



Building Capacity for Macedonian Higher Education,
Research and Policy Analysis in Agriculture
- with a focus on Agricultural Economics

Unicoop

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2010:4

The Story of a Swedish-Macedonian Development Co-operation
Two Agricultural Universities, Two Institutions and One Common Interest for Agricultural Economics

The end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011

This is the fourth newsletter for 2010 and covers activities and happenings within the UniCoop project between September and April 2011. Annual Review meeting was organized in September 2010 where FAF management team, SLU management team and SIDA representatives discussed the current situation in the project and the future activities. Two PhD students is since summer 2010 in Macedonia and had their 80% seminars while the last PhD student has been in Uppsala attending his regular courses. The two MSc students at SLU have finished their studies and came back in Skopje in January for preparing their master theses. The first generation of BICA students have started preparing their master theses, while the second generation of students has finished three courses.

You can read more about all these events in this newsletter!



Macedonia and EU-27

The Institute of Agricultural Economics at St Cyril and Methodius University in Macedonia (UKIM) has been co-operating with the Department of Economics at SLU in Sweden since 2000. Visit

www.ekon.slu.se/macedonia.



Ivana Janeska Stamenkovska,
project coordinator

News in the management team

Since January 2011, the Project Coordinator Ivana Janeska Stamenkovska is at work at the Institute of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food - Skopje. Marina Petrovska will continue to support the Project Coordinator as Project Assistant. As for the team at SLU, during the covered period, Ingrid Naeslund holds the position of deputy Project Leader until Tina Ericson is back from her maternity leave.

Annual Review Meeting

The sixth annual review meeting on the university cooperation programme took place in September 23rd, 2010 at the Institute of Agricultural Economics in Skopje. Participants in this meeting were representatives from Sida and representatives from the project management team, i.e. Carl Johan Lagerkvist and Ingrid Naeslund from SLU and Dragi Dimitrievski, Ivana Janeska Stamenkovska, Dragan Gjosevski, Ana Simonovska and Marina Petrovska from IAE. All parties appreciated the quality of the annual report for 2009 and the semi-annual report covering the period January 01-June 30, 2010. Both reports present an overview on all activities accomplished during the mentioned period, the possible constraints and the lessons learned. On the basis of the presented results, there were some recommendations by Sida for emphasising the project objectives that need to be considered within the next annual report. Beside the above mentioned, the annual review meeting was mostly focused on solving the financial problem (that arose last year due to the university reorganisation and the governmental practice for approving the use of funds) of the project as well as on ensuring sustainability of the double degree master programme at IAE.

(Cont'd on next page)

This newsletter is published by the Department of Economics at SLU, Sweden and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Organization (UKIM) at St Cyril and Methodius University, Macedonia. The aim is to create a venue for news and discussions for all interested in education, policy and economic analysis related to the agricultural sector in FYR Macedonia.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at Ingrid.Naeslund@ekon.slu.se

A project funded by



Annual Review Meeting, cont'd

Considering the financial problem, noteworthy is that some of the project activities were postponed for the next period. Regarding solving this problem, Sida representatives took the responsibility for establishing contacts with the governmental institutions in order to try to explain the nature of the project activities and thus solve the problem. On the other side, the project representatives promised that they will put efforts for accomplishment of all results determined with the project document.

Concerning the sustainability of the double degree programme, it was agreed that the project will try to sustain the International Master in Agribusiness, at least during the accredited period. It is difficult to say at this stage what will happen after this period, since there SLU has introduced course fees for students outside of the EU area.

Finally, the date for the next annual review meeting will be announced by Sida additionally.

Workshop on teaching and learning in Skopje

On September 21st, Natalie Jellinek - educational development officer from SLU, held a workshop called "*Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*". The workshop focused how to enhance teaching practices by working with tools and resources to improve the planning, development and execution of lectures and also related supporting materials.

The workshop attracted fifteen persons from different institutes from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food and the library. As a pre-workshop activity, the participants were invited to test and familiarize with a distance learning tool, FRONTER, where Natalie had created a "room" for the workshop.

