



Vajsova domačija

THE INNOVATION JOURNEY

Karmen Čarman, the Slovenian Young Farmer of the Year 2023, is a math teacher, farmer and miller who has been gradually building her innovation journey on a small farm with a 500-year tradition since 2018. Together with her family, she is developing the production and processing of agricultural products, tourism and educational activities, the production of various (innovative) artisanal products, etc.

She and her husband found and bought the farm with a mill by chance, but she was born with a love of cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, working on the farm and, above all, working with people. This is also why she chose to become a teacher.



Figure 1. Karmen's respect for cultural heritage and the people was instilled in her at home.

In addition to her regular work, Karmen manages the farm where she grows new crops each year (aronia, beans,

soybeans, corn, etc.). In the future, she would like to work as an independent farmer, although she loves teaching students. She would like to continue teaching on the farm itself (baking courses, pedagogy, handicrafts, milling). The Vajs Farmstead is still under development – there are plans to increase the agricultural area, restore the old sawmill, supplement existing tourism with accommodation facilities and more.

THE INNOVATION IMPACT

Karmen is particularly proud that she and her husband had the courage to go their own way and develop and create all the activities and tangible achievements as a family. In 2024, they will open their own store and visitor center.

Through various educational programs and activities, she preserves the traditional cultural heritage (traditional baking recipes, baking classes, millwork demonstrations, revival of old games, customs). Through various activities, it is strongly integrated into the natural environment, and through various forms of networking and independent development of activities, she has gained new communication skills, self-confidence and new ideas. The Young Farmer of the Year 2023 award has contributed to her recognition and expanded opportunities for further work.

USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.vajsovadomacija.com/> ,
<https://www.facebook.com/vajsovadomacija>