

## Project “Improving skills in laboratory practice for agro-food specialists in eastern Europe» (Ag-Lab)

EU Program Erasmus +, project KA2 n° 586383-EPP-1-2017-1-SI-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP (2017-2978/001-001)

### Minute of the Steering committee meeting

Ljubljana, 24 August 2021

**Moderator: Marija Klopčič, UL, project coordinator**

After the greeting and introductory speech by the project coordinator **Ms. Marija Klopčič**, the meeting participants were greeted by **Ms. Staška Mrak Jamnik**, University officer for European projects. She presented the university and its activities within different international projects. The university is very active in the research activity and participates in 395 national and 315 international research projects. During 15 years it has participated in 222 Erasmus+ projects and is a leader in the Europe as for the implementation of Strategic partnership Erasmus+ projects. The university developed the new Strategy 2020 – 2021 that includes the Code of ethics of researcher, creation of the Ethics committee, Intellectual property protection committee. The Research news platform was created at the university.



**Ms. Olga Getya (HPHE)** presented the results of the project consortium activities during the period of March – August 2021. The main activities carried out during this period were: common trainings performed by universities and laboratories, study visit of teachers and laboratory specialists to Wrocław university of life sciences, training of the students from the State agrarian university of Moldova at the National university of life and environmental sciences in Kyiv, translation of the Manual devoted to the Laboratory practice into Ukrainian and Romanian, and publishing it on the project Web-site. The Georgian version is expected soon.



**Ms. Marija Klopčič (UL)**, the project coordinator summarized the project achievement during all the period. She indicated its main achievements: implementation of the special training courses devoted to the laboratory practice, training of teachers, edition of the Manual devoted to the laboratory practice, development of the on-line courses and publishing them on the Moodle platform, creation of the new-work laboratories – universities and launching of the cooperation between them. The weak point still remains the law activity as for feeding the web-site with published materials having practical use related to the laboratory practice, development of the Sustainability strategy and creation of the Coalition board for the ensuring of the project sustainability.

She spoke about the perspectives of the project as some activities still remain to be done: study visits to UniTe and VetAgroSup Lyon, students mobility between Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, closing conference in Kiyv. In this relation and taking into account the sanitary situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic it was decided to ask the European Commission for the extension of the project for 8 months until May 2022 in order to avoid the necessity to carry out some event on-line.



Following to the logic of the discussion the order of speeches was changed, so **Ms. Ludmila Stepura (HPHE)** continued the discussion by presenting two version of the work plan until the end of the project. Version 1 contains the work plan until the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. Its mains steps are: continuation of the developed training courses for master students devoted to the laboratory practice, continuation of organizing common events of universities and laboratories, students mobilities between Moldova and Ukraine (the Georgian partners will organize the internal mobilities due to the sanitary situation), two study visits to VetAgroSup Lyon and UniTe during the first week of October and the closing conference in Kyiv on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of October.

But, as the sanitary situation with the Covid-19 pandemic is not still managed, a danger of new lockdowns remains. For this case the alternative Work plan was developed. Its includes the same activities like the previous one but distributed in the time until May 2022. Also, it is completed by expert missions of teachers from UL, VetAgroSup to Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, a range of webinars devoted to the topics proposed by the SSRILDVSE, further development of the Sustainability strategy.



**Ms. Tetiana Ishchenko (HPHE)** spoke about the general impact of the project on the participating countries mainly due to the dissemination activities and contacts with stakeholders, cooperation with other EU projects implemented in these countries. She highlighted the support of the project by the Ministry of national education of Ukraine. Also, she remarked that the project meets the actual world challenges, as for example, the emergence of new diseases of plants and animals due to the climate changes requires highly qualified specialists able to detect and to manage them.

**Mr. Volodymyr Ladyka**, rector of **SNAU** spoke about the role of its university and agro-business in the ensuring of the Ag-Lab project sustainability. He presented the center of the common use of equipment created at the university and explained how the equipment purchased in the framework of the project is used. The university closely cooperates with the business and the achievements of the Ag-Lab project are applied in practice.



This presentation was followed by the reports of all partners according to the plan proposed before the meeting. These reports summarize the activities of every partner during the project:

Common report of **TSU** and **LMA**, presented by **Ms. Ana Gulbani (LMA)**



Implementation of the course Laboratory practice for master students.

