

EDUBIO: The Vocational Training Program for Access to the National Register of Organic Farming Technicians, Developed by AIAB

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Abstract

The Italian Association for Organic Farming (AIAB) promotes the vocational training program "EDUBIO" for organic farming technicians interested in enrolling in the National Register AIAB. The Register is composed of two kinds of sections: those of competence with the federal (national) office in Rome and those of local competence, managed by the regional branches of the association AIAB.

EDUBIO uses didactic materials and innovative training models based on the results of the EU Leonardo da Vinci projects Organicmed (www.organicmed.org) and Ecologica (www.ecologica.net). The training courses provide theoretical lessons, apprenticeship in organic farms, and distance learning through a Web-based platform. By means of the EDUBIO program, AIAB intends mainly to ensure the acquisition of new skills for the professionals involved in the National Register for organic farming technicians. However, there are also expected educational activities for consumers, public administrators, and farmers.

Following guidelines at the European level in the area of adult and lifelong education, what has been avoided as much as possible is the traditional lesson based on "information to memorize." On the other hand, active learning activities have been introduced in which the subjects can build up their knowledge, starting from their own experiences, through the mediation of their culture and language.

The distance learning through a Web-based platform (www.ecologica.net) developed by the European universities in cooperation with farmers association will reduce "distances" and will open minds to innovation.

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