

**DualAFS**

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



## DualAFS - **Dual** Curricula - Study and Work Practice in **Agriculture and Food Safety**

<b>Programme:</b>	Erasmus +
<b>Key Action:</b>	Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
<b>Action:</b>	Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)
<b>Duration:</b>	15.01.2021 - 14.01.2024

**E-Newsletter Issue 3, July 2022**

### **DualAFS: “2<sup>nd</sup> International Workshop” in UIBM**

- In the frame of DualAFS project on March 1-3, 2022 was organized the 2nd International Workshop in UIBM. According to the aim of the project, to promote the economic development of agriculture and food sectors in both countries, particularly in the livestock and agribusiness sectors, the key challenges in implementing in-company training as the core of the new introduced Dual Bachelor in AUT and UNIKO were discussed. Results of survey conducted in Kosovo and Albania with food businesses, farmers, students, academic staff, and public institutions showed that there is a need for practice-oriented curricula, training during studies, and development of skills related to digitalization. In UIBM and UPHP by current curricula was advanced by increasing the practical component. Units of LLL have started their establishment in the HEIs in Albania and Kosovo and will offer trainings in the agriculture and food sectors
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and public institutions showed that there is a need for practice-oriented curricula, training during studies, and development of skills related to digitalization. In UIBM and UPHP by current curricula was advanced by increasing the practical component. Units of LLL have started their establishment in the HEIs in Albania and Kosovo and will offer trainings in the agriculture and food sectors.



**Figure 1: Participants attending the 2nd international workshop at UIMB**

### **DualAFS Modern infrastructure and methodologies for teaching (e-learning) AUT**

- Agricultural University of Tirana provides modern digital infrastructure and modern methodologies for teaching (e-Learning), scientific research and training in the field of Animal Sciences.
- In the framework of the Erasmus + project “**Dual university studies in animal sciences, agribusiness and security of livestock products**“, the Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT) has created a modern digital infrastructure and is applying modern methodologies for online learning (e-Learning) in the Department of Animal Sciences. Two auditoriums equipped with computers and Hybrid modules have given the opportunities for students to attend lectures and other classes by foreign professors, not only from partner universities in this project (University of Nürtingen – Germany, University of Savonia – Finland), but also other universities in Europe and beyond. Three classrooms equipped with computers will be used for exercises and seminars with students of this department and other faculties and departments of UBT. This modern infrastructure will be widely used for training courses that will be offered by AUT, respectively this department, for zootechnics specialists working in the Livestock Advisory Service and those who run livestock farms in our country.



**Figure 2: Inauguration ceremony of new IT infrastructure at Department of Animal Sciences, AUT**

- The application of e-Learning in teaching and training courses is based on the most advanced didactic methods applied by foreign universities, especially those partner of this project, the University of Savonia in Finland and the University of Nürtingen Geislingen in Germany. Professors from partner universities are also training AUT professors for the application of contemporary didactic methods in distance learning, especially e-Learning. Developed partner university modules for Bachelor and Master students are being adapted by the Department of Animal Sciences of AUT and will be approached by students attending Bachelor and Master programs in the field of Livestock Sciences and will be included in specialist training courses of the livestock sector and managers of livestock farms in our country.

### **DualAFS Meeting in Finland - Learning from the example of Savonia University of Applied Sciences**

- The project consortium participants met in Iisalmi, Finland, from March 20-25, 2022, at Savonia University of Applied Sciences to discuss the next steps in the project and exchange valuable ideas about the implementation of practical training phases in studies and the use of e-learning technologies in daily teaching.
- During the 5 days, the project consortium was hosted by staff from Savonia University of Applied Sciences. The first day was devoted to disseminating the results of the "Baseline

Study" conducted by the project, which, among other things, surveys the opinions of stakeholders from the public and private sectors on the topic of practice-oriented teaching at universities. Important findings were that potential employers in the agricultural sector in Albania/Kosovo desire IT skills, foreign languages and practical skills of graduates. More information on the baseline study, you can find [here](#). These requirements can be met very well in the DualAFS project through the mobilities of students, staff trainings, the cooperation of universities and practice partners and the close cooperation with European partners (Savonia/NGU).



