

 **PRESS RELEASE**

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ADVANCING WORK SAFETY FOR PEST CONTROL WORKERS

[Training Workshops for Pest Control Professionals]

Three 2-day Pest Practice pilot training workshops were successfully delivered in Greece, Cyprus and Italy in June 2015, involving **79 pest control professionals**. The pilot training aimed to up-skill pest control professionals in Pest Control Management in the subjects of **Safety at Work, Biocidal Products, Entomology & Zoology** and **Legislation Issues**.

The face-to-face workshops were combined with online training through the e-learning platform (blended learning) that complemented the learning procedure.

All participants expressed great interest on the topics and a yearning to share the new knowledge with their colleagues. Some of the statements describing the course include:

“It was a very interesting and well organised course”

“Constructive discussions, interactivity, rich material and excellent organisation”

“Good combination of scientific knowledge and practical issues in pest control management.”

“Valuable exchange of knowledge and experiences”

“A holistic approach to pest control issues”

The overall impression of the trainees with respect to the presentations of the training material was very satisfactory, while the vast majority said that they would definitely recommend the course to other professionals of the sector. Some of the main conclusions of the workshops were the clear need and value of ongoing orientation and training due to the fact that a holistic, comprehensive training has direct correlation with both their safety and the public health.

The “Pest Practice” e-learning platform is accessible for free use here: <http://training.pestpractice.eu/>

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PEST PRACTICE – “Advancing work safety for pest control workers” is a 24-month EU co-funded transnational project which came to life in late 2013, under the Lifelong Learning Programme. It addresses the clear lack in targeted and well-informed training programmes and learning opportunities for pest professionals among many EU member-states, concerning the correct handling, application and disposal of pesticides, especially among low-skilled pest control workers. PEST PRACTICE is being implemented by a transnational consortium of partners from Greece (Benaki Phytopathological Institute, knowl Social Enterprise and Municipality of Athens Vocational Training Centre), Cyprus (Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs and R&Do Ltd.), Italy (Futura Soc.Cons.r.l and Centro Agricoltura Ambiente “G. Nicoli” Srl) and Germany (IZAG).