIRTUAL COMPONENT (24th June 2026, online)

Day	Program
June 25th Tuesday	h9.30-10.00: Welcome and presentation of the summer school h10.00-10.45: Presentation roundtable and Ice-breaking games h10.45-11.00: Break h11.00-11.20: Program of the summer school and preparatory activities h11.20-11.30: Questions and answers h11.30-12.00: Background and topics of the summer school h12.00-12.15: Rules of the Alpine Studies Centre h12.15-12.30: Logistics of the travel and stay h12.30-13.00: Questions & answers and conclusions

PHYSICAL MOBILITY (5th – 12th July 2026, at the [Alpine Studies Centre of Pieve Tesino](#), Italy)

Days	Program
July 5th Sunday	Meeting point at Trento train station h14.30: Departure to Pieve Tesino (all together by train/bus) h19.00: Arrival in Pieve Tesino and check-in h20.00: Welcome dinner
July 6th Monday	h9.00-9.30: Opening ceremony h9.30-10.00: Introduction to the course and group work h10.00-11.30: Lecture h11.30-13.00: Exercise h14.30-16.00: Lecture h16.00-18.00: Orienteering
July 7th Tuesday	h8.00-18.00: Field visit at local food companies
July 8th Wednesday	h9.00-10.45: Lecture h11.00-12.45: Exercise h14.30-16.00: Lecture h16.-18.00: Visit at berry farm, introduction to group works

Days	Program
July 9th Thursday	h8.00-16.00: Field visit at a typical “malga” of Trentino with short trekking h16.30-18.00: Group work session (I)
July 10th Friday	h9.00-10.45: Lecture h11.00-12.45: Exercise h14.30-16.00: Lecture h16.30-18.00: Group work session (II)
July 11th Saturday	h9.00-11.45: Group work session (III) h12.00-12.45: Final pitch on group works – Case study 1 h14.30-16.00: Final pitch on group works – Case study 2 and 3 h16.15-17.00: Final exam with multiple questions h17.00-h17.30: Results of the exam and closing of the summer school
July 12th Sunday	h9.00: Check-out and departure

Participation fee

Thanks to the funding provided by the Internationalization Program of the University of Tuscia, the registration is **free of charge** for the students enrolled in degree courses at the promoting Universities (University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy; Harokopio University of Athens, Athens, Greece; University Politehnica of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania, Universitat de Lledia, Lleida, Spain, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden; University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Wien, Austria; Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Prague, Czech Republic). The registration fee is **€ 250** for other participants.

The fee includes:

- All lectures and seminars;
- Course materials;
- Bus to join the field visits;
- Accommodation in multiple-bed rooms at the Alpine Studies Centre from the 5th of July (arrival) to the 12th of July (departure) 2026.

Dinners at the local restaurant from July 5th to July 11th (7 dinners) are partially covered by the fee. A mandatory and fixed payment of 90€ per student will be requested on the first day, as a contribution to the cost of the dinners of the week. The organising team reserves the right to remove or reduce this compulsory contribution in case of availability of additional funding in support of the summer school.

Travel expenses to reach Pieve Tesino, small entrance fees to the companies (to be paid locally), and costs of breakfast and lunches are not included in the registration fee. Students enrolled at the non-Italian promoting universities (Harokopio University of Athens, Athens, Greece; University Politehnica of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania, Universitat de Lledia, Lleida, Spain, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden; University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Wien, Austria; Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Prague, Czech Republic) can apply to the international offices of their home university to obtain a mobility contribution through Erasmus+ funds.

Selection criteria

The summer school has **25 places** for university students and will take place only if a minimum number of 15 participants is reached.

The summer school is targeted at bachelor and master students enrolled in university courses dealing with agricultural and environmental sciences, food technology, food chain management, sustainability, and circular economy. Application of students with different backgrounds, PhD students and other participants will be considered upon the availability of places.

The following criteria will be considered to evaluate the applications:

- English language proficiency;
- Coherence of the university background of the applicant with the topics of the summer school;
- Academic performance as shown in the transcript of records;
- Gender balance;
- Balance among nationalities;
- Priority to students enrolled in bachelor or master courses at University of Tuscia (Viterbo, Italy), Harokopio University of Athens (Greece), University Politehnica of Bucharest (Romania), Universitat de Lledia (Spain), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Uppsala, Sweden), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Wien, Austria), Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Prague, Czech Republic) in the academic year 2025/2026.

Application documents and procedures

The deadline to send applications is set on **1st May 2026**. Applicants must compile the online application form available at this [link](#) and upload in the same form the following documents in PDF file format:

1. English language certificate or a self-certification (template for self-certification available at this [link](#));
2. Transcript of records with exams and grades.
3. Motivational letter written in English (min 500 words, max 1,000 words);
4. Front-back copy of a valid identity document and (if needed) visa to enter Italy.

Selected applicants will be notified via email on **10th May 2026**. Notification emails will be sent from the account of the summer school **foodsummerschool@unitus.it**. Selected applicants are required to reply via email to confirm their participation by **24th May 2026**.

Participants required to pay the registration fee must complete and send proof of the payment to foodsummerschool@unitus.it by **30th May 2026**.

In case selected applicants do not confirm or do not pay the registration fee within the deadline, other applicants on the waiting list will be contacted.

Selected applicants are expected to fully participate in all summer school activities, including both the virtual component and the on-site mobility. Partial attendance is not permitted; participants may not enrol in individual modules, arrive after the start of the program, or leave before it concludes, except in duly justified emergency cases.

Link for the virtual component

The virtual component of the summer school will be hosted on Zoom. Selected applicants will receive the link to join the virtual component via email.

Venue of the physical mobility

The physical mobility of the summer school will be hosted in Pieve Tesino, a small town in the dolomites of Trento Province (North-Eastern Italy) at the Alpine Study Centre (CSALP) of the University of Tuscia.

Address: Via Rovigo, 7, 38050 Pieve Tesino TN

Location: 46°04' 10"N 11°36'28"E

Pieve Tesino is located 52 km from Trento and 107 km from Padua. It can be reached:

- by car:
 - via Trento (A22), continuing along the SS 47 in the direction of Padua to Strigno, then continuing along the SP 78 to Pieve Tesino
 - OR
 - Via Padova (A4, A13), continuing along the SS 47 in the direction of Trento to Strigno, then continuing along the SP 78 to Pieve Tesino
- by train:
 - via Trento (Brenner line), continuing along the Trento-Padova line to the stations of Borgo Valsugana or Strigno, then by bus to Pieve Tesino (bus timetable and routes on the website of [Trentino Trasporti](#))
 - OR
 - via Padova (Rome-Venice and Milan-Trieste lines), continuing along the Padova-Trento line to the stations of Strigno and Borgo Valsugana, then by bus to Pieve Tesino (bus timetable and routes on the website of [Trentino Trasporti](#))
- by air:
 - from Venice Marco Polo airport, continuing by train via Padova
 - OR
 - from Verona's Catullo airport by train via Trento

Additional information

For any additional information, please contact us at foodsummerschool@unitus.it