



NEWSLETTER

Issue 2009:1

"Building Capacity for Macedonian Policy Formulation and Economic Analysis Related to the Agricultural Sector"

SLU-UKIM COOPERATION

A New Year and New Activities

2009 will be a year when many of the activities carried out in this project will be evaluated and several new activities will be introduced. Two new master students from Macedonia will arrive in Uppsala in the fall and a third PhD-student from Macedonia will be employed. Although the second phase of this project (2008-2010) has just begun the planning for a third phase will also be initiated in 2009.

In this issue of the newsletter you can read about the workshop held in Uppsala last September, get some insights into Macedonian dairy farming and learn about the latest developments of the new Balkan's International Centre for Agricultural Economics (BICA).

You are welcome to join us in 2009!



Macedonia and EU-27

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Organization at St Cyril and Methodius University in Macedonia (UKIM) has been cooperating with the Department of Economics at SLU in Sweden since 2000. Visit our [website](#).

Workshop on Research and Education

The much awaited workshop to present the diverse research projects financed by the SLU-UKIM cooperation took place on September 17 at the Park Inn Hotel in Uppsala. Find a detailed account of this Workshop on Research in the Field of Agricultural Economics in Macedonia on page 3 in this issue of the newsletter. [Read more here \(p. 3\)](#)

The second day was devoted to educational activities and only team members participated. Many important questions were solved concerning the new master's programme and the organization of BICA. In addition, a first selection was made of which undergraduate courses to develop new course material for. This activity will continue also next year.

On June 15-18, 2009 a 3rd Workshop on Research and Education in the Field of Agricultural Economics in Macedonia will be organized. This time in Ohrid, Macedonia.



The final day of the mini-conference, September 19, was mostly recreational. Many of the team members and others involved in the project took part in a day-long excursion to Stockholm and the boat trip to the Drottningholms Palace, outside Stockholm.

Upcoming Events

3rd Workshop on Research and Education in the Field of Agricultural Economics in Macedonia.

15-18 June, 2009 in Ohrid,

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 Erik.Pelling@ekon.slu.se



A project funded by



Visit at the Dairy Farm "Eurolend - Petrovec"

In connection with professor Bo Öhlmer's teaching activities in Skopje last October he and assistant Professor Aleksandra Martinovska Stojceska visited the dairy farm "Eurolend - Petrovec" and met with the manager of the farm, Mr. Goran Stojkovski.

The farm was established 4 years ago with a new herd and is fully privately owned. At the moment there are 700 heads in the stables, out of which around 300 are milking cows. The farm is well-equipped and maintained and there is sophisticated computer management system that provides data regarding all animals: the feed consumed, yield, activity, status etc. This system presents a valuable tool for the manager.

Data was provided regarding the feed intake quantities, prices of feed inputs and the crops produced on the farm. This information will be fed into the enterprise budgets used in the research project dealing with the Farm Business Plan. The manager had very precise information. Further, information was collected regarding the farm assets and the new investment they plan, i.e. a small dairy plant with 10 tons daily processing capacity.

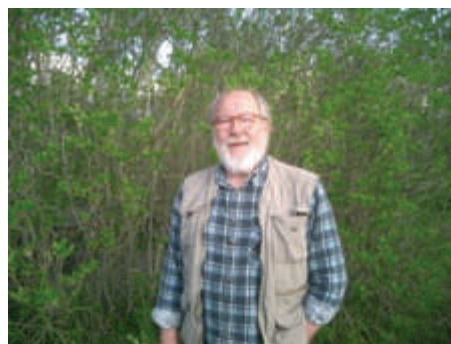


It was agreed that once the farm data are processed in the Farm Business Plan, the results can be discussed with the manager. The data collected, the adjusted enterprise budgets and other information will be used in the adjusted Macedonian version of the Farm Business Plan. In addition, the budgets and other relevant information can be used as a case study in lectures.

Aleksandra Martinovska Stojceska

Peter Herthelius Retires

In November 2008, Peter Herthelius, the Sida officer responsible for the project, was retired after a long and successful career in development assistance. Mr Herthelius played an important role in reviving the then dormant pre-study for the project when he in 2002 became responsible for Sida's assistance to the agricultural sector in Macedonia. The project team wishes Peter Herthelius a long and joyful retirement and good luck in his new occupation as a farmer.



Peter Herthelius, Sida.



Although the official accreditation still is pending, the team involved in the centre, Dragan Gjosevski, Ana Krstevska and Erik Pelling as well as the Swedish-Macedonian teaching staff are working intensively to be able to receive the first students to the master program in Agricultural Economics and Management on the 16th of February.