Number of the graduated students: 2019/2020 – 2, 2020/2021 – 1

Number of students currently studying: 3 (second year)

Number of recruited students for 2021|2022: 5

Number of TSU Students trained in EU – 2

Number of teachers / laboratory staff trained in EU: TSU – 9, LMA - 5

Number of teachers / laboratory staff trained in UA, GE, MD (during training sessions including Tbilisi training) - TSU – 13, LMA - 6

3 events organized commonly TSU and LMA. TSU and LMA closely cooperate with the EU project “Laboratory Health and Safety LLL courses for Youth”. The translation of the manual into Georgian is completed and now is under proof reading. The master programme of Applied biosciences that includes the modules devoted to the laboratory practice was accredited for 7 years.



Report of **SAUM** presented, by **Ms. Elena Scripnic**

Implementation of the course Laboratory practice for master students.

Number of the graduated students: 54

Number of students currently studying: 58

Number of recruited students for 2021/2022: 48

The collaboration agreements were signed between SAUM and RCVN and between CSU and RCVN. According to these agreements the series of common trainings were organized.

Number of SAUM Students trained in EU – 2

Number of students trained in Ukraine (NUBiP) - 4

Number of teachers trained in EU - 8

Number of teachers trained in UA and GE - 7

The project results were presented at two national workshops: “Internationalization and employment”, “Europe day”. The State Agrarian University of Moldova became a member of the "Global Laboratory Program" GLLP in 2021. The program provides trainings for laboratory leaders in lots of countries.



Report of **SNAU** presented, by **Mr. Ihor Kovalenko**

Implementation of the course Laboratory practice for master students: The specialization “Laboratory practice” is one of four specializations implemented at the Agronomy faculty. Currently 14 students study at this specialization. Number of the graduated students is 43.

The Ag-Lab project achievements were used for the implementation of three small research projects: Optimization of methods for obtaining *Solanum tuberosum* L. microbubbles in vitro, Use of genetic analysis for the obtaining of bast crops on the main economic characteristics, Use of molecular methods to determine genes for resistance of winter wheat to diseases. The manual “Laboratory practice in agronomy” was edited at the faculty.



**Mr. Dario Compagnone (UniTe)** reported the summary of activities carried out by the University of Teramo within the project. The university realizes an active dissemination campaign through mass media, such as local newspaper, radio interview, and also via social networks. Three expert missions were realized by the university teachers also they provided the trainings in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia during the organized training sessions – 4 experts participated. Two study visits were organized to Teramo. Among the future activities he mentions: training in Teramo, expert visit in Odessa, final Conference in Kviv.



Reporting the activities of **RCVM Ms. Tatiana Iacimova** indicated the number of persons trained in EU (5) and in Ukraine and Georgia (7). Also, she mentioned the collaboration agreement signed between RCVM and AUSM, between RCVM and University of Comrat. The information of the project activities is largely presented on the laboratory web-site.



Report of **BTNAU** presented, by **Mr. Mykhaylo Rublenko**  
 Implementation of the course Laboratory practice for master students.  
 Number of the graduated students - 40  
 Number of students currently studying – 44

Several lectures were provided by the specialists of SSRILDVSE for the students of BTNAU. The teachers of BTNAU trained in the framework of the project provided 3 lectures to the staff of SSRILDVSE. The teacher from LNUVMBT Mr. Marian Simonov provided a lecture to the staff of Bila Tserkva state laboratory of



veterinary medicine. The laboratory equipped with the contribution of the Ag-Lab project was visited by the head of the State service of Ukraine of food safety and consumer protection.

Presenting the activities of SSRILDVSE **Ms. Anna Kievsk**a spoke first about the common actions with BTNAU and LNUVMBT: 3 open on-line lectures in April 2021 and 5 open on-line lectures in May 2021. Three undergraduate students from BTNAU had their pre-diploma practice on the basis of the Research Chemical and Toxicological Department and the Research Bacteriological Department. During the work of the project, 10 specialists from SSRILDVSE took part in trainings organized within the framework of the project by partner universities of the EU countries. 10 specialists from SSRILDVSE took part in trainings organized within the framework of the project by partner universities of the EU countries. The Institute carries out an active dissemination of activities via publications, participation in different conferences and exhibitions.

Report of **NUBiP** presented, by **Mr. Andriy Getya**

Implementation of the course Laboratory practice for master students.

