



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

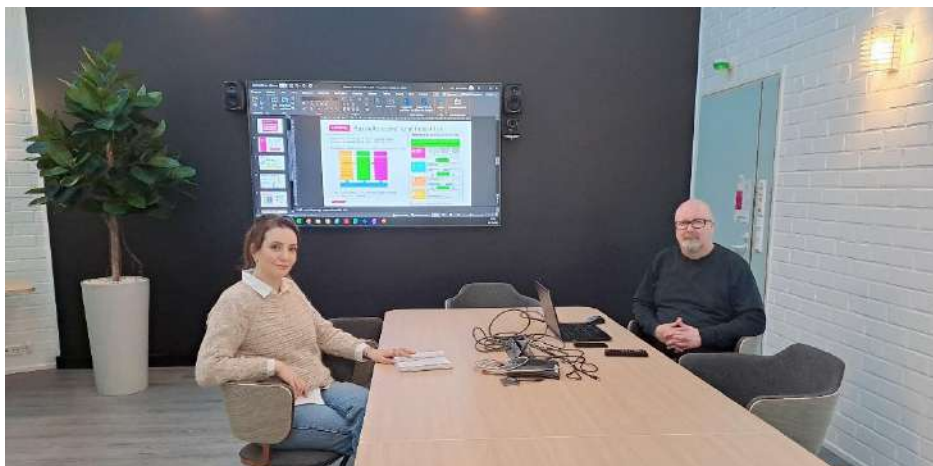
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International staff mobilities: Learning by doing

Staff mobilities at SAVONIA university

In the framework of the DualAFS project, Savonia University of Applied Sciences, in Finland hosted M.Sc. Shpend Doli (staff from University “Isa Boletini” Mitrovicë), from 30th September to 22nd December 2023 and Dr. Mirsade Osmani (academic staff from University “Isa Boletini” Mitrovicë), from 28th October to 9th November 2023). MSc. Doli during his stay was trained in the water lab in Kuopio, developing his relevant research activities. He advanced his laboratory skills related to major anions, cations, and heavy metal detection in water. During this mobility, he worked closely with staff involved in soil research projects.





Dr. Osmani visited during her stay as part of activities visited for study purposes facilities in Iisalmi and laboratories in Kuopio and got information about the activities and work conducted in the laboratories of this campus, as well as the specifics they use for the best practices in practical-based teaching methods. She also was introduced to internal cooperation and had meetings with the Food Design Research Group and got acquainted with the work and research activities that this group carries out. They also met working-life partners at the hosting university. Prof. Mirsade Osmani and Shpend Doli visited YSAO (Ylä – Savo Vocational College) where they were informed about student internships in several departments of confectionery, food products, production machinery, and animal husbandry. Also, in the department of food products they had the honor to cook traditional Finnish food.

Prof. Osmani also visited the University Hospital and had a meeting with the representative of the dairy company Valio, one of the biggest in the country, and was introduced to their production tradition, their unique products, and their international market.

Also, she had the pleasure and privilege to present the University “Isa Boletini” in Mitrovica, the Faculty of Food Technology to the students and staff of the Savonia University of Applied Sciences. That lecture sparked even more curiosity about the possibility of continuing collaboration between our universities in the future. It was then discussed the continuation of

new opportunities for cooperation through Erasmus+ with the ICM program between the universities for the exchange of students and staff.

DualAFS Staff Mobility at UNIKO in Korca, Albania, November 2023,

Johannes Munz, Nuertingen-Geislingen University

As a dedicated project participant, I had the privilege to participate in staff mobility activities aimed at enhancing employability of graduates, increasing knowledge and innovation capacity and improving the competitiveness of the agri-food sector in the region of Korca (Albania). In this article, I will describe in detail my contributions and experiences during my staff mobility within the DualAFS project.

One of the most important aspects of my participation was giving lectures to students of the newly introduced Bachelor's degree program "Agribusiness". These lectures played a central role in the internationalization of teaching and



research at the University of Korca (UNIKO). I used the new equipment acquired as part of the DualAFS project, such as the e-learning classroom, to deliver lectures, especially in connection with economic exercises. The topics of my lectures included digitalization in agriculture, where I discussed the importance of using technology and digital tools in modern agriculture and introduced students to the potential of digitalization to increase productivity

and sustainability. I also covered applied science and research methods, introducing students to the methods and techniques of agricultural research and highlighting their practical application in the field.

As part of my contributions, I have actively collaborated with the teaching staff at UNIKO to create teaching modules and materials in English. This knowledge sharing has been crucial in improving international teaching standards at the university.

