



First Issue of this Newsletter

With this newsletter we hope to create a venue for news and discussions for all interested in agricultural policy and economic analysis of the agricultural sector in FYR Macedonia. The newsletter is a part of an ongoing joint project, the SLU-UKIM Cooperation initiated in 2000 between the Department of Economics at SLU and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Organization (DAEO) in Macedonia financed by Sida, the Swedish International Development Agency. The possibility for Macedonian students to undertake MSc and PhD studies in Sweden, a teacher exchange, curriculum development and technical support are the main activities of the project.

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Macedonia and EU-27

Two more MSc-Students presented their theses

An important part of the project is to provide scholarships to Macedonian students allowing them to participate in MSc-studies in either agricultural economics or business administration.

During the spring another two students from Macedonia, completed their studies in Sweden and presented their theses. Both students had chosen to write their theses in business administration. The field work was conducted in Macedonia.

[More Details \(p. 3\)](#)

Upcoming Events

2nd Workshop on Research and Education in the Field of Agricultural Economics in Macedonia.

Uppsala 17-19 September, 2008

[Invitation and Programme \(p. 2\)](#)

A Centre for Agricultural Economics & Business Administration for the Western Balkan's?



"Studies of this type are unique for the region so the long-term objective of the Centre is to be transformed into a centre for the whole Western Balkans"

MSc. Ana Krstevska
Centre Assistant

The fast changes caused by Macedonia's transformation towards a complete market economy and its approximation and future accession to the EU have a enormous effect on the agricultural sector. These changes will inevitably cause new requirements for the research in the area. With these conditions and needs in mind, a Centre for international master studies in agricultural business administration and economics have been established at the Faculty for Agriculture and Food in Skopje.

The short-term objective of the Centre is to offer an internationally recognized high-quality master program in agricultural business administration and economics, with two majors, for 20 students per class from Macedonia.

[More Details \(p. 3\)](#)

This newsletter is published by the Department of Economics at SLU as a part of the SLU-UKIM Cooperation. The aim is to create a venue for news and discussions for all interested in agricultural policy and economic analysis of the agricultural sector in FYR Macedonia.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at Erik.Pelling@ekon.slu.se

Annual Review with Sida

This year's annual review with Sida took place in the week April 7-11, in Skopje.

The week kicked off with a workshop where Jan Eriksson, from Sida's Quality Assurance Team, presented a review of the Macedonian agricultural sector and its recent developments and prospects. The presentation was followed by a discussion of the implications for the Sida-financed projects.

Our project was reviewed on Wednesday April 9. After presenting the activities of 2007, the focus of the rest of the day was the new Centre. Ana Krstevska presented the plans for the establishment and organisation of the Centre and afterwards the Rector of UKIM hosted a lunch to confirm his support for the new master's program.

Other issues covered at the meeting were the approval of the project plans and budget for the new contract period 2008-2010, as well as Sida's promise to finance a third Macedonian PhD-student.

The week also included a field trip to project beneficiaries in Bitola, a visit to the newly-opened dairy plant Swedmilk, and a cocktail reception hosted by the Swedish Ambassador to Macedonia, H.E. Ulrika Cronenberg Mossberg. The week ended with a workshop where possible cooperation and synergies were discussed with the other Sida-financed projects SFARM and MAASP.

Tina Ericson



"Sida has promised to finance a third Macedonian PhD-student"

Tina Ericson
Project Manager, Sweden

Project Website

The Department of Economics at SLU has been cooperating with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Organization (DAEO) at St Cyril and Methodius University (UKIM) in Macedonia since 2000.

Learn more about the project at our [website](#).

Computing Cost of Production in Macedonia

In April Aleksandra Martinovska Stojceska and Dragi Dimitrievski from Skopje and Yves Surry from Uppsala participated in a workshop organized by the EU-funded FACEPA project and held in Brussels on estimating and computing cost of production in agriculture. The idea is to estimate the cost of production for Macedonia's agriculture using FADN data.

2nd Workshop on Research and Education in the Field of Agricultural Economics in Macedonia

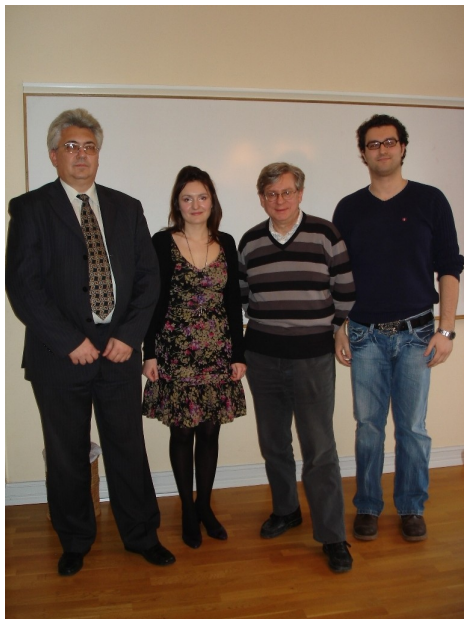


Welcome to the 2nd Workshop on Research and Education in the Field of Agricultural Economics in Macedonia, organized by the UKIM-SLU project "Building capacity for Macedonian policy formulation and economic analysis related to the agricultural sector."

