Projects and Products Portal for Leonardo da Vinci

# Developing the skills of Organic Agriculture Trainers for the Balkans

2009-1-RO1-LEO05-03584

http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/project/view.htm?prj=7590

## Project Information

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| Title: | Developing the skills of Organic Agriculture Trainers for the Balkans |
| Project Number: | 2009-1-RO1-LEO05-03584 |
| Year: | 2009 |
| Project Type: | Transfer of Innovation |
| Status: | granted |
| Country: | RO-Romania |
| Marketing Text: | „Organic.Balkanet" is an EU project funded under Lifelong Learning Programme, Leonardo da Vinci Subprogramme which will improve the transfer of training methods and content on Organic Agriculture (OA) topics that is currently used in the context of secondary and higher education mainly for agronomists (e.g. graduate education of students in agricultural universities, post-graduate training of young agronomists) to support: (a) vocational training needs of agronomists that require focused vocational training on OA topics, and (b) lifelong learning needs of farmers that aim to acquire new skills in OA practices and to produce for a specific OA market. |

Summary:

Conventional agriculture production has been applied through heavy reliance on non-renewable resources (mechanization, fertilizers, pesticides etc.) resulting in numerous agricultural burdens such as soil degradation, water run-off, pollution, reduced biodiversity and landscape image, escalating production costs. Public awareness of the irreversible damage done to the environment has led to calls for a more responsible attitude towards our natural heritage.

Against this background, Organic Agriculture (OA) has come to the fore as an agricultural approach that can not only produce safer products but is environmentally sound too. However, organic farming is still hampered by lack of clarity: both consumers and the agricultural professionals are not always sure what OA is, what are its benefits, which products are covered by OA, and which restriction

Organic.Balkanet objectives:

- Identifying and analysing targeted user requirements for training agricultural professionals in a number of EU countries
(i.e. Slovenia and Bulgaria) on topics related to Organic Agriculture (OA).
- Selecting and analysing innovative e-learning content that has been previously developed to support training needs in previous initiatives (the BIOAGRO eContent project, the Organic.Edunet project, etc.).
- Integrating the e-learning content in a national and regional training systems and practices related to OA.
- Adapting and enhancing the selected content in order to support the lifelong learning needs of agricultural professionals in the participating user organisations, through appropriately designed training scenarios.
- To collect, categorize and publish in an online learning repository the transferred content from previous initiatives in the form of digital training objects.
- To deploy a multilingual online environment that will facilitate end-users' online search, retrieval, access and use of digital training objects in the online learning repository.
- To design a number of training scenarios that will introduce the use of the transferred e-learning content to support training of agricultural professionals in the participating user organisations.
- To carry out a set of focused pilot trials to validate the proposed training scenarios and the transferred e-learning content.
- To promote the cooperation of stakeholders in this particular content area and support the sustainability of project results.

P1 Coordinator, design of training programme, USAMVB-FA (Romania)
P2 Technical partner, repository implementation, UAH (Spain)
P3 Dissemination & Exploitation, GRNET (Greece)

## Project Information

P4 Pilot trials design & user partner, University of Maribor (Slovenia)
P5 User needs analysis & user partner, University of Rousse (Bulgaria)
P6 User partner, Biomold Association (Romania)
P7 User partner, AOANS (Slovenia)

Description: The overall aim of “Organic.Balkanet” project is to facilitate the transfer of innovative training practices and e-learning content to vocational education of young and unemployed agricultural professionals, as well as to agricultural professionals. This project focuses to develop the skills and competences of VET (Vocational Educational Training) and guidance professionals, including their continuous professional development and their learning of languages on topics related to Organic Agriculture (OA) in the Balkan area. The project will deploy a multilingual online environment (the Organic.Balkanet Web Portal) that will facilitate end-users’ online search, retrieval, access and use of digital training objects in the online learning repository
The need for these initiatives will focus on the education of all Organic Agriculture stakeholders has been identified on an EU level. The issues that “Organic.Balkanet” addresses need a European-level and not a regional approach. The collaboration of partners among countries with (i) different experience in applying OA methods and (ii) different expertise on the topics of the OA training curriculum, illustrates the benefits from this transnational approach that aims to transfer knowledge and experience among partners. The project has developed and transfered the resulting product to Organic Agriculture Professional Association from Bulgaria, Slovenia and Romania. Those interested can get further information / demo acces through contacting the respective partners in the countries.

