

## The Coordination Meeting in Sarajevo 12-15 July

The second Coordination Meeting was held in Sarajevo in the 12-15 July. The workshop was attended by: Jochem Gieraths - OEZ AU Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany, Anila Hoda - AU Tirana, Albania, Aleksandra Nikolic - FoA Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ivan Pejic - FoA Zagreb, Croatia, Cosmin Salasan - USAB Timisoara, Romania and Dragana Saric - FoA Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Unfortunately, due to health issues, Zora Dajic, FoA Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro couldn't participate.

The items discussed aimed to touch all aspects concerning the last two months activities around the modules. It was systematically approached the team building, the contacts, the commitments and the expected development in terms of teams structuring. Each coordinator presented the progress in her/his module. The team propositions / invitations, eventually confirmed were presented; the shares covered according to the specialty of each team member and her / his input.

Dragana Saric from FoA Sarajevo and Ivan Pejic from FoA Zagreb presented their teams and the shares expected to be covered by the contributing colleagues from the other faculties. In this respect, the module of Basics in Agricultural Economics is gathering colleagues from FoAs in Sarajevo, Zagreb, Belgrade and Tirana and the module in Crop Production / Breeding counts on professors from FoAs in Zagreb, Belgrade, Sarajevo and Tirana. Confirmations are still expected in terms of commitment and the coordinator's deadline to announce their teams was set to September.

The new module in Animal Science / Husbandry has changed into Animal Breeding and Genetics, under the coordination of Anila Hoda from AU Tirana, Albania. Contacts were exchanged and the team is structuring further.

Due to technical issues, a report from Zora Dajic could not be recovered and it cannot be presented during the Coordination Meeting or in this report.

Improving the quality of the teaching materials was identified as a first major contribution of the cooperation in the modules building. Solving the local needs and enhancing the quality of the teaching process through improved materials and adding external input from the region by involving the best specialists represents a key achievement in the process. Often, the SEE CG members illustrated through examples the weakness and the problems in covering certain subjects.

The coordinators estimated that the joint module building gathers the regional competencies, concentrating the best specialists through cross-border cooperation. This form of networking represents a new dimension in mobility, moving competencies and expertise along the region, regardless the borders. By their contribution to the modules, the professors from the FoAs in the Balkan Region are reaching a new level of mobility being present in all participant faculties through the teaching material contributed in the modules.

In continuing the process' development the group aims to develop and present as example, one or two modules shaped for distance learning. The discussions touched the different forms that distance learning can take and concluded the for the moment, regarding the circumstances and the location, as well as the field of specialty (agriculture), the most appropriate will be a non-interactive distance teaching product. In this respect, the SEE CG aims to present in Hohenheim, this autumn, a sample, both on paper and electronic format (handouts and CD's).

Among the difficulties identified by the coordinators, the most frequent issue was the inconstancy in forum use, as a wide communication tool. A short session in providing the basic steps was reserved at the end of the meeting in order to enable all members in forum use.

The modular approach and the joint, cross-border cooperation in building them appears to be a step further in eliminating the border's limitation from the thinking and the educational sphere. A correct orientation of the future graduates for a wider labor market, providing them with a broader regional approach constitutes a competition advantage.

At the same time, this module building approach and the coordinated teams are contribution with the first bricks on establishing the bases of a future resource point/base.

In terms of Public Relations, the participants proposed to develop a transparent policy by enhancing the SEE Core Group website presenting the team's members and all relevant information.

New intermediate checkpoints were established in order to follow the modules development. The participation to the Hohenheim Event in distance learning at the beginning of October will engage the Core Group as well. At least one chapter from one module will be presented together with the whole SEE Core Group activity. This opportunity will be also used for a new coordination meeting.

As an overall view, the progress of the SEE Core Group was estimated as positive and dynamic. The tasks to be accomplished are demanding but the member's commitment will drive the process forward.