

NEWSLETTER 3

SmartAL

Master: European Innovations for a Sustainable Management of Albanian Territories, Rural Areas and Agriculture: Instruments, policies, strategies

**SMARTAL IS AN ERASMUS + CAPACITY BUILDING
IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT FOCUSING ON:**

- 1 Strengthening the linkages between universities and job providing institutions
- 2 Improving the theoretical and practical knowledge of students
- 3 Offering innovative teaching tools and methodologies
- 4 Consolidating synergy among Albanian universities
- 5 Creating 9 teaching modules at executive and professional master level

EDITO

The SmartAL Master in “European Innovations for a Sustainable Management of Albanian Territories, rural areas and agriculture: Instruments, policies, strategies” is entering the second and most intensive phase of its implementation. After laying the foundations of the SmartAL Master –an ambitious workplan, efficient governance bodies, a quality assurance system which guarantees the accreditation of the future master in line with the Bologna criteria and the Albanian standards, as well as the quality of the project itself– it is time for the teaching modules to take shape.

The writing of the modules’ content by pairs of Albanian and European teachers is in full swing. This work will be completed by the case studies which are currently being carried out by students in the field.

This collaboration between Albanian and European universities is awesome, and the commitment demonstrated by teachers and students is extraordinary.

If all goes as planned, the SmartAL executive Master should be launched at the beginning of the following academic year... and we are delighted with it!

Magali Maire,
CIHEAM-IAMM, SmartAL Project coordinator

CO-BUILDING OF THE SMARTAL MASTER: CAPACITY BUILDING IN PAIRS WITH THE ALBANIAN AND EU TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Teachers capacity building for modules co-conception

The year 2019 is strongly marked by the work in pairs of Albanian and European universities lecturers for the construction of the 9 modules of the SmartAL master.

International Mobility for Albanian Teachers from the University Fan S. Noli Korçë (UNKO) and the Agricultural University of Tirana (UBT) to the University of Hohenheim (UHOH)

Dr Dorjan Marku (University Fan S. Noli Korçë) and Prof. Asoc. Dr. Ilir Kapaj (Agricultural University of Tirana) were hosted by the University of Hohenheim in the framework of the international mobilities of the SmartAL project. They worked with Prof. Reiner Doluschitz to the development of the module “Instruments and policy evaluation methods”.



Dr Dorjan Marku, University Fan S. Noli Korçë, Pr Ilir Kapaj, Agricultural University of Tirana, Pr Reiner Doluschitz, University of Hohenheim



WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

Lead partner

International Center for Advanced
Mediterranean Agronomic Studies -
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of
Montpellier -CIHEAM-IAMM (France)



Partners

Fan S Noli University Korçë - UNKO (Albania)
University of Hohenheim - UHOH (Germany)
European University of Tirana - UET (Albania)
Agricultural University of Tirana - UBT (Albania)
Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences - UPSPS (Greece)
University Paul Valéry Montpellier - UPV (France)

Associated partners:

Network for Rural Development (Albania)
Ministry of Education and Sports (Albania)
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development
And Water Administration(Albania)
Ministry of Urban development (Albania)
Korçë Regional Council (Albania)



Project duration: 2017-2020
Total EU Grant: 760 000 EUR



*Dr Philippe Le Grusse, CIHEAM-IAMM,
Prof. Asoc. Dr. Fatmir GURI, Agricultural University of Tirana*

International Mobility for Albanian Teachers to the CIHEAM-IAMM, 15 to 30 June 2019

In the framework of the SmartAL project, the CIHEAM-IAMM welcomed from 15 to 30 June 2019 Prof. Asoc. Dr. Remzi KECO, Vice-rector of the Agricultural University of Tirana, Prof. Asoc. Dr. Fatmir GURI, Lecturer at the Agricultural University of Tirana, and Dr Elena KOKTHI, teacher and researcher at the European University of Tirana. They worked together with the French team –in pairs with Tahani Abdelhakim PhD, Mélanie Requier Desjardins PhD and Philippe Le Grusse PhD, lecturers at the CIHEAM-IAMM– to develop the curricula of the future SmartAL Master. The issues addressed were the Institutions and actors in territory, the natural resources and environmental management and the project design.

MOBILITIES OF STUDENTS TO ELABORATE CASES STUDIES IN A VIEW TO ENRICH THE CONTENT OF MODULES

Mobilities of Master students from the CIHEAM-IAMM Montpellier (France) to Albania

These case studies will provide practical information and analysis from the perspective of actors and institutions in the territory and will enrich each module of the future SmartAL master.

