

# Survey on skills needs and the role of Work Life Partners in Dual tertiary education in the livestock science and agribusiness in Albania and Kosovo.

ARDITA JAHJA-HOXHA<sup>1</sup>, MYQEREM TAJAJ<sup>2</sup>, DORIAN MARKU<sup>3</sup>, PETRI KAINULAINEN<sup>1</sup>, ENKELEJDA EMIRI-SALLAKU<sup>2</sup>, BAHTIR HYSANI<sup>4</sup>, ARDIAN CERRAVA<sup>3</sup>, KATI PARTANEN<sup>1</sup>, GORI STEFI<sup>5</sup>, ROLAND MECE<sup>6</sup>, GJERGJI PAPA<sup>3</sup>, GJERGJI MERO<sup>3</sup>, SKENDER MUJI<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>*Savonia University of Applied Sciences (SUAS), FI-74101 Iisalmi, Finland*

<sup>2</sup>*Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT), 1029 Tirana, Albania*

<sup>3</sup>*University "F. S. Noli" of Korca (UNIKO), Korca, Albania*

<sup>4</sup>*University „Isa Boletini“ of Mitrovica (UMIB), Mitrovice, Kosovo*

<sup>5</sup>*Livestock & Rural Development Centre (LRD), 1015 Tirana, Albania*

<sup>6</sup>*Agricultural Centre of Technology Transfer (ACTT), Korca.*

<sup>7</sup>*University "Hasan Prishtina" Prishtina (UP), Prishtine, Kosovo.*

*Corresponding author: [Ardita.Hoxha-Jahja@savonia.fi](mailto:Ardita.Hoxha-Jahja@savonia.fi); [mtafaj@ubt.edu.al](mailto:mtafaj@ubt.edu.al)*

For the design of a Dual program, all issues related to the collaboration between the university and the Work Life Partners (WLP) must be developed, since a Dual program means a combination of classroom theory and company-based apprenticeship.

In order to reorganize the current bachelor's degree programs in livestock and agribusiness in the dual form, an empirical study was conducted with the quantitative method using structured questionnaires. Three target groups were identified in Albania and Kosovo: farms, agri-food public institutions, and academic target groups, respectively. The questionnaires focused on the required skills of the graduates and on the cooperation between the university and WLP in the implementation of the dual degree program in agriculture. The questionnaires were offered online using the program Webropol 3.0. A total of 919 completed questionnaires were returned; valid: 150 from companies, 144 from public institutions, and 267 from students/teachers of the respective programs of the four universities in both countries. The data were statistically analyzed using the program Webropol 3.0.

The results of this survey show that all target groups, especially the WLP, give great importance first on practical training, and then on the IT, communication and business skills of graduates. In addition, all WLPs declare their willingness to participate in the implementation of dual studies together with the universities. For this, the WLPs advocate support from the state in the form of various incentives as well as clear legal regulation.

*Key words: Skills; Agriculture; Dual Bachelor; Structured Questionnaires;*