

Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE

Title: Harmonization and Innovation in PhD Study Programs for Plant Health in Sustainable Agriculture - HarISA

Submission number: 598444-EPP-1-2018-1-HR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Dates and duration of the project

Start date: 15.01.2019

End date: 14.01.2022

Duration (months): 36

Budget: 967 614,00 €

Coordinator: Prof. Renata Bažok, PhD,

1. University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture

EU Partners (4):

2. The Agricultural University – Plovdiv
3. Agricultural University of Athens
4. Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences Osijek
5. University of Bari Aldo Moro

Non EU partners (7)

6. **Agricultural University of Tirana – Prof. Magdalena Cara (magdacara@ubt.edu.al)**
7. Fan Noli University Korce
8. The University of Mostar Faculty of Agriculture and Food Tehnology
9. University of Sarajevo Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science
10. University in Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
11. University of Novi Sad Faculty of Agriculture
12. University of Montenegro Biotechnical Faculty

The need for highly educated professionals with deep understanding in plant health for sustainable agriculture is high at both, program and partner countries. This project has the ambition of harmonizing and modernizing doctoral education in this field and to create a network of researchers that is capable to respond to current challenges in plant health.

The specific objectives are: to harmonize, improve and modernize the doctoral study programs in plant health among partner universities in order to increase the competences and skills of PhD candidates to respond to the global plant health issues; to develop a draft of curriculum of International Joint PhD study program in Plant Health; and to foster regional integration in the field of plant health research and education among WBC and between WBC and EU countries.

The unique platform for PhD education in plant health issues will be set up among partners. PIs will adapt the best practices related to management and conducting PhD study programs. Scientific content and learning outcomes of different courses will be improved and harmonized. Teachers will be trained in new educational methods and for mentoring of PhD students. Creation of scientific network among scientists, mobility periods and exchange of students and staff, together with establishment of diagnostic and training hubs in PIs will improve human capacities of the candidate countries to adapt EU policy in plant health to develop and to introduce the new non-pesticide methods in agricultural practice and to conduct and/or participate in research in the field of plant health at international level. Proposed activities will allow for the international recognition of the proposed courses and will enable education of young scientists in plant health ready to cooperate and participate in scientific research at regional and international level. The draft of the curriculum will be created and ready to be submitted to accreditation.

Objectives

Project is aiming to improve and modernize PhD study programs, both at program management and tutoring, as well as scientific content level. This will contribute to higher quality of the PhD education. By the proposal the intensive PhD student and staff mobility will be realized. Joint teaching material, new courses and draft of the curriculum for International Joint PhD study program will be developed. Joint mentor-ships are proposed. All this foster international and regional cooperation.

Specific Objectives

- to harmonize, improve and modernize the doctoral study programs in plant health among partner universities in order to increase the competences and skills of PhD candidates to respond to the global plant health issues;
- to develop joint framework and the first draft of the curriculum of International Joint PhD study program in Plant Health;
- to foster regional integration in the field of plant health research and education among WBC and between WBC and EU countries

National priority of four partner countries is to improve quality of education and teaching by developing learning and teaching tools, methodologies and pedagogical approaches. The same is set up as regional priority also. Since the proposed project is aimed to develop and modernize curricula in doctoral education in partner countries the proposed project proposal fits entirely with the national and regional goals.

WP 1 Review of partner PhD study courses (scientific aspects)

WP 2 Joint framework for harmonization of PhD courses and development of an International joint curriculum draft (rules and management aspects)

WP3 Improving the scientific content and work in different subgroups (proposed subgroups are: Diagnosis in plant health and IPM; Sustainable use of pesticides; Plant feeders; Plant Pathology; Weed science; Mycotoxins and food safety ...)

WP 4 Establishment of diagnostic and training hubs (DTH)

WP 5 Mobility of students and staff, training of PhD students and staff

WP 6 Quality assurance

WP 7 Project dissemination

WP 8 Project management