

Dear colleagues

Erasmus+ project “Harmonization and Innovation in PhD Study Programs for Plant Health in Sustainable Agriculture (HarISA)” was approved under the Erasmus+ program in the area of Enhancing Capacities in Higher Education (ECHE) by the European Agency for Audiovisual Policy and Culture (EACEA). The project is coordinated by the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture, and implemented by partner universities from the EU countries (Croatia, Italy, Bulgaria and Greece) and partner universities from countries of the so-called Western Balkans (WBC) (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania). The idea behind the project is to join forces, to establish harmonization, improvement and modernization of doctoral programs in the field of plant health among partner universities and to **increase the ability of the PhD study programs and to respond in global health problems**. The main idea is **to develop a joint international PhD curriculum in plant health for sustainable agriculture**. The curriculum will follow EU regulation on PhD study programs in plant health but at the same time will consider the demands of the specific countries of Western Balkans.

There are eight associated partners (governmental bodies, agencies related to plant health or professional associations from plant protection) involved in the project and one representative of each associated partner is a member of Stakeholder Board (SB). The main objective of SB is to discuss and comment proposed learning outcomes and curriculum draft of the Joint PhD study programme. They supposed to comment on the scientific contents and research topics, and their compliance with the real needs. Associated partners (mainly Plant protection societies) are also supporting dissemination activities. Some partners will accept PhD students and make available their laboratories for research activities.

In order to promote the project and ensure the interest for newly developed joint PhD study programme, project management board (PMB) is willing to involve more stakeholders in the discussion around the joint PhD programme. We would like to open the floor for discussion and involve more stakeholders through specific activities that will enable us to present the project results and attract stakeholder direct interest in the project.

Therefore we would like to invite you to participate in the round table discussion with stakeholders.

The main aim of the round table discussion is:

- to present the project and the plan for new joint PhD study program;
- to discuss with stakeholders on how all external stakeholders (not only those involved in the project as associated partners) can contribute to project success. Stakeholder contribution is mainly expected in advising project team on issues related to the curriculum content and organization. In addition,



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stakeholders may participate in some of the activities according to their capacities and willingness as are participation in the discussion on the research needs; recruiting PhD students, supporting PhD students in identifying the financial resources for PhD research etc.);

-to discuss with stakeholders how they can benefit from project results (networking with researchers and students at international level; recruiting ambitious young professionals; realizing project ideas etc..)

Meeting will be organized as on-line Zoom meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> 2021. at 13:00. We expect that the duration of the meeting will be 90 to 120 minutes.

Please confirm your interest and attendance on the meeting by sending e-mail to [rbazok@agr.hr](mailto:rbazok@agr.hr) and [harissa@agr.hr](mailto:harissa@agr.hr). Prior the meeting project coordinator will contact you in person to further discuss your participation.

Kind regards

Project coordinator

Prof. Renata Bažok, PhD