**Figure 3: Presentations on practical studies in Savonia by host university staff (left) and discussion among group members on how to improve project outcomes.**

- An important part of this year's Steering Committee meeting was the self-evaluation of the project activities to date. Such a review takes place regularly and is led by experts from the European partners (Savonia/NGU). The aim is to promote the strengths of the project cooperation, but also to identify difficulties that can be addressed and improved in the follow-up period. Such quality management ensures that the set goals can be achieved efficiently.





**Figure 4: Project participants on the day of the excursion – Ponsse, Vieremä, Finland**

- Among other project management topics, the program also included a study trip to Ponsse (manufacturer of forestry machinery) and a visit to the campus in Kuopio. Here, opportunities for cooperation between industry partners and universities were discussed and the importance of cooperation between agricultural partners, university and industry was made clear.

#### **DualAFS Mobility of teaching staff from University of Prishtina, Kosovo at Savonia University, Finland**

- The International project partner the Savonia University of Applied Science in Finland organized the mobility for academic staff training from 21 March – 02 April 2022. This mobility was realized as it was planned in the projects activities
- During the visit to UAS Savonia, the academic staff from University “Hasan Prishtina”, Kosovo had the opportunity to visit various institutions and meet colleagues from their respective field of study.



**Figure 6. Activities carried out at Savonia University, Finland**

- It was much more important that they got very good experiences in terms of practical work of students and connection of farms and businesses with UAS Savonia. Furthermore, they have visited some vocational schools that prepare students for UAS Savonia and this then enable students to orient more in practice and find work easier.
- In addition, in most of the farms they visited graduate students at UAS Savonia managed them, and some of them were attending additional courses to acquire knowledge in their field.
- Meetings with colleagues from the close field have been of particular importance as they have discussed the teaching methods that apply at UAS.





**Figure 7. Training activities at Savonia University**

- They discussed the content of the syllabi with special emphasis on the practical part that students have to perform on different farms and businesses. For this reason, they have participated in lectures but also have held lectures to exchange experiences in teaching.
- Regarding learning, it was also important to learn more about e-learning practices. In addition, together with students and colleagues they visited some farmers, where had the opportunity to discuss with farmers about the ways of production and management of farms but also about the involvement of students in the practical part. Finally, it should be mentioned that it was a special pleasure to learn more about coaching, which will be much more rewarding for their work in the future.
- Last, but not least, they are very pleased to have had the opportunity to learn so much about Finnish history and culture (Fig 8).



**Figure 8. Free time at Savonia University**



- In a near future other activities will be carried out, within the project, such as training of Academic staff from Universities of Albania and Kosova at NGU and the students exchange between HEIs.

### **DualAFS Mobility of teaching staff from University “Fan Noli” of Korça, at Nuertingent - Geislingen University, Germany**

- In the framework of DualAFS project, the University of Nueringen-Geislingen, welcomed on May 15<sup>th</sup> two of the Albanian teachers of “Fan S. Noli” University of Korca, for training and experience exchange.
- Dr. Dorjan Marku completed his mobility from May 15 – 28, for designing the structure of the course program “Supply Chain Management”, that will be integrated in the bachelor curricula of “Agribusiness Management”, at the Faculty of Agriculture.
- Integration of quality management in the agri-food supply chain and the application of practical approaches, project work & case studies were the main focus of his training and cooperation with Prof. Heinrich Schüle and Prof. Juergen Braun.
- During his mobility, he also had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with different work-life-partners (company representatives) of NGU, and obtain knowledge on how stakeholders from work-life-partners with practical background, may be involved in the course study programs.



- Dr. Aldona Minga, joined the University of Nuertingen-Geislingen from May 15 – 28, for preparing the syllabi of the module “Finance Management”. Making this module more

applicative and adapting it according the needs of the labor market was the main focus of her cooperation with Prof. Fischer.

- Also, she obtained more information on the importance of innovations for companies, know-how, in which framework innovations can be promoted and the role that university should provide.



## Project partners and contacts

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