



TempusCaSA

TEMPUS PROJECT PRESENTATION

Project title:
**BUILDING CAPACITY OF SERBIAN AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION TO LINK WITH SOCIETY**
Acronym: “CaSA”

Part 1. PROJECT SUMMARY

**544072-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-RS-TEMPUS-SMHES
(2013 – 4604 / 001 - 001)**

Sub programme:
Structural Measures, Action Higher Education and Society

Vesna Poleksić, Goran Topisirović
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Belgrade, Serbia

INTRODUCTION

This is a presentation of the CaSA project and the role it plays in linking research and innovation with knowledge improvement in agriculture. CaSA is a national project, coordinated by The University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture.

It belongs to the TEMPUS sub-program Structural measures and the Action Higher education and society. These two benchmarks point out what are the main objectives of

the project: to improve quality and availability of vocational agricultural education; to strengthen competences of educators; to create a National Repository for Agricultural Education (NaRA) [3].

Basic course is strengthening links between higher education (HE) and society by building capacity of Serbian:

- University teachers from Faculties of Agriculture (FA)
- Agricultural secondary school (AMS) teachers
- experts in Extension services (ES)

to improve teachers' competences in pedagogic skills and provide in-service vocational training courses.

Specific objectives of the project are:

- SO1 - Improvement of quality and availability of vocational agricultural education
- SO2 - Strengthening of professional and pedagogical competences of educators
- SO3 - Creation of the "open source" repository for educators in the area of agricultural education

Creation of a National Repository for Agricultural Education (NaRA) - a repository for online courses and teaching resources to ensure project sustainability and networking of all stakeholders in agricultural education.

There are 13 partners contributing to the project, 10 Serbian and 3 EU partner institutions. Serbian partners are 5 agricultural faculties from Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, Novi Pazar and Sremska Kamenica, as well as Association of Agricultural Middle School in the area of agriculture, food processing and food production, Institute for Science Application in Agriculture responsible for in-service training of agricultural advisors, 2 NGO training organization (Education Forum and Balkan Security Network) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia. EU partners are universities from Timisoara (Romania), Maribor (Slovenia) and Foggia (Italy)

All project activities are grouped into 11 work packages.

The project lasts for 3 years (01/12/2013 - 30/11/2016) and aims to build the capacity of main holders of Serbian agricultural education: university teachers, teachers in agricultural middle schools and agricultural advisors working in extension services.

The CaSA project's main achievement will be the creation of a NaRA, available as an electronic platform that should enable the sustainability of the project and connection of stakeholders involved in all levels of agricultural education and training in Serbia. This repository will include: information necessary for teaching traditional courses as well as online courses for professional development of Agricultural Middle Schools and experts in extension services; databases of results obtained by research; selected and recorded classes of interactive teaching; selected parts of courses realized and/or developed within the project, prepared in the form of online video tutorials and posted together with additional teaching contents; and other relevant contents added to the repository based on authorized decisions of the NaRA Advisory Board.

All project participants have agreed and signed the Constituent agreement on project implementation and NaRA management.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project, coordinated by Faculty of Agriculture, Belgrade, will build capacity of Serbian faculties of agriculture to improve teacher's competences in pedagogic skills as well as in their ability to provide distance learning in-service teacher training vocational courses for teachers in agricultural middle/secondary schools (AMSs) [1] and for experts in extension services. Networking of all relevant stakeholders in agricultural education as well as project sustainability will be enabled by creation of the National Repository for Agricultural Education (NaRA) [3].

At all Serbian Faculties of Agriculture and State University of Novi Pazar, courses in active teaching/learning (ATL) including e-learning for young university teachers and teachers from AMSs will be held during project lifetime. ATL courses, given by experts from NGO Education Forum, are important for both groups of teachers (University and AMS) since they did not have any pedagogical training during their graduate courses in agronomy.

University teachers, that have improved teaching competences and other academic skills, will develop and implement classical and web-based vocational courses targeting recent advances in agriculture for AMS teachers [2] and agronomists in the extension services as beneficiaries. It will be done in collaboration with University from Maribor and with University of Foggia, Italy. Implementation of these courses will be done in year 3 at AMSs under the supervision of EU partners. During the project lifetime NaRA will be formed with the help of EU partner from Agricultural University, Timisoara, Romania, to provide relevant information, to serve as stakeholder data-base and to be used as repository for e-learning courses developed in the project, as well as for various teaching materials developed during ATL trainings of both university and AMS teachers. NaRA will then become a platform for improving teaching skills of both, university and AMS teachers as well as for improving professional skills for AMS teachers and agronomists in the extension services. Since the agronomists working in the extension services lack: modern techniques of communication to work with farmers, as well as skills needed for preparation of project proposals, this project will provide training given by experts from NGO Balkan Security Network (BSN) for agronomists how to communicate with farmers and how to prepare a project proposal. Academic and communication skill courses, given by experts, will be recorded and stored together with accompanying teaching material as a live stream courses, available at NaRA for all university and AMS teachers and agronomists in extension services to be used after the project lifetime. Creation of NaRA will, therefore, provide sustainability of the project since all project deliverables (all types of e learning courses and teaching materials) developed during project lifetime will be stored and available for future users. NaRA will also provide networking and active communication of all relevant stakeholders (Universities, AMSs, extension services, governmental and non governmental bodies).

Sustainability of NaRA will be ensured after the project life-time by the support and recognition of the Ministries of Education, Science and Technological Development and of Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Serbia, as well as with some courses commercialization, while some databases, professional forums, and relevant information will remain open access. Management of the NaRA will be regulated by the Agreement between universities and other project partners.

