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Boosting Adult System Education in Agriculture - AGRI BASE

Department of "Plant Production", TU Varna, is one of the main partners in the project AGRI BASE (CONTRACT 2015-1-MKO1-KA204-002857), which started on 15.10.2015, and is funded by EU, Erasmus + programme, K2 Strategic Partnership.

https://www.facebook.com/agribase?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

The project aims to improve the educational system of adults in the field of agriculture. The project idea emerged from the fact that an insignificant number of agricultural producers have a formal knowledge in this field. The project will be conducted in the two phases, each with two complementary set of activities.

I. The first phase refers to analyses of the condition regarding to the:

- 1. Comparative analyses of the system of adults education in the field of agriculture in the countries of the consortia** (added value could be achieved by stratifying the research area and distinctly monitoring the EU member countries (Spain, Italy and Bulgaria), EU candidate countries (R Macedonia, Turkey and Serbia) and EU potential candidate countries (Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina). The analyses will refer to the legal frame, institutional frames of the adult education in the field of agriculture on a local, national and regional level, the functionalis of the system, applied methods with a focus on e-learning, already existing systems for quality assurance in the adult education, financial source and level of contentment among the agricultural producers. Various methodology would be applied for the research: desk reviews, focus groups, questionnaires, and so on.
 - 2. Analysing the infrastructure of the HEIs for agricultural LLL.** The focus will be on analyses of the current situation, the role of HEIs within the system of adult education with reference to agriculture. A comparative analyses will be conducted in order to determine the functional level, the territories with already existing agricultural LLL centers/units and to point to the needed guidelines.
- establishing life-long learning units within the university, the cooperatives or the local municipality for agriculture and rural development

II. The second phase refers on the design on courses and materials for the training and conducting the training.

- 3. Development of courses and professional agricultural materials.** Depending on the data gained from the first two phases, courses for agricultural experts will be designed and their content might vary according to the obtained results from the conducted research. On-line platforms will be created for an easy access to the educative materials.
- 4. Training for the agricultural experts, practitioners and adult educators .** The training will be conducted by the academic staff from the consortia HEIs, thus sharing best practices. The potential training possibilities would refer to: linguistic training (English language literacy), ICT training (basic ICT skills Excel, Word, PP, internet), medical training (ergonomics, protection at work with pesticides and possible health risks), professional agricultural training (GlobalGap, animal welfare, entrepreneurship).



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The project activities will be conducted through a kick off meeting, individual and group monitoring research, organization of a workshop for midterm dissemination, meetings for creation of courses and training materials and organization of trainings. The innovative note of the project is its productive side in reference to the facilitated access to formal agricultural adult education for all the key figures working in the field of agriculture (agricultural experts and agricultural producers with an emphasis on the rural areas), and its justification is according to the strategy for adult education of the Republic of Macedonia from 2010.

Until now the kick off meeting in Stip, Macedonia and the workshop in Foggia, Italy were realized. Teams from the countries of the consortium are engaged in the first of the intellectual activities of the project, namely preparation of the report on the system of adult education in agronomic field with the following structure - introduction, methodology, literature review, structure of the education system, adult education - framework, responsible institutions, practices in the country and in the particular partner university, conclusions.

The foundations of a strategic partnership to develop and implement innovations in the field of adult education, exchange of best practices to increase the skills of workers in the agricultural sector and bridging the gap between farmers and educational platforms in the agricultural field, have been established.

It is also expected that the project implementation will enable and employees in the agriculture education to benefit directly from the electronic platform through learning and sharing best practices, improving personal skills and inclusion to a bigger professional community.