

OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

Faced with society's increasing expectations, the European Common Agricultural Policy's review considers environmental management to be an ever more critical criterion in the allocation of farm subsidies (focus shifts from production subsidies to payments for supplying public goods). There is an increasing demand (both by policy officials & farmers) to assess the ecological & environmental performance of farms. The public money spent on provision of environmental services requires justification. It is a central interest for farmers to be able to assess the nature and degree of environmental effects of their activities.

However, there is still relatively little experience in Europe with accurate and authentic assessment of environmental performance of farms. Some Member States (AT, DK, UK, NL, DE, FR) made steps to develop environmental farm management evaluation systems. One of the most complex, best documented & widely used indicator-based environmental assessment tool is DIALECTE by Solagro (since 1994), that enables multi-criteria analysis & the production of ecological & environmental performance accounts of individual farms.

Current agricultural vocational training can prepare advisors & prospective farmers for these challenges to only a very limited extent. Experiences show that vocational training in particular plays a fundamental role in supporting the dissemination & implementation of approaches related to agri-environmental (AE) performance assessments of farms.

PARTNERS TO THE PROJECT

The consortium consists of research and training institutes who can act as mediators between policy and practice including public authority supervising national agricultural advisory services and agricultural vocational schools, farming advisory service, agricultural secondary vocational schools.

OUTCOMES

- Further training course on Dialecte for VET teachers,
- Dialecte agri-environmental auditor training course for innovative professionals,
- Dialecte manual & online tool adopted to Hungarian & Portuguese conditions,
- Collection of Dialecte related French pedagogic methods adapted, for Hungarian secondary vocational teachers,
- National Contact Points deep trained in Dialecte, advisory trainers trained,
- Secondary vocational school teachers trained,
- HU network of Dialecte farm auditors.

IMPACT

The project will bring methodological novelty and practice to professional advisory and training in the field of sustainable agri-environmental management, hence contribute to the better understanding of locally adapted farming for professional trainers, advisors and agricultural vocational school teachers. Improved agri-environmental awareness of farmers and decision making based on own farm assessment or assisted assessment by advisor is expected. Environment and farming interrelations are better understood by vocational school teachers who are triggered to use Dialecte for school farms and teaching.

TARGET GROUPS

The target group of the transfer is innovative professionals including vocational teachers, trainers, advisors, trainers and practitioners from agricultural chambers and farming organisations, agri-environmental scheme operators.

The training courses related to Dialecte will be adapted to the needs of the target groups and transferred in two parallel forms:

- a) further trainings for agricultural VET teachers,
- b) agri-environmental auditor trainings for innovative professionals.

INTRODUCTION AND THE ROLE OF THE HUNGARIAN PARTNERS

From newsletter to newsletter, partners and their role in the project will be shown in detail by participating countries. First the Hungarian partners will be introduced, the partners who are responsible for the accurate innovation transfer.

Szent István University (SZIE)

The Institute of Environmental and Landscape Management, Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Szent István University, Gödöllő, Hungary coordinates this project.

In the course of the two-year project, the institute is responsible not just for the management and coordination tasks but also for the survey of the local needs and specialities, the preparation of the training module – according to the accreditation requirements, and for the participation in the implementation of the local mirror-server of the Dialecte online tool. To test the Hungarian tool, the institute organises test trainings and involves pilot farms.

National Institute for Agricultural Advisory, Training and Rural Development (NAKVI)

As the background institution of the Ministry of Rural Development, NAKVI has a national scope of authority in the field of rural development, vocational training and on the national advisor system. Their importance in the project is undoubtedly as besides coordinating the regional advisor offices, this institute is recording and managing the register of the agricultural advisors as well, furthermore, possesses some experience in training that looks back to a decade.

As concerns the project Agdidiag, the institute is participating in the national adaptation of the training module, coordinating and supervising the pilot trainings, as well as evaluating the system from a different aspect based on its original function. Aiming at its improvement NAKVI is also participating in the extension of the Dialecte network of agri-environmental advisor trainers, and in the preparation of the training for accreditation.

Dr. Entz Ferenc Vocational School for Agriculture, Commerce and Catering (ENTZ)

This vocational school was founded in 1963. It has approximately 350-400 students in a year, who can get a strong practical and theoretical education at the same time and place. Beside the vocational teaching it performs adult education, too.

By surveying and identifying the national needs and environment, they provide the conditions necessary to the national adaptation, taking into consideration the teachers and students' aspects, too. ENTZ is also participating in the selection of the relevant study fields and the preparation of the training materials in accordance with the accreditation requirements. In addition, the farm belonging to the school will be a good pilot area to test the evaluation system.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Acronym: Agridiag

Title: „Agri-environmental farm diagnostic tool „Dialecte” in vocational training”

Duration: 1. October 2012 – 30. November 2014

Programme: Leonardo da Vinci egész életen át tartó tanulás program (EU LLP LdV Program 12/0034-L/4850)

Participating countries: Hungary, France, Portugal

Website: agridiag.szie.hu

Contact: dr. Katalin Balázs, Szent Istvan University, Gödöllő, Hungary

E-mail: agridiag@szie.hu

RESULTS

Over the past year our results were reached almost entirely according to the planned schedule. These, besides the administrative, management tasks and signed contracts, can be found in detail below.

SURVEY OF DIALECTE TOOL BY NATIONAL NEEDS

In the phase of the project so far, the assessment of the national needs and the special local environment of adaptation were done. The questionnaire based data collection had the focus on two target groups: on vocational school teachers and on agricultural advisors. The professional processing of the collected data is still in progress.

DEEP TRAINING IN TOULOUSE

In the middle of May 2013 the deep training in Toulouse was held, while three Hungarian and one Portuguese key-trainers' education was executed. During the three-day course the participants visited a farm to learn how to use Dialecte tool in practice from the data collection phase to the assessment.

On the second day of surveying the farm, the French trainer showed how to evaluate the data collected. On the third day the Hungarian trainees had an exchange of experience with the French partner in Montpellier.

DISSEMINATION

Since the beginning of the project several articles and news have been presented through different mediums and platforms about the targets of our project. In the first part of 2013 the Agridiag project (and the DIALECTE system as well) was introduced to the participants of a countrywide vocational school teacher training, at each station of the roadshow (totally five stations), in form of a presentation and by means of an informative leaflet.

The official website of the project have also been started, the data and information uploading is continuous. The website could be reached via domain agridiag.szie.hu.