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ROOT Project Officially Launches in Coimbra to Support Skills and Career Development in the Earth Observation Sector

Erasmus+ funded initiative brings together European partners and stakeholders to strengthen career guidance, upskilling and professional transitions in the rapidly evolving Earth Observation ecosystem

Coordinated by Instituto Pedro Nunes, **ROOT – Resources for Orientation and Occupational Transition** is an Erasmus+ funded project that aims to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of career guidance and counselling for adults at different knowledge levels, with a particular focus on the downstream Earth Observation (EO) sector. Over the next three years, the project will support employees, SMEs and career counsellors in making informed upskilling and reskilling decisions, contributing to workforce adaptability, business resilience and sustainable growth.

The project brings together **eight partner organisations** from **five European countries** - [Instituto Pedro Nunes](#), [QUASAR - Human Capital](#), [Geographic Information Systems International Group Association](#), [Fondazione E. Amaldi](#), [Eupportunity - European Affairs Consultancy](#), [European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training](#), [Stichting Dotspace](#)) and [Aristotle University of Thessaloniki](#) - and promotes collaborative approaches involving industry, academia, public authorities and civil society.

The official **kick-off meeting** took place on 31 March 2026 at Instituto Pedro Nunes in Coimbra (Portugal) and marked the consortium's first in-person meeting since the project's start on 1 February 2026. Throughout the day, partners discussed the project's governance structure, management procedures, communication and dissemination activities, stakeholder engagement and co-creation methodologies, career guidance development strategies, exploitation and impact activities, as well as the implementation of ROOT's Living Labs. These Living Labs will play a central role in the project by bringing together stakeholders from across the quadruple helix (industry, academia, government and civil society) to co-create practical and innovative solutions tailored to the needs of the Earth Observation sector.

The following day, on 1 April 2026, ROOT held its **first dissemination and launch event**, gathering around 40 participants from academia, industry, the public sector and civil society. The event focused

on the growing need to better align emerging skills requirements and career guidance approaches with the rapid evolution of the EO sector. A round table discussion addressed perspectives on current sector challenges, emerging competences and the importance of improving guidance and orientation pathways for EO-related careers. Discussions throughout the event reinforced the importance of continuous collaboration between stakeholders from different sectors and backgrounds to ensure that education, training and career guidance systems remain responsive to labour market developments and technological transformation.

The launch event also marked the public introduction of ROOT's mission to strengthen skills development, support professional transitions and contribute to a more resilient and inclusive Earth Observation ecosystem across Europe.

ROOT Resources for Orientation and Occupational Transition is an Erasmus+ funded project that improves access to career guidance and counselling for adults at different knowledge levels. The project supports employees, small and medium-sized enterprises, and career counsellors in making informed upskilling and reskilling choices, with a strong focus on jobs in the downstream Earth Observation sector. Through three living labs, ROOT brings together industry, education, public authorities, and civil society to co-create practical solutions that strengthen skills, adaptability, and sustainable growth in a fast-changing labour market.

For further information, click [here](#).