**Report on Enrolment in Master and LLL Programs**

**(WP3 – Deliverable 3.8)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Acronym:** | **BUGI** |
| **Project Full Title:** | **Western Balkans Urban Agriculture Initiative** |
| **Project No.:** | **586304-EPP-1-2017-BA-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP** |
| **Funding Scheme** | **Erasmus Plus** |
| **Coordinator:** | **University of Sarajevo** |
| **Project Start Date:** | **October 15, 2017** |
| **Project Duration:** | **48 months (w. project extension of 12 months)** |

##

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

EU European Union

HEI Higher Education Institution

KAA Kosovo Accreditation Agency

LLL lifelong learning

UDG University DonjaGorica

UHZ University “HaxhiZeka” of Peja

UNMO University “DžemalBijedić” of Mostar

UNSA University of Sarajevo

UP University of Pristine

SERDA Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency

UA urban agriculture

WB Western Balkan

WP Work Package

1. **Introduction**

WB Project partners committed themselves that during the project lifetime 5 partner countries HEIs will implement the pilot phase of the new UA master study and LLL program. Each HEI was supposed to enrol up to 10 students in the master study curriculum. Altogether up to 50 students were expected to be enrolled at new master study in UA during the project lifetime. The LLL program pilot phase was expected to start six months after the master study program. It was planned to enrol up to 10 trainees per one module in the LLL program; altogether up to 200 persons in LLL program during the project lifetime.

1. **Enrolment of students in Master program in UA**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HEI** | **Planned** | **Realised** |
| UNSA | up to 10 | 16 |
| UNMO | up to 10 | 7 |
| UDG | up to 10 | 5 |
| UP&UHZ | up to 20 | 17 |
| **Total** | **up to 50** | **45** |

Table 1. Number of enrolled students in new master study programs in UA

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

UNSA started a new master program in Urban Agriculture in the academic 2019/2020 year. Up to this date, UNSA has enrolled 16 students (8 in 2019/2020, 4 in 2020/2021 and 4 in 2021/2022). Since April/May 2020, due to the Covid pandemic, UNSA cancelled traditional study program presentations’ fair which has been used as a tool for attracting students. The number of newly enrolled students at UNSA has decreased by 33% to 40% in recent years compared to the situation in 2018. Despite these negative trends, UNSA was successful in enrolling more than 10 students.

UNMO started a new master program in Urban Agriculture in the same academic year as UNSA. Up to this date, UNMO has enrolled 7 students (1 in 2019/2020 and 6 in 2021/2022). There was a significant decrease in the number of enrolled students at whole UNMO and particularly at the Agromediterranean Faculty.

Possible reasons for this situation should be sought in the emigration of the population from Bosnia and Herzegovina due to the unstable political and economic situation, as well as the fact that during the war in BiH in the period 1992-1995, the number of children born decreased.

**Montenegro**

UDG received accreditation quite late – at the end of July 2020, but started with its implementation in academic 2021/2022 year when 5 students are enrolled. Reasons for not offering the master study program Urban agriculture at the UDG in academic 2020/2021 year are threefold:

* Given the fact that the measures implied by the Ministry of Health of Montenegro regarding the COVID 19 pandemic forbade any gathering, that public institutions were closed, and that was uncertain until when that situation will remain, UDG was under enormous pressure to maintain a minimum of the teaching process. Montenegro was hit by the second wave of the pandemic at that time, so it was decided to organize a minimum of the teaching process with existing study programs.
* In addition, the fact that the greenhouse (for which the re-tender was announced 2 times) wasn’t still available for students, the adequate conditions for enrolment of the students were not provided as well.
* Also, the University itself was in the process of re-accreditation of all study programs in the mentioned period, and the opening of a new master's study program would require new administrative capacities, which at that time was impossible to provide.