Participating in lectures delivered by UNIKO staff members provided a valuable opportunity to learn and share knowledge. This academic exchange broadened our perspectives and enriched our collective expertise.

In line with the aims of the DualAFS project, I have actively participated in workshops with working life partners to explore the concept of circular economy in agriculture. These sessions aimed to promote sustainable practices and align training with the evolving needs of the agricultural sector.

The meeting with the academic leadership of UNIKO, including the Dean, Rector, Vice-Rector and other faculty members, allowed for a fruitful discussion about the activities within the DualAFS project. We explored potential improvements to the developed study program and discussed ways to further enhance the impact of the project.

The staff mobility I experienced as part of the DualAFS project was both insightful and impactful. Through my lectures, collaboration with UNIKO staff, participation in workshops, meetings with academic leadership and site



visits, I had the opportunity to contribute to the internationalization of teaching and research while learning about agricultural education in Korca.

DualAFS Staff Mobility at Savonia University in Finland

Muhamet Zogaj, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary, University of Prishtina

In order to improve the capacities of the academic staff, I have had good opportunity to be part of the mobility for the academic staff, where I stayed for 3 months at the University of Applied Sciences in Iisalmi Finland. During this period, I participated in various activities that take place at the University. First, I got acquainted with the organization of the University campus in Iisalmi, I also got acquainted with the staff, we discussed our areas of research and cooperation. Specifically, my commitment has been focused on three directions.



1. Teaching and learning – during my stay I discussed with various teachers about syllabuses, teaching and learning methods. I gained deeper knowledge about online and hybrid learning, where I also lectured for students from the University of Savonia. I held the lesson in a hybrid form, which was a new experience for me.



2. Involvement in other projects – my activity was also focused in projects related to my research field that were developed at the University of Savonia. During this period, we also went to the fields where I was practically informed about the environmental problems that the region of Savonia has, and we exchanged ideas about their solutions.

3. Research methods - another activity was familiarization with modern laboratory methods. During this period, I visited the Water Laboratory in Kuopio several times, as well as collected water samples in the field, brought them to the



laboratory and analyzed. So I discussed about the newest methods of laboratory analysis and I got acquainted with new devices that are missing in our country.

In addition to the mentioned activities, I also got to know the culture and way of life of the Finnish people by participating in various sports and cultural activities.

The corresponding textbook in the frame of DualAFS was prepared by all HEI's, is ready and can be found [here](#).

DualAFS Workshops for teachers – Deepening practice-oriented teaching

Cooperation between universities and work life partners is important for Universities of Prishtina, Mitrovica, Tirana and Korca in Kosovo and Albania. Working life-oriented teaching methods are included to study modules. Students for example practice in laboratories of universities, visit in farms and companies and practice e-learning skills. These skills what

students learn with working life-oriented teaching methods, are needed in a work life in the future.



In Dual AFS -project (Dual curricula – Study and Work Practice in Agriculture and Food safety) six project partners from the agricultural and food sector from Finland, Germany, Albania, and Kosovo develop dual curricula and lifelong learning. Savonia's natural resources and rural industries degree include a lot of working life-oriented teaching methods and cooperation with work life partners. Savonia has a lot of knowledge to export of these topics.

It's important to meet work life partners and take a time with colleagues from the own university and share knowledge. In the end

of September – beginning of October were workshops for all project partners in Albania and Kosovo. In workshops participants, mostly teachers, discussed together what does a working life orientation mean, what kind of working life-oriented methods teachers used at their lectures 2-3 years ago, what kind of methods they use nowadays and what kind of methods they would like to use more in the future.

Different kind of digital tools are part of working life orientation for many participants. Excel, Kahoot, Google Classroom and Zoom are few examples of digital tools which was mentioned. Students have for example short practices and visits at farms/companies and case studies included to their lectures. Cases teachers receive from research and a work

life. Earlier lectures were included more of theory but nowadays there is more practical part also. Some universities have a challenge to find companies where students could do a longer internship trainee. Teachers hope that students could be there from several weeks to a few months. Many participants of the workshops hope that in the future a cooperation between university and work life partner will improve. A development process of cooperation takes a lot of time.

DualAFS– Learning eLearning



The Dual AFS Digimmentor training was held in Mitrovica, Kosovo on 25-29 September 2023 by Hannu Viitala, Savonia University of Applied Sciences.

Two people from each partner university participated in the training (total 8 + trainer): Pristina UNI-PR and Mitrovica UIBM in Kosovo, Tirana AUT and Korca UNIKO in Albania. The trainer was Hannu Viitala from Savonia University of Applied Sciences.