Themes:
*** Lifelong learning
*** Open and distance learning
*** Vocational guidance
*** Ecology
*** Continuous training
** Sustainability
* Higher education

Sectors:
*** Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities
*** Education
*** Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
** Information and Communication
* Human Health and Social Work Activities

Product Types:
evaluation methods
material for open learning
modules
procedure for the analysis and prognosis of the vocational training requirement
open and distance learning
teaching material
program or curricula
website

Product information: The topics of the training curriculum of Organic.Balkanet program are specialised according to the needs of each participating user organisation and the competences that the Organic.Balkanet trainers should have. This educational material contains all tasks and solutions on eigth learning modules (Module 1 – Pedagogy, Module 2 – Technology, Module 3 – Training scenarios, Module 4 – Organic Agriculture principles, Module 5 – Legislation and Standards, Module 6 – Organic crops, Module 7 – Animals Husbandry in OA, Module 8 – Organic Marketing) and is supplemented by a teacher guide to help with the preparation and creation of lessons and access to a Web page specially built for this course with the aim of contributing to the learning process by creating a virtual meeting place. The information flow from the Web page will help participants to play an active role in their own learning and in the group process as a whole. Individual learning will focus on designing a training curriculum based on competences while the content matter is being dealt with.
Participants will be able to use the Documentation Centre and bibliographies they will be given to go more deeply into topics that interest them as individuals or as a group. In addition, the course includes local study visits to organizations that use a

## Project Information

competency-based approach.

Projecthomepage: www.organic-balkanet.eu

## Project Contractor

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|---|---|
| Name: | UNIVERSITATEA DE STIINTE AGRONOMICE SI MEDICINA VETERINARA BUCURESTI |
| City: | BUCURESTI |
| Country/Region: | Bucuresti |
| Country: | RO-Romania |
| Organization Type: | university/Fachhochschule/academy |
| Homepage: | http://www.agro-bucuresti.ro |

### Contact Person

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## Coordinator

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| City: | Bucharest |
| Country/Region: | Bucuresti |
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# Partner

## Partner 1

Name: Universidad de Alcala
City:
Country/Region: Castilla La Mancha
Country: ES-Spain
Organization Type: others
Homepage: http://www.uah.es

## Partner 2

Name: ETHNIKO DIKTYO EREYNAS & TEXNOLOGIAS
City:
Country/Region: Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki
Country: EL-Greece
Organization Type: others
Homepage: http://www.grnet.gr

## Partner 3

Name: UNIVERZA V MARIBORU
City:
Country/Region: Slovenija
Country: SI-Slovenia
Organization Type: others
Homepage: http://www.uni-mb.si

## Partner 4

Name: RUSE UNIVERSITY "ANGEL KANCHEV"
City:
Country/Region: Severen tsentralen
Country: BG-Bulgaria
Organization Type: others
Homepage: http://www.ru.acad.bg

## Partner

### Partner 5

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|---|---|
| Name: | ASOCIATIA BIOMOLD |
| City: | |
| Country/Region: | Nord Est |
| Country: | RO-Romania |
| Organization Type: | others |
| Homepage: | |

### Partner 6

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|---|---|
| Name: | Zdruzenje za ekolosko kmetovanje SV Slovenije |
| City: | |
| Country/Region: | Slovenija |
| Country: | SI-Slovenia |
| Organization Type: | others |
| Homepage: | http://www.drustvo-ekokmet.si |

## Project Tags

**The project belongs to the following group(s):**

Best Projects (http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/thematicgroup/MMVII)