Workshop on Research and Education

The much awaited [workshop](#) to present the diverse research projects financed by the SLU-UKIM cooperation took place on September 17 in Uppsala. After Tina Ericson and Professor Dragi Dimitrievski introduced the workshop by remembering the eight papers presented at the first workshop held in Ohrid in [2003](#), which was the starting point of the current project, the two PhD-candidates Gordana Manevska-Tasevska and Emelj Tuna gave an overview of their respective research projects. Gordana is working on efficiency analysis of viticulture family farmers in the Tikves region, while Emelj is looking at the institutional organization of the Macedonian dairy industry. At present, both PhD-candidates are taking courses at SLU before they begin the research part of their education.

Much of the rest of the morning was focused on the project's largest research collaboration this far: the agricultural sector study that has been running since the autumn 2005. The study consists of four parts, of which three was presented at the workshop. Professor Dimitrievski started by presenting the first chapter co-authored with Professor Emil Erjavec from the Biotechnical College in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and the specific tasks that will face the Macedonian agricultural sector during the accession process. This was followed by a brief report from the second part on the analysis of 17 agricultural commodities describing trends in supply, demand, and trade for the period 1995 to 2007, written jointly by all teachers at the department in Skopje. After the coffee-break it was Tina Ericson's and Erik Pelling's turn to report on the calculations performed by researchers at the department in Uppsala of Producer Support Estimates for 12 agricultural commodities comparing them with corresponding estimations for other European and OECD countries.

Before lunch Dr Aleksandra Martinovska-Stojceska presented the plans for her collaboration with Professor Yves Surry and the [FACEPA-project](#) (*Farm Accountancy Cost Estimation and Policy Analysis of European Agriculture*) funded by the EU. Aleksandra will link this to the Macedonian farmers in a twinning project. Aleksandra was followed by Ana Krstevska, who gave a short presentation of the results from the MSc-thesis she successfully defended last spring. Ana's [thesis](#), *Macedonian dairy farmers and their choice of buyers*, looks at the transaction costs involved when small and large farmers choose buyers of their milk.



The afternoon started with Elena Simonovska's thesis seminar. Elena successfully defended her [thesis](#) *Farm business planning model in the Republic of Macedonia*, which aims at improving the farm management by adapting the established farm business planning model with new enterprise budgets for important vegetable crops.

The collaboration between Dr Aleksandra Martinovska-Stojceska, Professor Dragi Dimitrievski, Professor Bo Öhlmér, and Thord Karlsson on translating and adapting the *Farm Business Plan*, a computer software developed by the project Agriwise run by SLU, will be amended with the budgets developed by Elena. Aleksandra followed up Elena's defence seminar by presenting the progress so far and showing an example for a Macedonian dairy farm.

The presentations were concluded with a discussion of possibilities for presenting the research results at international conferences and some suggestions for finding future research topics.

The day ended with a presentation by Professor Dragan Gjosevski, the Director of BICA, of the plans and progress for the new master's programme, which will start in February 2009.

Tina Ericson

Report from a visit to Prague

If everything goes according to the plan, the new Balkan's International Centre for Agricultural Economics (BICA) will commence its first master program Agricultural Economics and Management next month. For this reason the Macedonian project and centre management team together with Carl Johan Lagerkvist, head of the department of Economics at SLU and the liaison officer Erik Pelling from SLU visited Prague to get some insights in how to organize a successful international master program.

The delegation was welcomed by the Department of International Relations at the Faculty of Economics and Management of the Czech University of Agriculture (CUA) in Prague. They have successfully been leading a bachelor and master programme taught in English since 1997. Therefore, the aim of the visit was to establish contact with the Head of the Department, PhDr. Vlastimil Cerny, in order to obtain experience in managing a international master programme in agricultural economics.



Carl Johan Lagerkvist, SLU and Vlastimil Cerny, Czech University of Agriculture (CUA) in Prague.

The main issues emphasized on the meetings were regarding the curriculum organisation, including both the lectures' organisation and the examination. Moreover some details were presented about the commencement period of their programmes taught in English, including conveniences and inconveniences that have occurred. Promotion, as well, was one of the experiences shared between both participatory parties.

Numerous new ideas have arisen as a product of this visit. These will lead towards improvement of the initiation activities at the Centre in the framework of the University Cooperation Project.

To closure, this visit was an incentive for the Centre team to realise where we are now and where we could be in the future.

Ana Krstevska and Ivana Janeska

Dragi Dimitrievski as new Dean

Professor Dragi Dimitrievski, the project's Team leader in Skopje, was elected as new Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food (FAF). He will officially take office in April 2009, but is already involved in the re-organization of FAF and the educational reform decided by the Faculty Council. Professor Dimitrievski's new position will allow the project to broaden its focus to include capacity building also on a faculty level. The project team congratulates Professor Dimitrievski on his success.



Dragi Dimitrevski in action.