Project partners

- P1 University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture UB – coordinating institution
- P2 University of Novi Sad Faculty of Agriculture UNS
- P3 University of Kragujevac Faculty of Agronomy Čačak UNIKG
- P4 University EDUCONS Faculty of Ecological Agriculture
- P5 State University Novi Pazar SUNP
- P6 Association of Middle Agricultural Schools AMS
- P7 Institute for Science Application in Agriculture IPN
- P8 Educational Forum (NGO) EF
- P9 Balkan Security network, (NGO) BSN
- P10 Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development ME
- P11 Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine USAMVBT
- P12 University of Maribor UM
- P13 University of Foggia UNIFG

WORK PACKAGES AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES

WP 1 - Creation of the Repository

WP leader: *Cosmin Salasan*, USAMVBT, Timisoara, Romania

- A1.1. Organizing workshop in Belgrade with all relevant stakeholders to define structure and content of NaRA
- A1.2. Creating and maintenance NaRA

WP 2 - Infrastructural support for NaRA functioning / Development of resources

WP leader, project secretary: *Goran Topisirović*, UB, Belgrade, Serbia

- A2.1. Purchase of the equipment for improving/creating faculty e learning platform at every faculty /university and for NaRA at P1
- A2.2. Training of IT administrators at every faculty/university for maintenance of the platform
- A2.3. Engaging an IT expert for programming and software support
- A2.4. Engaging one cameraman and film editor from University of Arts

WP 3 - Improvement of competences of university teachers

WP leader: *Ana Pešikan*, EF, Belgrade, Serbia

- A3.1. Training of university teachers in ATL
- A3.2. Training of university teachers in academic skills
- A3.3. Training of university teachers in methodology of creating vocational courses in elearning format

WP 4 - Modernization of teaching contents

WP leader: *Snežana Tanasković*, UNIKG, Čačak, Serbia

- A4.1. Need analysis for knowledge refreshment
- A4.2. Workshop in Čačak with EU partners to compare experiences and good practices

- A4.3. Development of classical (f2f) vocational courses for AMS teachers and agronomists in extension service
- A4.4. Development of web based vocational courses

WP 5 - Improvement of competences of AMS teachers

WP leader: *Vidoje Vukašinović*, AMS, Požarevac, Serbia

- A5.1. Training of AMS teachers in ATL
- A5.2. Training of AMS teachers in e-learning

WP 6 - Improvement of competences of experts in extension services

WP leader: *Snežana Janković*, IPN, Belgrade, Serbia

- A6.1. Training of agronomists in extension services in using e-learning platform
- A6.2. Training of agronomists in extension services in communication and project proposals preparation skills

WP 7 - Pilot implementation of vocational courses

WP leader: *Ljubinko Jovanovic*, EDUCONS, Sremska Kamenica, Serbia

- A7.1. Implementation of classical pilot vocational courses
- A7.2. Implementation of pilot web based vocational courses

WP 8 - Quality assurance control of project activities

WP leader: *Sofija Pekić Quarrie*, SUNP, Novi Pazar, Serbia

- A8.1. Creation of the body for project quality control
- A8.2. Development of questionnaires for training courses evaluation
- A8.3. Analysis of training courses feedback questionnaires
- A8.4. QA of vocational courses – peer review by EU Partners
- A8.5. Development of questionnaires for vocational course evaluation
- A8.6. Analysis of course feedback questionnaires from pilot implementation of vocational courses

WP 9 - Dissemination of project results

WP Leader: *Dušan Petrić*, UNS, Novi Sad, Serbia

- A9.1. Adopting a dissemination plan and identify target groups for dissemination
- A9.2. Designing and maintenance of the project web-site
- A9.3. Organizing other dissemination and visibility activities: briefings, presentations, press conferences and other events
- A9.4. Publishing and dissemination of training manuals and guidelines
- A9.5. Dissemination at Final conference in NS

WP 10 - Exploitation of project results

WP Leader: *Predrag Pudja*, UB, Belgrade, Serbia

- A10.1. Reaching agreement between faculties' managements on: maintenance of NaRA, recognition of teachers work in courses preparation, availability of NaRA content, and courses commercialization
- A10.2. Defining procedures for intellectual property rights of courses creators
- A10.3. Preparation for accreditation of vocational courses for AMS teachers

A10.4. Preparation for certification of vocational courses for ES experts

WP 11 - Project Management

WP Leader, project coordinator: *Vesna Poleksić*, UB, Belgrade, Serbia

A11.1. Organizing kick off meeting in Belgrade and SC meetings in: Belgrade, Čačak and N. Pazar

A11.2. Establishment of SC and defining procedures of cooperation between partners

A11.3. Daily project coordination and administration

A11.4. Meetings of the local project teams

A11.5. Regular reporting to EACEA

A11.6. Organizing final conference in Novi Sad

A11.7. Organizing final SC meeting in Novi Sad

A11.8. Financial Audit

CONCLUSION

In conclusion of this first article presenting the CaSA project, it is important to emphasize that the whole project management and participants are working together to improve agricultural HE in Serbia and that the project Specific objectives are: Improvement of quality and availability of vocational agricultural education; Strengthening of professional and pedagogical competences of educators; and Creation of the repository for educators in the area of agricultural education will be reached.

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- [3] Anonymous. 2012. *Catalogue of programs for continuous in-service training for Teachers, Educators and Staff Associates for the school year 2012/13 and 2013/14*. Serbian Institute for the Improvement of Education. Belgrade. Serbia.