



Erasmus+

University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture
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Co- Funded by the European Union

Meeting: Stakeholder Board (SB) + Management Board (MB)

Date of meeting: 4th February 2021

Minutes prepared by: Renata Bažok

1. Purposes of Meeting

- 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.
- to discuss with stakeholders how they can benefit from project results

2. Attendance at Meeting

Members of PMC

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3. Agenda

1. Presentation of the project and the plan for new joint PhD study program
2. Discussion with stakeholders on how all external stakeholders can contribute to project success
3. Discussion with stakeholders how they can benefit from project results

The ppt presented by Project Coordinator at the meeting is an integral part of these Minutes.

4. Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

AD-1

- o PC presented all the important facts about the HarISA project - project budget, project partners, stakeholder board, general goals of the project, specific goals, organization of the work, tasks of the work packages, which tasks are done and what we will do until the end of the project.
- o PC presented the learning outcomes of the future Joint PhD study programme "Plant Health in Sustainable Agriculture" PHiSA
- o PC presented focus areas for the PHiSA PhD study program and proposed courses.
- o PC presented the structure of the PHiSA PhD study program and mentioned that future PHiSA PhD students will be required to conduct their research activities abroad for a minimum of 6 months and up to 18 months.
- o After finishing PHiSA PhD study program, students will receive two diplomas issued by the home institution and the institution where they have conducted research.

AD-2 & AD -3

- o PC highlighted some ideas on how stakeholders can contribute to the HarISA project and how the HarISA project can contribute to stakeholders.
- o PC asked for opinions on these topics.
- o Some SB members gave their opinion about the PHiSA study program. In general, participants found the organization of joint study programme very interesting. Most of them agree that students need to be prepared for future developments in plant health and EU requirements. Some of them proposed specific areas or courses that should be included in the programme as are communication





in science and communication with farmers, breeding programmes for resistance, legislation, quantitative genetics, plant microbial interaction biotechnology, organic agriculture etc.

- On the other hand, some members of SB think that the focus should be on plant health because there are new professions in the markets called plant health doctors and since the field is big and students must learn a lot in three years, it is better to focus on one specific field.
- PC raised the question of fund raising for PhD students. In majority of partner institutions PhD students are accepted in the programme if they are having PhD student position within the frame of the scientific project. Mentors shall apply for scientific projects at national or international level. Unfortunately, not too much possibilities at national levels are available at all partners. On the other hand, international projects are very competitive and the success rate is very low. So for mentor is not easy to get PhD student. Other problem is that PhD student position is limited and it is always question about the employability of the PhD students after finishing PhD. Another possibility is to have PhD student from industrial sector. In some countries they could spend the whole duration of PhD study at University but at other partners they are working in companies and working on their dissertation using free time. Sometimes this is very difficult task for those PhD students.
- PC asked participants on the situation in their companies and how do they feel regarding coolaborative research between industry and university that could be carried out by PhD student.
- Miroslav Titiyanov from Bulgaria works for a Japanese company informed us that his company motivates their employees to do PhD in a certain field so that they can help the company and company is ready to pay the cost of research and tuition.
- Some other examples presented from Split shows that they feel that spending some time working and researching abroad is very good experience for PhD candidates. They are always ready to cooperate and support with hosting PhD students.
- PC asked the participants to re-think about our project and contact her with their ideas about future activities. She said that we will have a final meeting to wrap up the project and that she hopes they will come to see what we have done and will contribute in the future if they are interested.

5. Action Items

Action	Assigned to	Due Date
• Contact PC about their ideas on future joint activities in relation with joint PhD study program.	participants	January 2022
• Send the project presentation to participants	PC	February 7 th 2021
• Write meeting minutes and send to all participants of the meeting	PC	February 28, 2021
• Invite all participants on final SB meeting	PC	End of the project



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