

## **HARISA – Harmonization and Innovation in PhD Study Programs for Plant Health in Sustainable Agriculture – HarISA**

Comprehensive care for plant health is necessary for modern sustainable agricultural production. Besides modern diagnostic methods, it includes the development and application of sophisticated plant protection methods based on the latest scientific knowledge. For achieving these goals, sustainable agricultural production requires highly educated experts who are well acquainted with the problems of all aspects of plant health. The HarISA project (Harmonization and Innovation in PhD Study Programs for Plant Health in Sustainable Agriculture) is approved by the Erasmus+ program and in the area of Capacity Building in Higher Education by the European Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). This project has the ambition to harmonize and modernize PhD education in the Western Balkans and to create a network of researchers capable of responding to current challenges in plant health. The project aims to support the modernization and internationalization of higher education in the field of plant health and to contribute to cooperation between the European Union and the countries of the Western Balkans in the implementation of European Union policy related to plant health. It also seeks to ensure the acquisition of scientific knowledge and the transfer of skills and competencies to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides and the application of the principles of integrated plant protection in agricultural production. The University of Zagreb - Faculty of Agriculture in cooperation with partners from EU countries (Croatia, Italy, Bulgaria and Greece) and the so-called Western Balkan countries (WBC) (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania) applied for the project. The project is due to achieve specific objectives such as: harmonizing, improving and modernizing PhD programs in the field of plant health among partner universities. It aims to develop a common framework and curriculum for an international joint PhD study program in plant health to increase the ability of PhDs to respond to global problems in plant health, and encourage regional integration in the field of plant health research and education within the countries of the Western Balkans and among the countries of the Western Balkans and the EU.