



AGRIVOC TEMPUS Project - Benchmark Survey II Meeting
Venue: Hódmezővásárhely, University of Szeged, Faculty of Agriculture
Date: 30/31 January 2013

Minutes

The meeting was organized in the framework of the Tempus AGRIVOC project work package 1 related to the benchmark survey as the continuation of the 1st meeting on this topic that took place in Backa Topola on 27 and 28 December 2012. The participants met again to discuss the findings gathered between the two meetings and follow up activities. The meeting was hosted by the Hungarian partner at the premises of the University of Szeged, Faculty of Agriculture. For more information please visit: <http://www.mgk.u-szeged.hu/hirek/2013-január/agrivoc-projekt?objectParentFolderId=12282>

Day 1: Wednesday, 30 January 2013

In his welcoming speech the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Károly Bodnár, briefly introduced his institution and study programmes stressing the importance of the practical component in the learning process (enabled through pilot farms, etc.) as well as the advisory role of the Faculty towards entrepreneurs and farmers.

AGRIVOC project coordinator, Mr. Nebojsa Zlatkovic, gave an outline of the two surveys prepared and conducted in line with the agreement of the project team from Backa Topola. The survey that was run among students coming from different study programmes is expected to be concluded in about 2 weeks as the complete data is still pending from several institutions from Serbia, whereas data from B&H partners was obtained on time. Also, the data obtained from the general survey (reflecting the vocational studies indicators of Cedefop broadly divided into 3 categories – quality, finance and relevance) will be processed shortly.

Data from the surveys filled in by the partner institutions from the EU (against which data from Serbian and B&H partners will be compared) are obtained from Hungarian and Greek partners, whereas data from Slovakia are expected shortly.

Thereby, general and specific conclusions will be ready and presentable for the upcoming project regional conference in Sabac. Apart from presenting the Benchmark Survey Report, the coordinator from the University of Banja Luka suggested that the regional agricultural conference in Sabac be seen as the venue for discussing other important project aspects: (1) defining of curriculum reform for each participating institution, and (2) practical training and training centers development.



Day 2: Thursday, 31 January 2013

On the second day the project coordinator led the fruitful discussion on the provisional agenda for the Regional Agri-vocational Conference scheduled for March 2013 to be hosted by the project partner institution from Sabac, Serbia.

Due to the importance of its subject, i.e. State of the Agricultural Vocational Education in the Western Balkans, the participants suggested that the conference should last for 2 days instead of 1 initially indicated in the project proposal. The provisional dates recommended for the Conference to take place were 7 and 8 March 2013 (Thursday and Friday being seen as the preferable timing for this event) and this remains to be further discussed with the host institution. The Conference material would be prepared in advance with print outs ready for the day of Conference for all the participants.

The Conference is planned to be opened by the key note speakers as follows: Director of the host institution VPSSA; Guest speaker, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia; Guest speaker, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia; Representative of Tempus office in Serbia; AGRIVOC project coordinator, VPPS (presenting the Benchmark Survey Report and project progress)

The introductory segment was suggested to be followed by I Working Session in which representatives of the partner institutions from the EU would be delivering brief, 15 minute presentations on the content of their study programmes and reform process (including both positive and negative experiences their institutions came across in reforming their agricultural study programmes).

Following these presentations, several workshops (bilateral discussions) will be conducted in parallel consisting of the personnel from various institutions that wish to undertake reform process in particular study programme/s and at least one representative from the EU partner institution relevant for the given study programme.

The second Conference day would be focused on the exchange of knowledge related to the practical training and plans for training centers development. This II Working Session would be opened by the presentations (incl. 5-6 slides, lasting for about 5 minutes) of experiences beneficiary institutions from Serbia and B&H have related to conducting their practical training (i.e. goals, duration, ECTS, etc.) and the same topic would follow with EU partners presenting their ways of conducting practical training.

AGRIVOC project coordinator would be sending out email notifications to all the parties involved in preparing the above mentioned presentations with clearly marked deadline expected to be 28 February 2013. He would also use this opportunity, given that all the project partners are expected to be present, to formally introduce the project teams and form the Steering Committee.



Enclosed documents:

1. Agenda of the Benchmark Survey II Meeting
2. List of participants at the Benchmark Survey II Meeting
3. Project Monitoring Gant Chart in excel (updated, showing progress in particular activities)

Minutes prepared by:
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In Belgrade, 2 February 2013