This time the workshop will take place in Uppsala on September 17-19, 2008, with the following tentative organization:

- **Wednesday, September 17.** Presentation of research results and discussion of the future research agenda of the project.
- **Thursday, September 18.** Workshop on educational issues, especially the new master's programme in Skopje and teaching material for undergraduate courses.
- **Friday, September 19.** Excursion and dinner.

Ana Krstevska and Blagoja Tosevski defended their MSc-theses



Nenad Georgiev, Ana Krstevska, Jerker Nilsson, and Blagoja Tosevski at Ana's MSc-thesis defence at SLU in Sweden.

Two more Macedonian students, included in the Business Administration program finished their studies during the spring. They had their thesis presented in March this year.

Ana Krstevska presented her [thesis](#) titled "Macedonian dairy farmers and their choice of buyers - A transaction cost approach". Her study identified the transaction cost factors and household characteristics that influence the farmers' choice of milk marketing channel, with a prime focus on presenting a theoretically structured framework of the contractual arrangements between milk producers and dairy processors based on Transaction Costs Economics' predictions. The presentation was held on March 13th, with Blagoja Tosevski as her opponent. Both her supervisor Jerker Nilsson from the Department of Economy-SLU and co-supervisor Professor Nenad Georgiev from the Department of Economics-Skopje gave positive comments on the presented work.

The second student, Blagoja Tosevski presented his work on 19th of March with Ana Krstevska as his opponent. The thesis title is "Macedonian farmer's decision making with focus on investing", and it explained the decision-making process of the Macedonian farmers. The paper also, introduces the various problems that are faced by the farmers on the market. The supervisor Bo Öhlmer from the Department of Economy-SLU, and the co-supervisor from the Department of Economics-Skopje Professor Dragan Gjosevski gave comments and suggestions for further development of the thesis.

Emelj Tuna

A Centre for Agricultural Economics & Business Administration for the Western Balkan's?

The principal goal of the Centre is to create well-educated and eligible human resources in the field of agricultural business and economics so to adapt to the changing conditions of the society in the Republic of Macedonia.

The Centre is aiming to attract students from the Balkan region and provide them the required knowledge to respond to the changing conditions towards market economy, since those countries are facing the similar transition phase as Macedonia. The Centre gives possibilities for students from other countries to attend the study programme or a particular course as well. It offers opportunity to experience the culture and the agricultural and economic conditions in the transition countries. The studies are double degree thus students will obtain two diplomas according to Bologna principles, one from each University (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences - SLU, Uppsala and University Ss Cyril and Methodius - UKIM, Skopje)

These kinds of international master studies are unique for the region so the long-term objective of the Centre is to be transformed into a regional one - a Western Balkan's Educational-Research Centre for Agricultural Economics & Business Administration.

The idea for Centre's establishment is generated and supported principally by SIDA, within the project "Building Capacities for Macedonian Policy Formulation and Economic Analysis related to the Agriculture Sector". The project is managed by the Department of Economics and Organisation in Agriculture at the Faculty of Agriculture and Food at UKIM and the Department of Economics at SLU.

The Centre is in the commencement phase of the procedure for accreditation of the study programme, equipping with the necessary facilities and recruiting the teaching staff. The study programme is planned to be given starting from January 2009, initially with the programme in Business Administration



Prof. Dr. Dragan Gjosevski
Centre Director
Department of Economics
and Organization - Skopje

Gordana Manevska Tasevska

New Staff Members of the SLU-UKIM Cooperation



Prof. Dr. Dragan
Gjosevski
Centre Director



MSc. Ana Krstevska
Centre Assistant

The strength and success of the SLU-UKIM Cooperation is the result of the hard work put into the project by all those professors, researchers, students, and others who are or have participated in it during the years. The time and energy they have invested into the SLU-UKIM Cooperation is priceless.

Every project, naturally needs also an administrative staff. As a result of the creation of the Centre for International Master Studies in Agricultural Business Administration and Economics, the staff, which consists of the project managers Dragi Dimitrievski (UKIM) and Tina Ericson (SLU) and the project assistants Ivana Janeska (UKIM) and Erik Pelling (SLU) have been expanded. The new members of staff are professor Dragan Gjosevski (UKIM) who have been appointed as director of the new centre and MSc Ana Krstevska (UKIM) who will work as assistant in the centre.



The next issue of this newsletter will be available on September 10. Until then we wish all our readers a:

Nice Summer!

For the SLU-UKIM team,
Tina Ericson, Ivana Janeska and Erik Pelling