Natalie held both a power point presentation but also engaged the participants that were asked to think about and work with their own courses and

teaching. This was appreciated by the participants who found the mix of activities very useful. Participants were enlightened with different learning techniques and how to handle different levels of knowledge in classes. Moreover, considerable time was spent on how to connect course syllabi to examination.

Ingrid Naeslund

Contribution to a conference in Croatia

On February 14-18, 2011 University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture organized a conference "46th Croatian & 6th International Symposium on Agriculture" in Opatija, Croatia. Four Macedonian professors, Nenad Georgiev, Jovan Azderski, Mile Pesevski and Dragan Gjosevski from IAE participated in the conference. They presented three papers that can be downloaded from the conference website: http://sa.agr.hr/2011/proceedings_02.html:

- Martinovska-Stojceska Aleksandra, Georgiev Nenad and Manevska Tasevska Gordana "*Analysis and comparison of prices of wine grapes and table wine in the Republic of Macedonia*";
- Kotevska Ana, Azderski Jovan and Dimitrievski Dragi "*Sheep meat balance in Republic of Macedonia*";
- Pesevski Mile, Georgiev Nenad and Simonovska Ana "*Wheat balance of the markets in the Republic of Macedonia*".

Marina Petrovska

The project has produced several publications. You find them at www.ekon.slu.se/macedonia.

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Centre for Educational Development
Natalie Jellinek
September 21, 2010

UniCoop: Building Capacity for Macedonian Higher Education

Welcome to a workshop about teaching and learning!

This workshop will allow participants to enhance their teaching practice by presenting them with tools and resources to improve the planning, development, and execution of their lessons and related supporting materials.

We will cover theoretical aspects such as the theory of constructive alignment and the use of learning outcomes, while taking a closer look at how intended learning outcomes (ILOs), learning activities and assessment can fit together in practice. Constructive alignment is a term coined by John Biggs (2007) and is based on the twin principles of constructivism in learning and alignment in the design of teaching and assessment. It is based on the theory that "learners use their own activity to construct knowledge" while it also reflects the fact that "the learning activity in the intended outcomes needs to be activated in the teaching if the outcome is to be achieved and in the assessment task to verify that the outcome has been achieved." (Biggs, 2007, p. 52).

By focusing on constructive alignment and its implementation we will consider how to best adapt teaching practices and materials to both a targeted audience and intended learning outcomes. Participants will familiarize themselves with the learning platform Fronter (www.fronter.com), either before or during the actual session.

Some of the questions to cover:

- How can constructive alignment inform the development and planning of teaching?
- How can one in practice "align" the intended learning outcomes (ILO), learning activities and assessment of a course/session/module?
- What should we consider when developing course materials?
- How can teaching and learning be enhanced by "blended learning"?
- How can learning styles shape the way we teach and the materials we use?

Time	Topic
09:30-10:00	Introduction and presentation
10:00-11:00	Constructive alignment in theory and in practice: ILOs at the program, course, and session level
11-13:00	The practice of alignment ILOs, learning activities, and assessment at the course level
13-14:00	Lunch
14-15:30	Developing course materials to meet intended learning outcomes

Welcome letter followed by the workshop agenda

News about the MSc students at SLU

The last two students from Macedonia that were studying at the Department of Economics at SLU, Iva Joveva and Aleksandra Joncevska, have already finished all courses and returned to Macedonia to write their MSc thesis. The preliminary title of their thesis are: Iva's thesis "*Factors influencing of the Macedonian vine exporters*" and Aleksandar will write about "*Profitability of dairy farms with financial analysis and comparison between big and small dairy farms*". They both decided to defend their master thesis in Macedonia together with the first generation of BICA students in August, 2011.

Marina Petrovska

80% Seminar for two PhD students

80% seminar is a regular process while preparing a dissertation at SLU. It is organized to evaluate plans and progress of the PhD candidate. One of the objectives of the seminar is to determinate how much work remain for writing the dissertation and when the candidate will finish and have the last seminar.

