

## MEETING: WORK PACKAGE 2 (DEVELOPMENT- JOINT FRAMEWORK FOR HARMONIZATION OF PHD STUDY PROGRAMS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRICULUM DRAFT)

### Minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2019 regarding WP2

During the meeting, objectives, outcomes and activities concerning WP2 have been discussed together with the proposed methodology. The meeting was led by WP leaders Vili Harizanova and Jelena Latinović.

Discussion was focused on different practices for tutoring and management of PhD study program among partner institutions (PIs), with the aim to identify and exchange the best practices to be proposed as a component of newly developed draft of the curriculum of International Joint PhD study program in Plant Health for Sustainable Agriculture. All above mentioned questions were identified as important to be answered among WP representatives of PIs. The first question was about the rule of enrollment at the PhD program. Almost all PIs have one and Prof. Enrico de Lillo showed the document that is used in Italy for this purpose. It is agreed that it would be nice to share it for future consideration.

Most of the PhD candidates have a scholarship paid by the state, as it is stated by the colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bulgaria.

Another issue was a question how the mentor is chosen. Prof. Paplomatas discussed that the candidate approaches to a professor and they talk about possibilities for PhD thesis realization. Board of the professors decides whether the thesis will be accepted. Prof. Harizanova added that in Bulgaria a professor announces that he/she is ready to become a mentor and asks for a PhD student. It will be published in the Official Gazette.

The structure of the PhD study programs is very diverse between the countries. Most of the countries have a structure based on ECTS credits but for example in Greece there are no ECTS credits as a standard means for comparing the outcomes. General conclusion is that a PhD studies are educational and research oriented and that a research represents the essence of a PhD work. According to Bologna process, one ECTS credit equals 25 work hours.

Prof. Harizanova discussed that in Bulgaria PhD themes are chosen according to the national priorities. Although most of the countries have the agriculture as its national priority, more specific priorities are not crucial for PhD theme selection.

Concerning the duration of the PhD studies, most of the countries have a framework of 3-6 years, although in Italy this is more strict (3 years with a possibility to extend it for additional 6 months).

The colleague from Croatia informed about the Swedish model of doctoral studies where the PhD student must spend certain time in another European country to perform the part of his/her research. Also the professor from another European country is included in the doctoral thesis defense. Prof. de Lillo mentioned the title Doctor Europaeus which is given as a joint degree between two institutions and two mentors. The good practice is that the Board for final PhD defense consists of at least one member from a higher education institution in European countries, other than the one, where the doctoral thesis will be defended.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed that the Questionnaire will be sent to all PIs to provide their answers and suggestions that will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting in Podgorica.

The outcome of the meeting of WP2 in Zagreb will be the preparation of the Questionnaire, on the basis of which information will be generated for the workshop in Podgorica, together with the outcomes of WP1 (consortium report on the PhD courses, their scientific contents, their compliance with the Bologna process, national and qualification framework, and the learning outcomes).

The meeting of WP2 started at 13:30, according the program of the Kick off meeting on project "Harmonization and Innovation in PhD Study Programs for Plant Health in Sustainable Agriculture – HarISA". The meeting was chaired by Vili Harizanova and Jelena Latinović, both of them incharged as Leaders of WP2. The meeting was concluded at 15:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Jelena Latinović