**Kosovo**

UP received accreditation on September 1, 2020. The first 17 students are enrolled in the academic 2021/2022 year. The responsible persons from KAA suggested that only one institution leads the procedure as practically it is very difficult and it is a long process to have two institutions apply together. Moreover, applying together would produce certain problems when diplomas are to be issued. Based on institutional capacities assessment and KAA criteria for accreditation, Kosovo HEIs proposed UP to apply for accreditation and to deliver a new Master study program in UA, and UHZ to apply for accreditation and to deliver a LLL program in UA. The academic staff of both HEIs was engaged in the entire process - from program development to the implementation of the new master study program. The first attempt to accredit the study program in Kosovo was unsuccessful in 2019. UP applied for new accreditation in 2020, but faced a new obstacle – the decision of KAA to postpone accreditation of all study programs for the year 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. After extraordinary efforts conducted by Kosovo HEIs, the only exception was made in the case of the proposed UA Master Program. The formal decision of KAA for the accreditation of the study program was received on September 01, 2020 and the period was very short to work individually with students and to explain the benefits of the new study program. Unfortunately, enrolment of students in Urban Agriculture in the academic 2020/2021 year at UP (for UP and UHZ students) was not successful. According to UP internal rules, at least 10 students are necessary to be registered for the study program to start with lectures in each academic year, but the registration process was completed by 3 students who were officially registered at the end of the registration process. Because of the pandemic situation, there was only one enrolment term for UP for the academic year 2020/2021.

As suggested by Project Officer, a bilateral agreement between the two Kosovar HEIs was signed in view to allow students and staff from UHZ to benefit from the master courses implemented at UP, while the practical classes can be conducted in both greenhouses (Prishtina and Peja).

1. **Enrolment of trainees in LLL in UA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module** | **Delivered by** | **For** | **Planned** | **Realised** |
| Introduction to UA  | UNSA&SERDA | UNSA,UNMO,UDG | up to 10 | 55 |
| Economics of UA | UNSA&SERDA | UNSA,UNMO,UDG | up to 10 | 55 |
| Urban Fruit Growing | UNSA&SERDA | UNSA,UNMO,UDG | up to 10 | 36 |
| Urban Vegetable Growing | UNSA&SERDA | UNSA,UNMO,UDG | up to 10 | 42 |
| Medicinal and Aromatic Plants | UNSA&SERDA | UNSA,UNMO,UDG | up to 10 | 42 |
| Fruit and Vegetable Processing | UNSA&SERDA | UNSA,UNMO,UDG | up to 10 | 42 |
| Cultivation of Fruits and Vegetables | UHZ | UHZ, UP | up to 10 | 20 |
| Plant Protection | UHZ | UHZ, UP | up to 10 | 20 |
| **Total** |  |  | **up to 200** | **312** |

Table 2. Number of enrolled trainees in LLL modules in UA

SERDA, in cooperation with UNSA, applied for accreditation of LLL in UA under the name “Urban Gardener” and received accreditation in June 2021. The partnership was approved by EACEA Project Officer in October 2019 (authorization to subcontract SERDA given on October 10, 2019) and the bilateral agreement between SERDA and UNSA was signed. The EACEA Project Officer approved in February 2021 that participants from Montenegro and Kosovo can attend virtually the LLL program delivered by UNSA.

UNSA started with the implementation of LLL program in September 2021 after a public call for enrollment was closed. LLL classes and fieldwork were finished by October 14, 2021. 3 participants from Mostar and 6 participants from Montenegro were enrolled per all 6 modules delivered by UNSA & SERDA.

UHZ (on behalf of UHZ and UP) received accreditation of their LLL program in UA in June 2021 and started with the implementation of LLL program in September 2021 for Kosovo participants.

UNMO LLL program was approved by Agromeditereenian Faculty Council in March 2021. UDG received accreditation confirmation of their LLL programs in UA in June 2021. As mentioned earlier, the EACEA Project Officer approved in February 2021 that participants from Montenegro and Kosovo can attend virtually the LLL program delivered by UNSA.