The aim of the Digimmentor training was to start Digimmentoring at partner universities by introducing key personnel to Digimmentoring. The long-term goal is that in a few years the partner universities will have a functioning, well-organized and multi-level digital support and advise system.

Digital mentoring means a system where the teacher receives guidance and support in digital problem situations at a low threshold. The



teacher can also ask Digimmentor for help in planning and implementing online teaching. Nowadays, IT staff are asked for help in problem situations. Digimmentor acts as a link between the teacher and IT. Digimmentor can solve most problems, in which case IT support is only needed in the most difficult problem situations. If necessary, the Digimmentor also acts as an interpreter between the teacher and IT.



DigiMentoring includes, in addition to guidance and support of digital teaching tools, testing and training, motivating users, creating customized instructions, and networking, for example, with DigiMentors from other universities.

Based on the feedback from the participants of the DigiMentor training, the first goal of the training was fulfilled, which also lays the foundation for the realization of the long-term goal. The participants report to the management of their own university and faculty and to their colleagues about DigiMentor training and actively strive to promote the

introduction and development of digitization at their own university. This development will improve the quality of teaching, which will materialize as an increase in the number of students in the future.

LLL Units in Albania and Kosovo

In the framework of DualAFS project, AUT is committed in addressing the development of life-long learning (LLL) as part of the capacity building element. In this context AUT is focused on:

- Widening the access of lifelong learning
- Adapting study programs to ensure that they are designed toward the needs of the labor market in the field of agriculture and food
- Providing appropriate guidance and counseling services
- Strengthening the relationship between research, teaching and innovation in a perspective of lifelong learning
- Developing partnerships at local, regional, national and international level to provide attractive and relevant programs

In terms of the LLL component, Agriculture Faculty is committed to offer future training courses according to the needs of the representatives from private sector and public institutions. Considering the ratio between the number of farms and the number of specialists that offer extension services and consulting, as part of public institutions, offering extension services to the above-mentioned groups of interest is a necessity.

The main goal of the Life-long-learning strategy at UNIKO is to transform the Faculty of Agriculture as an important regional and national center of excellence that trains professionals engaged in the agriculture sector and sub-sectors. This will be achieved through:

- Offering training courses, consulting and extension services, according to the request of the interested partners from private and public sector.

The services provided for the third parties will promote and enhance the role of UNIKO in the region, in support of the development of agriculture through knowledge transfer and extension services.

According to the respective Regulation, academic units (Faculties of the University of Prishtina) establish advisory boards (based on the dean's proposal). Advisory Boards (AB) are established with the aim of setting closer communication with the industry, private sector etc. Role and responsibilities of the AB include the participation in the process of the study program review, realization of the professional practice for the students, supporting the academic unit in the labor market by establishing joint working units, offer financial support for research projects of the students etc. It is important to underline that AB can suggest changes, improvements and amendment of the UP regulations as well as to propose programs related to LLL, adult and professional training.

The aim of our Lifelong Learning unit is to facilitate personal and professional growth by providing a wide range of professional educational materials to all, regardless of age, background or circumstances, thereby fostering personal enrichment and contribution to society.

In the future, our Lifelong Learning unit aims to create global collaborations, creating partnerships with local institutions and industry experts to deliver cutting-edge programs that anticipate and address new skills requirements"

For more detailed information please see the elaborated LLL strategies for Albania and Kosovo, here: [Outputs – Dualafs](#)

Recent events



from the left: Sara Pfaff, Prof. Dr. Winter, Prof. Dr. Braun, Heiko Eßlinger, Ines Maurmann, Sara Goth – at AUT during the final conference of DualAFS

From 11th to 17th November 2023 the project DualAFS enabled some professors and staff from Nuertingen-Geislingen University (NGU) to be part of a staff mobility to Kosovo and Albania. Prof. Dr. Winter, Ines Maurmann, Sara Goth, Heiko Eßlinger and Sara Pfaff travelled to Kosovo and Albania. Prof. Dr. Braun joined the travel in Tirana, Albania.

We started our one-week journey in Kosovo in Prishtina. On Sunday, 12th, The rectorate and staff

