

## MEETING: WORK PACKAGE 2 (DEVELOPMENT- JOINT FRAMEWORK FOR HARMONIZATION OF PHD STUDY PROGRAMS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRICULUM DRAFT)

### Minutes of the meeting held 27th - 29th April 2020 regarding WP2

Since the foreseen meeting in Mostar couldn't been realized, online ZOOM meetings were organized in the period 27th - 29th April 2020. WP2 members together with coordinators had their own meetings in order to present and upgrade so far achievements and activities in WP2.

At the beginning two prepared documents were presented to all participants: Regulation of the International Joint PhD program in "Plant Health in Sustainable Agriculture" (PHiSA) and Learning outcomes of the program. All participants agreed about the proposed PHiSA learning outcomes, so the document was promptly adopted. Then discussion was focused on regulation of the International Joint PhD program PHiSA.

Concerning the regulation, team members discussed each article, one by one. Some articles were revised or changed according to participants suggestions. Focus areas and scientific disciplinary sectors were defined in accordance with subgroups of WP3. Most of the attention was given to article 5 defining the organs of PHiSA. It was agreed that the International Selection Committee should be composed of members nominated for each enrolment cycle by the International Board, with the role to examine documents presented by candidates and evaluate their projects and skills. After discussion it was decided that the International Coordinator will be recognised by each partner university and her/his duties were established. It was emphasized the importance of Consortium Agreement signed among partner institution in order to be more effective in different activities and administrative matters running in PHiSA program. Composition of the International Board was specified. Special attention was given to the selection of candidates for PhD program and the discussion lead to harmonization of requirements, to have, in general, at least average grade (according to national rules at each partner [University/university](#)) at master study and to have background in natural, biotechnical or other science fields related to PHiSA. Then focus was given to PhD program structure, so the training activities for PhD students were recognized as teaching activities and research activities. Teaching activities are composed of mandatory general topics and elective topics chosen from one or more focus areas. It is emphasized that courses must be organized in an advanced level which will be defined in learning outcomes of each course. Concerning study period of the PhD student and international dimension of the program it is foreseen that the student must carry out part of [her/his](#) study period abroad for research needs related to the PhD project for [at least](#)

Co-Funded by the European Union

six <sup>[H1]</sup>months. This period may not exceed 18 months. Therefore, the student should have two supervisors.

The discussion continued on aspect of evaluation of PhD students for admission to the thesis defence. After many opinions exchanged between the participants, it was concluded that the admission to the final examination is allowed to the PhD students who have produced at least one scientific work published or accepted in a WOS / SCOPUS journal according to the rules of the partner [Universityuniversity](#). The PhD student who [has](#) produced a minimum of three ISI / SCOPUS scientific papers (of which at least one published or accepted, related to the research topic) is exempted from writing of the doctoral thesis, according to the local rules. In this case, the three or more papers must be arranged along with an introduction paragraph as well as a conclusion which could replace the drafting of the classical thesis. The PhD student must write the thesis in English. The thesis must be accompanied by a summary in English and, possibly, in the local language of the partner [Universityuniversity](#).

In regard to awarding of the PhD title, the number of members in the Commission for the PhD thesis defence was discussed. It is decided that each PhD thesis has to be evaluated by two highly qualified international evaluators.

Finally, after the regulation was reviewed by all participants, their comments and suggestions were incorporated in the draft version of the document. All partner institutions were committed to send their own provisions related to national legislation and University rules on doctoral studies.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed that partner institutions will check the opinion of their own universities related to the text produced in the Regulation of the International Joint PhD program in "Plant Health in Sustainable Agriculture" (PHISA) and Learning outcomes of the program.

The progress of WP2 was presented on the third day at the closure online meeting with project leader and coordinators of WP3, in order to harmonize our future work.