

Newsletter

## **Work Package 1 (WP1) - Revision of internships and Learning Outcomes from BA and MA agrarian management programs.**

**TOPAS ERASMUS+ project – Meeting in Wrocław, Poland, July 2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> 2018**



TOPAS ERASMUS+ project. Participants of meeting at Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, July 2018.

On July 2-4, 2018 twenty-six employees from the partner universities of the project met at the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences. The main goal of the meeting was to present the results and proposals of solutions in the first work package (WP1), which is about improving student internship programs at partner universities of the TOPAS project. In particular, the deliberations consisted in comparing the documentation and organization

of agricultural practices for students of agricultural studies at universities forming the TOPAS project consortium and presenting suggestions for modifying syllabuses (descriptions of courses) and other aspects to improve the organization of apprenticeships in agricultural studies programs. Discussions and workshops aimed to develop a formula for improving study programs at partner universities in relation to the positions occupied by the practices and the implementation of appropriate rules for cooperation with farms and agribusiness enterprises (potential places of student apprenticeships). The implementation of these proposals in the agricultural studies programs at partner universities of the TOPAS project is to help improve the learning outcomes (LO) and to prepare students more effectively for the expectations of the labor market.

On the first day of the meeting (02/07/2018), the project coordinator Professor Ralf Schlauderer and the representatives of HSWT spoke at the beginning. They discussed issues related to: introduction of massive open online courses (MOOC) at partner universities, parts of WP5 project TOPAS, Dissemination and Exploitation, Monitoring and Evaluation and current organizational and administrative issues of the project.

On the following day (03/07/2018), the participants of the meeting addressed issues related directly to the WP1 work package. WUELS employees (WP1 leaders) were responsible for this part of the meeting with the support of representatives of SNAU, ANAU and AAI. During the main plenary session, WUELS staff presented examples of agricultural practice programs at the BA and Ms studies, which were based on information about current syllabuses at partner universities. WUELS employees presented suggestions for the practice syllabus and additional documentation related to student internships (apprenticeship programs, formal regulations, apprenticeship diary, description and analysis of a farm). Conversations also focused on the need to handle apprenticeship by relevant placement offices at universities and the main problems associated with it. Next, based on the materials from HSWT, a list of apprenticeship criteria is presented in line with the "European Quality of Apprenticeships and Internships (EQIA)". The next topic of the discussion was the issue of criteria for selection and qualification of farms - places of apprenticeship and regulation of cooperation between these entities and universities (including contracts, health and safety issues, remuneration for students). The participants of the meeting also discussed the qualification requirements for potential internship providers for students (farms, agricultural holdings, agribusiness enterprises).



TOPAS ERASMUS+ project. Workshop in 'Armenian group' related with organization of student placement at universities and the qualification requirements for potential placement for students.

The next stage of work were workshops in three working teams (1st Ukraine - SNAU and NULES, 2. Uzbekistan - SAI and AAI, 3. Armenia - ANAU and YSU). The workshops concerned: organization of internships at universities, persons responsible at the university for the implementation of student internships and their evaluation. The teams also worked on the possibility of accepting elements of the EQIA specification at TOPAS partner universities from Armenia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The results of the workshop groups were then presented to all participants of the meeting.

Late in the afternoon there was a presentation by Jerzy Koronczok (Agrocom Polska), which is a pioneer in the implementation of precision farming technology in Poland, and he has extensive experience with students doing agricultural practices. The last part of the second working day was carried out by employees of WUC and SNAU. WUC representatives proposed November 12-14, 2018 for the next WP2 meeting at Writtle University College in the UK. After that, representatives of SNAU showed their presentations (Dr Larysa Kalachevska about Kernel-Holding S.A from Ukraine, and Dr Oleh Pasko about issues related to the WP3 package - monitoring, quality control, information on the evaluation of the meeting at SAI).



TOPAS ERASMUS+ project. Study visit in KWS Lochow Polska Sp.z o.o.



TOPAS ERASMUS+ project. Precision farming in practice – study visit in OHZ Przerzeczyn Zdrój Sp. z o.o.

On the third day of the meeting (04/07/2018), study visits took place in two Polish farms, which are examples of places for student internships ('KWS Lochow Polska Sp.zo.o.' - seed production and the Enterprise of Animal Breeding 'OHZ Przerzeczyn Zdrój Sp.zo. o.' - animal husbandry, milk production). After the study visits, the participants discussed about their impressions of staying in these farms in the context of the TOPAS project assumptions and the whole working meeting in Wrocław was summarized.