CASE STUDY 1: Elda Muço, Master Student at the CIHEAM-IAMM, supervised by Elena Kokthi PhD, UET and Tahani Abdelhakim PhD, CIHEAM-IAMM. Mobility from 1 April to 30 September 2019 on “Institutions and actors in territory” in Albania.



From left to right: Prof. Asoc. Dr. Fatmir GURI, Lecturer at the Agricultural University of Tirana, Magali Maire, Coordinator of the SmartAL Project at the CIHEAM-IAMM, Prof. Asoc. Dr. Remzi KECO, Vice-rector of the Agricultural University of Tirana, Pascal Bergeret, Director of the CIHEAM-IAMM, PhD Elena KOKTHI, teacher and researcher at the European University of Tirana

CASE STUDY 2: Eriketa Cenolli, Master Student at the CIHEAM-IAMM, supervised by Prof. Asoc. Dr. Fatmir Guri, UBT and Mélanie Réquier Desjardin, CIHEAM-IAMM. Mobility from 1 April to 30 September 2019 in Albania. The aim of her research is to identify the features that may lead to a common management of a territory (the case of Divjaka protected area)



CASE STUDY 3: Oljan Dervishi, Master Student at the CIHEAM-IAMM, supervised by Prof. Ferdi Brahushi, UBT, and Philippe Le Grusse PhD, CIHEAM-IAMM. Mobility from 1 April to 30 September 2019. The case study is related to the nitrate pollution and instruments to manage the territory.



• Mobility for 3 PhD candidates from the UPSPS to Albania

Three selected Greek PhD candidates will come together and work jointly and in synergy with their Albanian counterparts for both modules through a case study on the Albanian field. They will then work together on data recording and processing of the empirical material (research methodology; data collection and processing on administrative reform - spatial analysis- investigation and distribution of territorial resources and social infrastructures etc.) and draft the supporting educational material of the modules.

More precisely, the idea is to organize a short research project that will focus on the Municipality of Tirana (the entire or a selected district chosen by our Albanian peers to be the case study) in order to collect key elements that will highlight the new spatial planning framework, following the recent administrative reform in Albania. What we actually ask for is to better understand the linking of the new administrative management system to the spatial planning system / scales (new spatial planning tools at municipal level; e.g. land use plans, maps, local plans for spatial development, relevant legislation) in order to understand the new responsibilities of Municipalities and Regions, spatial developmental planning, urban planning etc. Also identifying social needs (social inclusion and territorial cohesion issues) and spatial distribution of social services and infrastructures through analysis of statistics and interviews to key-informants. All these data will then- after appropriate processing in collaboration with the responsible Greek and Albanian professors- serve as examples of spatial planning, which will be used to cover part of the educational material of both modules (Territorial Administration, Planning and Governance & Data Administration, Geoinformatics).

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Key meetings with the project consortium

3rd Scientific Committee & Operational Committee, 20 June 2019

Operational committees: As a complex and demanding project to implement, the SmartAL project requires day-to-day management to maintain an ongoing relationship between partners and an optimal pace of work: the challenge is very important because all participants are teachers and researchers and have to deal with many tasks outside the SmartAL project. In addition, the implementation of the project must be elaborated according to a very tight schedule, which must be aligned with the academic calendar of all the universities involved. Operational committees also deal with the best management of various problems such as financial problems.

Scientific committees discussed crucial issues such as the content of the modules, their coherence, the absence of redundancy and a good complementarity between each of them. A methodological note was also discussed and

delivered: this aimed to ensure a quality assurance system for the accreditation of the future master to be in line with the Bologna criteria as well as the Albanian accreditation system.



3rd Scientific Committee & Operational Committee, 20 June 2019

PROJECT ASSESSMENT

Assessment of the SmartAL project by the EU Agency, April 2019

The CIHEAM-IAMM team, Coordinator of the project, worked actively in collaboration with the Consortium partners to ensure the drafting and submission of the Intermediate Technical Implementation Report to the Erasmus+ Agency in the deadlines. A Statement of the costs incurred was also submitted to the Agency, as well as a Request for a second pre-financing. The Technical report was assessed by the Erasmus+ Agency and the second pre-financing was sent to the Coordinator, ensuring the follow up and good development of the project.

NEW TOOLS FOR THE PARTNERS OF THE CONSORTIUM

New equipment at the UET, June 2019

SmartAL Project accomplished one of its objectives at the UET: the purchase of the innovative teaching tools (books and equipment) in order to improve teaching methodologies. In this framework the module Institutions and actors in the territory will offer the future students practical tools on social network analysis. The equipment with UCINET software, installment, training issues and its introduction to the module Institution and Actors in the Territory were the main topics of the working group of UET team.