Number of the graduated students: 8

Number of students currently studying: 8

Number of recruited students for 2021/2022: 4

16 common events (lectures, internships, visits) were organized together with the laboratories: SSRILDVM, SCAPSE and Quality laboratory belonging to NUBiP. In July 2021 the faculty received the Moldavian students from SAUM for 4 weeks of internship as it is foreseen by the project.

Number of NUBiP Students trained in EU – 2

Number of teachers trained in EU - 8

Number of teachers trained in MD, UA and GE - 16

The faculty closely cooperates with other EU projects related to the insurance of food quality and providing of practical skills to students: Erasmus + project “EU food safety control”; Erasmus + project «From theoretical-oriented to practical education in agrarian studies»



Report of **ONAF**T presented, by **Ms. Olga Titlova** (remotely)

Implementation of the course Laboratory practice for master students.

Number of the graduated students: 19

Number of recruited students for 2021/2022: 5

On May 31, 2021, within the framework of the project, a training was held by specialists from the testing laboratory of SCAPSE for teachers of ONAFT on the topic "Methods for the qualitative and quantitative determination of genetically modified organisms in raw materials and food products of plant origin by the PCR method". On June 2, 2021, within the framework of the project, a training was held from teachers of ONAFT for specialists of the testing laboratory of SCAPSE and industry representatives.

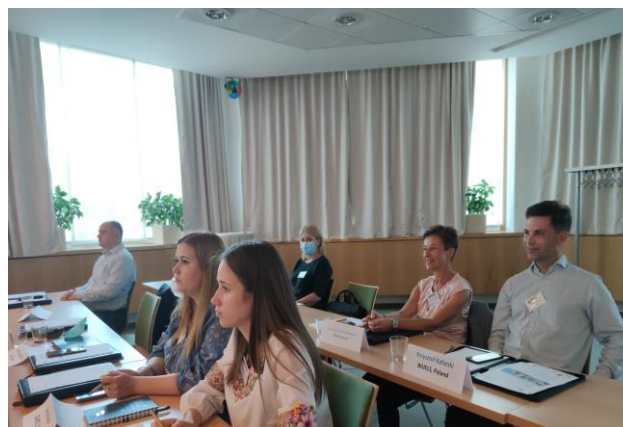
Number of ONAFT Students trained in EU – 3

Number of teachers trained in EU - 4

Number of teachers trained in UA, MD and GE - 14

The faculty closely cooperates with other EU projects of technical assistance “Implementation of the geodographical Indications system in Ukraine“

Speaking about the further actions for quality insurance until the end of the project **Mr. Krzysztof Kafarski (WUELS)** presented the proposal of the final questionnaire. This questionnaire contains the blocks of questions related different activities carried out within the project: training, dissemination, sustainability, curricula and training materials, equipment, impact achieved at institutional level, impact achieved at national and regional levels. He highlighted that for a proper preparing of the final report all information should be gathered.



One of the presentations made by **Ms. Corinne Stewart (ISLE)** was devoted to the summarizing of the dissemination activity. It is done via different means such as publications, project web-portal, partners' web-sites, participation in conferences and other events, mass media, published Moodle courses (30 courses are published) and the manual. However, some suggestions for the improvement of this activity were made: to add statistics to the project web-portal (to follow the number of its visitors), to increase the interaction with other projects, to activate the use of the Moodle courses, to provide more news for Newsletters. Finally, she made the stress on the need of quantitative results.

In her second presentation **Ms. Corinne Stewart (ISLE)** designed the min steps for ensuring the project sustainability. These main steps are evaluation of the project results **and its impact** by amongst the partners, further dissemination of the project outcomes and results using the channels previously identified and used, development of the plan for future collaboration containing an extension of the work carried out/outcomes or new ideas to ensure sustainability of the results. She indicated main factors of the project sustainability: support of work carried out through departments / faculties / unis / Ministries, integration of Ag-Lab courses into curricula + ECTS, research groups and publications, presentation of the project results in key events, use of the Moodle, spin-off projects, involvement of new stakeholders.

### Decisions and further steps



Considering the current sanitary situation to submit the official demand regarding the extension of the project until the end of May 2022 to the European Commission. In the case of positive decision to proceed according to the alternative plan for the implementation of the remaining activities.

To organize the meeting of the Coalition Board for discussion and further development of the sustainability strategy of the project. To develop the plan for future collaboration containing an extension of the work carried out.

To study all possibilities for the development of future common projects devoted to problems presenting common interest (the topic “Antimicrobial resistance” was defined as first).

To activate the work aimed at feeding of the project web-portal by practical and scientific information

