

AN ERASMUS+ FUNDED PARTNERSHIP

CERAS

Advancing Circular Economy and Sustainability in Rural Business Activities: Skills for the Future



Democritus University of Thrace — Partner

Rural agrifood producers face growing pressure to go circular — but the instruments built for large, permitted industry rarely reach them. **CERAS** pairs five European universities with agrifood SMEs to build the platform, the curriculum, and the monitoring framework that rural circularity has been missing.

THE CERAS PARTNERSHIP

CERAS brings together five higher-education institutions and their agrifood partners across Romania, Greece, Slovenia, Catalonia, and Albania. Coordinated by **Universitatea Vasile Alecsandri din Bacău**, the ten-strong consortium pairs each university with rural producers and cooperatives spanning meat, dairy, and fruit-juice & vegetable processing — grounding the project's teaching and tools in real production lines rather than theory alone.

WHAT THE PARTNERSHIP BUILDS

- A shared, web-based Circular Economy platform, built for universities and SMEs alike
- Blended training for teaching staff, embedding CE directly into everyday courses
- An integrated student track — online courses, on-site SME visits, workshops, project mentoring
- A Summer School and dissemination programme, building a lasting CE community

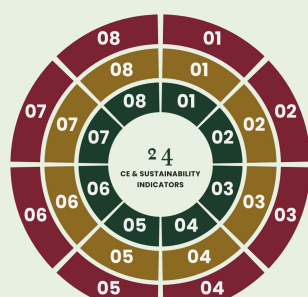
DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE

Department of Natural Environment & Climate

Resilience — Schools of Agricultural & Forestry Sciences, based in Drama.

DUTH brings extensive international research experience in Circular Economy and sustainable rural and mountain management to the consortium, anchoring CERAS's fieldwork in East Macedonia & Thrace (EMTH) — home ground to case-study cooperative ASOP.

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24 Indicators for Rural Circularity

Co-developed to reach what existing EU, national, and voluntary CE instruments don't: rural agrifood SMEs operating below the scale of large, permitted installations.

- ENV 01–08
- ECON 01–08
- SOC 01–08

Meat Processing

Dairy

Fruit-Juice & Vegetable Processing

CONSORTIUM

Coordinated by **Universitatea Vasile Alecsandri din Bacău**, Romania · ceras.ub.ro