Dr Elena Kokthi, Lecturer of Institutions and Actors in the Territory, Dr Ketrina Cabiri Mijo, Head of Office for Project Development and Partnership, Agim Kasaj, Director of IT solution.

During July the Agricultural University of Tirana completed the new LABORatory of the executive master with 20 desktop computers, printer, overhead projector etc. In this laboratory will be installed softwares like arcgis, SPSS, GAMS etc. This new laboratory will be entirely dedicated to the executive master students and to researchers.

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

SmartAL project's Open day, 1 April 2019

The SmartAL team at the European University of Tirana organized an Open day, inviting all stakeholders from all sectors to discuss about territorial administration.



International Fair for Cooperation, 10 April 2019

SmartAL Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education was introduced as a successful project at the International Fair for Cooperation, hosted by the UET.



Europe Day 2019, 10 May 2019

Dr Ketrina Cabiri Mijo represented the UET and the SmartAL project on the occasion of the Europe Week 2019 in Tirana.



Work Fair organized by the UET, 23 May 2019

The SmartAL master was introduced at the Work fair organized by the UET, the main purpose of the project being to address the new labor market needs identified by the new and emerging public policies in Albania. This event promotes new opportunities for students and young people in Albania.



Dissemination Event to promote Erasmus+ KA2 CBHE projects

On 11th of July 2019 UET organized a Dissemination Event to promote Erasmus KA2 CBHE Projects. Representatives from NEO Office in Tirana were present in the event. SMART AL project is a crucial part of UET project portfolio.



EVENTS SCHEDULED

- **2nd Steering Committee, 7 October 2019**
- **Workshop on rural development policies in Albania, 8 October 2019**
- **Field Visit, 8 October 2019, with the consortium partners in Albania**
- **Case studies dissemination conference, 9 October 2019**
- **PhD students' mobility, in the upcoming months**

Two sets of 4 Albanian PhD students will benefit from a study mobility grant to acquire specific research methodologies and deepen subjects related to territory administration, agri-environmental and rural development instruments, policies and strategies.





SmartAL / MODULES OF THE FUTURE EXECUTIVE MASTER IN “EUROPEAN INNOVATIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF ALBANIAN TERRITORIES, RURAL AREAS AND AGRICULTURE: INSTRUMENTS, POLICIES, STRATEGIES”

MODULE 1

Management and territory administration policy

The module will provide information on theoretical issues on the spatial economics and regional economics, and the practical organisation of the territory administration as well as the existing policy instruments that are applied at local level.

MODULE 2

Natural Resources and environmental management

The module will cover the information on the economic evaluation of natural resources and environmental goods, the ecosystemic services on rural areas, the evaluation of the pollution and environmental public instruments to apply, waste and policy instruments to regulate the issue.

MODULE 3

Territory actors and institutions

The module will cover the following issues: the institutions on rural areas, the participatory process, the role of actors, leaders on rural areas, the decision making process, the collaboration among different actors, etc.

MODULE 4

Territory innovation and actions

The module will focus on the innovation process on rural areas aiming to identify the actors that may support and disseminate the innovative projects on rural areas, and instruments of smart specialisation of rural areas. The information should offer examples and instruments on how to set up innovative projects and to replicate them.

MODULE 5

Rural development Policies

The module will deal with the theoretical information of the sustainable rural development, an overview of the existing rural development policies in Albania, and in EU, their evolution and the critic analysis on their effects, as well as the possibility to replicate on middle income countries such as Albania.

MODULE 6

EU territory and cohesion policy

The module will provide information on the existing EU territory policy and cohesion policy. The information will deal with the philosophy of these policies as well as the practicalities of the application (eligibility, measures, application process, access to funds, administrative and financial issues etc.)

MODULE 7

Data Administration

The module will deal with the process of preparation of data collection, questionnaire preparation, database and data mining on existing database, adaption of databases to several uses, qualitative and quantitative methods of data elaboration, (e.g. geographic information system, spatial econometrics etc.)

MODULE 8

Project design Preparation and evaluation

The module will focus on all the phases of the project from the project idea to the design, implementation, evaluation etc. In each phase of the project the module will provide tools and instruments to select the best choice

MODULE 9

Instruments and policy evaluation methods

The module will focus on the public policy instruments, the identification of the policy answer to the issues on the rural and peri-urban areas, and the evaluation methods of the instruments.

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