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Development of bachelor program in agroecology with dual education in Kazakhstan  
AGROKAZ

# STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING No 3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Location: Microsoft Teams

Time: January 17, 2023

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## ATENDEES

Representatives of partner institutions:

1. University of Novi Sad
2. Kostanay Engineering and Economics University named after M. Dulatov
3. Kazakh National Agrarian University
4. Toraigyrov University
5. Dimokrito Panepistimio Thrakis
6. Sveuciliste Josipa Jurja Strossmayera, Osijek
7. Kazakh research institute of plant protection and quarantine named after Zhazken Zhiyembayev

## AGENDA

1. WP1- 2nd reporting period – Report from UNS
2. WP3 - D 3.1 Curriculum report – Report from UNS
3. WP 4 - Purchase of Equipment and Accreditation of the Laboratories
4. WP 7 – UNS proposal for more efficient dissemination
5. WP4 - Organization of Workshops and Study Visits

## REMARKS

### **1. WP1 - 2nd reporting period – Report from UNS**

As stated in Article 7 of the Consortium Agreements signed by our rectors for the purpose of partnership reporting, internal reporting forms have to be used. The 2nd reports shall be submitted by the beneficiary to the coordinator until 10 February 2024. The 2nd reporting period covers the period from 1/08/2023-31/01/2024.

To ensure a timely and accurate submission of the report, please utilize the financial statement I have already sent you for the first reporting period.

### **2. WP3 - D 3.1 Curriculum report – Report from UNS**

According to the project plan, two milestones - Curriculum development and Signing of contractual documents (WP3) - are entered into the system by December 31, 2023, along with the deliverable D 3.1, which is the Curriculum report.

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However, although the necessary materials are prepared for all three universities, our partners from Kazakhstan consider it more appropriate to postpone their submission until the end of May 2023.

They explained the request for a delay as follows: In Kazakhstan all educational programmes are entered into the Register of Educational Programmes. The Centre for the Bologna Process and Academic Mobility performs the functions of the Operator of the information system "Register of Educational Programmes of Higher and Postgraduate Education" <https://enic-kazakhstan.kz/ru/reestr-op/reestr-op>.

The Register of EP performs accounting and information functions, and allows informing stakeholders (employees of higher and/or postgraduate education institutions (hereinafter referred to as HPEIs), employees of secondary education systems, parents of school students, applicants, etc.) about Educational Programmes implemented in HPEIs (<http://esuvo.platonus.kz/#/>).

The inclusion of an EP in the Register of Educational Programmes confirms its compliance with the qualification requirements for the educational activity of HPEIs institution.

The presence of an educational programme in the Register of Educational Programmes is one of the criteria for obtaining a state educational order. In 2024 the system will be available for entering a new EP into the Register around the end of February - beginning of March. During the examination, EP may be sent for revision, and accordingly it will be amended. The Educational Programme will be subject to expert review until approximately the end of May 2024. Only after the inclusion of the EP in the Register the university can enroll students.

After correspondence between the University of Novi Sad and the project officer in Brussels, the deadline for this deliverable has been successfully extended to May 31, 2024, as proposed by the partners from Kazakhstan.

### **3. WP4 - Purchase of Equipment and Accreditation of the Laboratories**

Accreditation was anticipated till August 2023. But, within the expected timeframe, only one university (KEnEU) purchased the equipment. The other two universities, PSU and KazNAU, were unable to complete state procurement due to complex procedures. They have not been able to find a supplier who would cooperate with them so far, or the equipment is not in stock. Their plan is to seek permission to purchase equipment different from what they initially specified in the project application. The coordinator has received assurances that the procurement of new equipment will not affect the project's goals and implementation. In response to the coordinator's question about how one university managed to procure the equipment within the stipulated time frame while the other two did not, an explanation was provided that KEnEU is a private university, and their procedures are much simpler, whereas the other two are state universities.

After unsuccessful attempts to purchase equipment through the state tender, in communication with the project officer from Brussels, the Erasmus program representative in Kazakhstan, and the coordinator of the University in Novi Sad, it was concluded that an acceptable solution is the procurement of equipment through a private university - KEnEU to circumvent complex procedures.

However, the initial negotiations between the two state universities in Kazakhstan and the private university were not successful. It seemed that state universities were not satisfied with the conditions proposed by the private university.

Meanwhile, in accordance with EU policy, the purchase of equipment from Russia has been prevented under any circumstances. Toraighyrov University has submitted a letter proposing the replacement of the equipment outlined in the initial project proposal. They stated that in connection with



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the requirement to exclude Russian-made equipment from the list, they are requesting a change to the equipment that includes patented Russian inventions.

The coordinator, UNS, has sent the letter to the project officer in Brussels, who has accepted the changes.

The partners of Toraighirov University have emphasized that they have made progress in equipment procurement. Last week, they acquired a photocolormeter, which they had been waiting for six months. Additionally, they have identified two potential suppliers who have assured them that the remaining equipment, according to the new list, will be procured from China.

The partners from Kazakh National Agrarian University have emphasized that they will adhere to the equipment procurement plan proposed in the project proposal. They plan to acquire the equipment through a state tender, similar to Toraighirov University. The equipment has been identified from suppliers in the Netherlands and China, and they anticipate delivery by the end of February.

### 4. WP7 - UNS proposal for more efficient dissemination

To facilitate a simpler and more efficient dissemination process, UNS coordinator undertakes to send a template for entering communication and dissemination activities in the past period to the Greek partner by the end of the current week, which all partners will be required to include with each report. This also applies to the website and social media.

### 5. WP4 - Organization of Workshops and Study Visits

The first is planned to visit Almaty in 15 April, then a visit to Pavlodar. The visit to Almaty will take place from April 15th to 19th, and the visit to Pavlodar will be from April 20th to 25<sup>th</sup>.

The visit to Novi Sad will take place from May 21th to 25th, and the visit to Osijek will be from May 26th to 30th. A visit to Osijek is planned immediately after visiting Novi Sad, since the distance is only about 100 km and the journey takes about an hour and a half.

A visit to Alexandroupolis is planned for June 24th to 28st, 2024.

The partners from Kazakhstan have highlighted the issue of obtaining visas for a visit to the European Union and suggested initiating the procedure for obtaining an invitation letter from Croatia, as the first EU country to be visited, as soon as possible.

Prof. Dr Tatjana Brankov

Date of approval:

22.01.2024.