

# Case Studies in Bioeconomy education, training and skills development

Case study sample: The Pokari Project

Greece

Q-PLAN





# The Pokari Project

## 1 Abstract

The Pokari Project is a group of artisans, breeders, and scientists who aim to restore the value of sheep's wool. Sheep's wool is a natural product with multiple physical properties and applications. It is heat- and sound-insulating, flame-retardant, windproof, and, with appropriate treatment, relatively waterproof. It is also a biodegradable and skin-friendly material. Traditionally, and even today, it has been used in construction, the textile industry, as filling for quilts, mattresses, and pillows, and in cultivation as a natural fertiliser. Additionally, the natural fat in wool is used in the pharmaceutical industry and in the preparation of natural cosmetics.

## 2 Target Groups

Local Communities, Children, Adults, Art Enthusiasts, Environmental and Sustainable Living Advocates and complementary Collaborating Organizations

## 3 Case Study Category

Inject the bioeconomy in design, art, architecture, etc. professions

## 4 Training Provider

The Pokari Project co-organises training sessions as a service and conducts numerous demonstrations in local communities in collaboration with other organisations. They hold small workshops with children and adults on art and the use of wool. For example, in collaboration with Tzoumakers, they assembled an old loom and used it with their wool. Their goal was to create a manual on how to assemble and build a loom, as well as how to make rugs and other items with it. More information is available here:

<https://thepokariproject.gr/tzoumakers-%cf%84%ce%b6%ce%bf%cf%85%ce%bc%ce%ad%ce%b9%ce%ba%ce%b5%cf%81%cf%82/>

They also participated in a workshop that combined wool and 3D printing, called "The Cycle of Wool: From Tradition to Innovation." In this workshop, they provided educational programmes as part of the exhibition "Plásmata II: Ioannina," which aimed

to bridge art with tradition, the digital world, and ecology. More information is available here: <https://www.onassis.org/el/whats-on/plasmata-ii-ioannina-exhibition>

## 5 Region

Greece

## 6 Language

Greek

## 7 Objectives of the education Format

N/A

## 8 Final objective of the education format

The Pokari Project aims to restore the value of Greek wool by creating sustainable yarn that supports the primary sector, contributes to waste reduction, preserves cultural heritage, and supports the preservation of indigenous communities.

## 9 Scope and context of the education format

- **Demonstrations:** The project engages in demonstrations within local communities, likely showcasing the properties and applications of sheep's wool in a practical manner.
- **Workshops:** Workshops are conducted for both children and adults, suggesting a hands-on approach to education.
- **Community Engagement:** Collaborations with other organisations indicate a broader scope, involving engagement with the wider community.

The project may aim to create community awareness and involvement in sustainable practices, encouraging collective efforts towards a more environmentally friendly and conscious lifestyle.

## 10 Specific Skills and competencies addressed

Wool Processing Skills, Crafting Skills, Artistic Expression, Knowledge of Sustainable Practices.

## 11 European Qualification Framework level/s

Level 2 – 3

## 12 Main benefit of the participant

Participants in The Pokari Project experience a range of valuable benefits, including the development of practical skills in working with sheep's wool, fostering creativity and artistic expression, and gaining environmental awareness. Engaging in community demonstrations and workshops fosters connections within the local community, contributing to a sense of belonging and shared learning. Participants also gain an appreciation for the cultural significance of traditional crafts associated with sheep's wool. The project provides an empowering experience, allowing individuals to acquire new skills, contribute to sustainability, and potentially explore entrepreneurial ventures. Overall, participation in The Pokari Project offers a fulfilling blend of personal growth, community connection, and contributions to sustainable practices.

## 13 Investment made

The main cost categories for The Pokari Project include materials and supplies, workshop logistics, educational resources, and artistic materials, ensuring participants have the tools needed for hands-on experiences.

## 14 Importance and impact

The Pokari Project holds significant importance as it endeavours to restore the value of sheep's wool through educational initiatives, community engagement, and artistic expression. By showcasing the diverse applications of wool and promoting sustainable practices, the project not only contributes to the preservation of traditional crafts but also raises environmental awareness. The impact extends beyond skill development

and creative expression, fostering a sense of community and cultural appreciation. The project's emphasis on sustainability aligns with global efforts to reduce ecological footprints, making it a valuable initiative with the potential to inspire lasting change in local communities while promoting the use of a renewable and versatile natural resource.

## 15 Relevance (of the format)

Both initiatives share a common emphasis on innovative approaches, education, and the integration of diverse disciplines. The Pokari Project, with its commitment to sustainable practices and the use of natural materials like sheep's wool, can contribute valuable insights to BioGov.net's exploration of innovative governance models in bioeconomy education. Additionally, The Pokari Project's incorporation of art and cultural elements in their workshops aligns with BioGov.net's emphasis on integrating humanities, art, design, and culture.

## 16 Uniqueness and replicability in BioGov.net

The uniqueness of The Pokari Project lies in its holistic approach to restoring the value of sheep's wool. By combining traditional craftsmanship, artistic expression, and environmental education, the project creates a distinctive platform. The integration of workshops for both children and adults, along with community demonstrations, sets it apart in fostering a multi-generational and inclusive learning environment. The project's commitment to sustainability, promotion of eco-friendly practices, and engagement with local communities adds a unique dimension, contributing not only to skill development but also to broader cultural and environmental impact. This holistic and community-centred approach distinguishes The Pokari Project as a unique and impactful initiative in the promotion of sheep's wool.

The Pokari Project's innovative and community-centred approach, emphasising hands-on education, art integration, and sustainability, can serve as a rich source of inspiration for BioGov.net. The success factors embedded in The Pokari Project's design, including multi-stakeholder engagement, a commitment to cultural appreciation, and measurable impact metrics, offer valuable insights for BioGov.net's vision to foster an inclusive and innovative bioeconomy. By drawing inspiration from The Pokari Project's model, BioGov.net can explore creative governance structures, incorporate experiential learning methods, and infuse cultural dimensions into its own bioeconomy education initiatives, ultimately enhancing their impact and relevance at both community and global levels.

## 17 Data sources

- **Online resources:** <https://thepokariproject.gr/>
- **Resource persons:**
- **Other sources, if any:**

# BioGov.net

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Stronger Bioeconomy

## Consortium

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