

Introduction of Dual studies in livestock science and agribusiness in Albania.

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The main goal of a study program is to provide students with necessary professional skills to compete successfully in the labor market. Many studies in the Western Balkans have shown that practical training is the main factor for the integration of graduates into the labor market. In this regard, Dual higher education is considered a very successful model for improving practical training and career prospects of graduates. A general characteristics of higher education in Albania, is the insufficient practical skills of students, which makes their integration into the labor market difficult and increases the unemployment of graduates. In this paper, a new experience is presented for the introduction of Dual studies in Livestock science and Agribusiness at Agricultural University Tirana (AUT) and University of Korca (UNIKO), respectively, through the re-organization of the existing Bachelor programs from the classical form into the Dual form. This was based mainly on the experience of Germany and Finland, which was made possible by the cooperation of AUT and UNIKO with Nürtingen-Geislingen University /Germany and Savonia University/ Finland within the framework of an Erasmus project. The Dual study model will fundamentally improve the professional skills of graduates through the combination of the on-farm practical training with the classroom theoretical part, as well as through the application of Project-based learning, especially during the practical training on the farm/company. It is expected that the introduction of the Dual model will facilitate overcoming the challenges of integrating graduates into the labor market of the agricultural sector.

Key words: Dual bachelor studies; animal production; agribusiness.