During the autumn and winter period, Gordana Manevska Tasevska was writing her PhD dissertation in Macedonia. She held her 80% seminar on February 17, 2011. Apart from Gordana, the seminar was attended on Skype with: Dragi Dimitrievski, Bo Öhlmer and Helena Hansson. They all had the role of supervisors.

Emelj Tuna was also in Macedonia working on her PhD dissertation. She prepared her 80% seminar one month after Gordana's, organized on Skype on March 14, 2011. Her supervisor Konstantinos Karantininis, two co-supervisors from SLU, Jerker Nilsson and Helena Hansson and the Macedonian co-supervisor Nenad Georgiev participated in the seminar. Emelj should finish her dissertation until February-March 2012 and after that 4-6 months will be needed for re-evaluation.

Marina Petrovska

Emelj Tuna in England



Emelj Tuna

Last month Emelj Tuna was in England as part of her PhD thesis preparation. She attended two fulltime courses from the 11th till the 16th of April 2011:

- I) *Introduction to Social Network Analysis using UCINET and Netdraw* and
- II) *Advanced Methods for One Mode, Two Mode and Egonet works.*

Courses were organized at the University of Manchester by one of the most prominent names in the area Martin Everett, who along with Steve Borgatti and Lin Freeman has developed the UCINET program for Social Network Analysis.

Emelj Tuna

The third PhD student

During the covered period Jordan Hristov, the third PhD candidate, was in Uppsala following regular courses from the current semester. Jordan said "All the time I was totally committed to Mathematics 1 and 2, Microeconomics 1 and 2, Macroeconomics 1 and Econometrics 1 and 2. Meanwhile, I was working on an article that we plan to publish with Hans Anderson and Dragan Gjosevski. The article is in a relation with my master thesis...".

Marina Petrovska

Current activities at BICA

Currently, two generations are studying at the International double degree master in Agri-business (between UKIM and SLU). The first generation of students, older ones, are at the fourth semester of studies, while the second generation are about to start courses from the second semester.



First generation of BICA students at FAF with professor Nenad Georgiev.

The students from the first study generation have completed the third study semester and are currently at the final semester. Students are about to finish their proposals for the master thesis. Each of them has two supervisors, one from FAF at UKIM and one from SLU. The plan is that students should complete their theses by the end of August 2011, when they will have a thesis seminar with respect to the SLU's prin-

ciples. Thereafter, follows another thesis seminar which shall be conducted according to UKIM's principles. This arrangement was necessary since each university has its own regulation on how to conduct a thesis seminar. After successful completion of both seminars, students shall acquire their credits from the thesis course, which shall enable them to obtain a degree from both universities.

It should be mentioned that only those students that have acquired the required IELTS level (English test) and courses' credits managed to enroll the thesis course at SLU, in total 10. The remaining two students will follow the second generation of students regarding the thesis preparation.

The second generation of students started with the first course in Strategic Management in October 2011. So far, they have completed two courses and are about to complete the third one. Before the end of their first academic year they shall finish the second semester and will have completed five courses in total.

The second study group is a smaller group of students and more homogeneous in terms of age and educational background. This contributes to a greater cooperation between them e.g. joint group work. The teacher-to-teacher cooperation between DE and IAE has continued as planned. For the second time the course is given the teaching load between FAF and SLU is 65% : 35%.

It is a real satisfaction that the activities within the International double degree master work fine even though, from time to time, there are constraints that should be overcome.



Epilogue

This issue of the newsletter covers the period September 2010 until April 2011. Next one will be prepared in September 2011 for the period April - September 2011.

At the time of writing we are closing this part of the project. This project will be closed on April 30, 2011 and will continue with the activities as a new project starting from May 01, 2011, until December 31, 2012.

For the UniCoop team,

Ivana Janeska Stamenkovska, Ana Simonovska & Marina Petrovska and Ingrid Naeslund