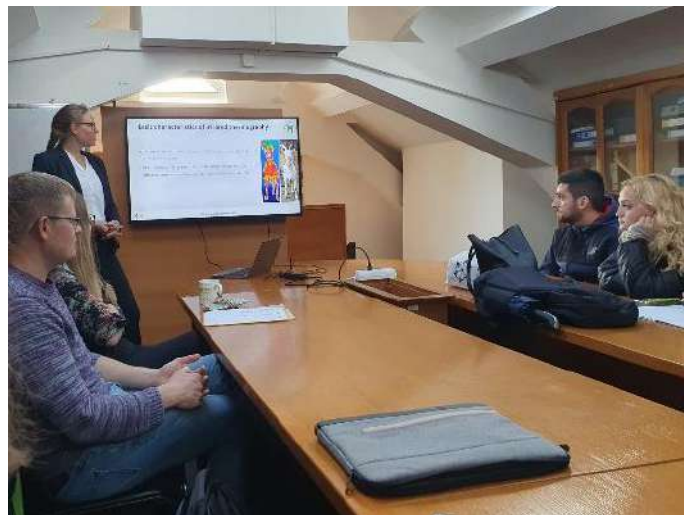
of the university of Mitrovica (UMIB) showed us the new laboratories for food-sciences and the hybrid classroom which was an achievement of the DualAFS project and is now in daily use. In the city museum of Mitrovica we got insights in history and culture of Kosovo, especially Mitrovica. On our way to Prishtina we got to see two dairy farms and had the chance to get into conversation with the local farmers.



Prof. Dr. Winter giving lectures in AUT about horse industry in Germany

At the university of Prishtina (UP) we had the privilege to give some lectures on

13th November about current research of NGU projects, dealing with animal welfare and German agricultural industry



The exchange with students from UP was beneficial for the awareness in agricultural and agronomical differences between Germany and Kosovo.

At the university of Tirana (AUT) we took part in a workshop called "Developments in Livestock Feeding,

Sara Goth giving lectures in UP about reseach in dairy goats

Husbandry & Welfare". We gave our lectures about our current research to veterinary students from AUT and practicing veterinarians. During the final conference of the DualAFS project, we met the other project participants from the Savonia university of Finland, the University of Korca, Albania (UNIKO), AUT, UP, UIBM, NGU and other Working Life partners from Albania and Kosovo. Prof. Dr. Braun gave more insights



Visit of the laboratories of UMIB.

into different ways for improving and integrating practice parts within the curricula of the agriculture Master's programme at NGU. Hearing about the achievements of the DualAFS project, the impact and future challenges and having fruitful conversations with (inter-)national participants broadened our horizon and was such a great experience.



Beside the conferences we visited – together with the other project partners – the Skenderbeg tomb in Lezha, a company which produces natural casings and animal by-products, the Petrela castle in Tirana, the Apollonia exhibition, a milk processing factory and the city Berat. These excursions gave deep insights into Albanian history, culture and agribusiness.



We are very thankful that we were able to do this staff mobility – a huge thanks to DualAFS and Erasmus+!.

All the experiences and encounters with people from Kosovo, Albania and Finland were beneficial for us and our work at NGU. We are looking forward to further possibilities to work and to do further research with partners in Albania and Kosovo in the future.



Visit of the Lufra milk processing factory in Bishqetëm, Albania.



Visit of the Apollonia exhibition in Pojan, Albania.



International Scientific Congress at AUT

During the International Conference organized at AUT premises, members from DualAFS project from “Fan S. Noli” University of Korça and Agricultural University of Tirana, presented to the conference participants the changes that curriculums has undergone and what are the main challenges that universities are facing in terms of the implementation of long-term professional practices of students in farms, companies and public institutions.

Participation of members of “Fan S Noli” University at ICOALS 4

In the framework of the DualAFS project, members of “Fan S. Noli” University of Korca (UNIKO), participated in the International Conference in the Field of Agriculture Sciences



organized at AUT from 1-3rd November 2023. During this period, they shared their experience with conference participants and members of the DualAFs project for the implementation of the newly adapted Dual Curricula in Agribusiness Management.



In this event, Dual Bachelor Studies in “Livestock & Animal Products Safety” and “Agribusiness Management” were promoted with a dedicated poster, jointly with DualAfs members from AUT.

Installation of the hybrid classroom in the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary, University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”

Details regarding the installation of the new Hybrid Classroom, with all accompanying equipment, in the space of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary, UPHP.



Our Hybrid Classroom initiative will create a highly conducive environment for combining classroom and distance learning and represents an important step forward in providing an enriched and inclusive educational experience for our students and others.



Our team has been committed to contributing to the success of this project, providing an innovative and engaging learning environment for all involved. This hybrid class meets the highest standards of excellence.



Thanks to Erasmus+, Nuertingen University and the partners of the DualAFS project for their support, cooperation and valuable contribution.

Upcoming Project End in Januar 2024

DualAFS will end on the 14th of January 2024. The project consortium will maintain the work developed in DualAFS and sustain the results achieved. Even though this is the last E-Newsletter, the website of DualAFS and the corresponding partner websites will be maintained.

Herewith the whole project consortium would like to thank you for your interest in the work, the developments and the results of DualAFS.

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