



Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Change – Networking, Education, Research and Extension in the West Balkans

<http://balkanclimatechange.net/>

Project coordinator in Norway:
prof. Bishal K. Sitaula

Project coordinator in Western Balkans:
prof. Hamid Custovic

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

- To improve networking capacity of University of Sarajevo among WBI and create a coordinated teams of scientist to address agriculture adaptation to climate change.
- To review Balkan region specific knowledge on agriculture mitigation and adoption options to climate change.
- To further develop/transfer course relevant to Agriculture adaptation to climate change, Organic Agriculture and Global Environmental Change.
- To transfer knowledge on organic agriculture and adaptation to climate change to agriculture extension workers officers and farmers.
- To improve e-learning capacity through the use of a LMS at University of Sarajevo and to develop a web-based knowledge sharing community with agriculture extension.
- To prepare a joint manual focused on agriculture practices in response to climate change.

MAIN LEASONS LEARNED:

- Climate change is an issue of shared suffering and it requires a joint approach including joint knowledge production and sharing.
- Climate change research and education is urgent and needs to be introduced in higher education and research in Western Balkan.
- Introducing new curricula and updating the quality of curricula are required to fulfill the changing need and quality development of academic programmes – interest of student for new modules (*Climate change, Rural ecology, Organic agriculture*) is high.
- Network + LMS are very good tool for regional collaboration, transfer of knowledge and experience exchange.
- Experimental research has a great importance for knowledge transfer and practical use by farmers, extension services etc.
- Joint workshops + exchange of teaching staff + joint teaching sessions were excellent way of sharing of knowledge and building of capacity.

HOW THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT WILL BENEFIT THE PARTNER UNIVERSITIES:

- Preparation of applications for joint projects.
- Preparation of joint research papers.
- Strengthening the role of Universities - Project experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia participated in preparation of an Agricultural strategy for their countries and climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture have been introduced for the first time in the strategies for these countries.
- Project experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina are involved in GHG inventory under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- GIS module in LMS has been developed as a joint module used by Sarajevo and Podgorica students.

HOW THE OUTCOMES AND RESULTS ARE TO BE DISSEMINATED TO THE USERS:

- University of Sarajevo prepared an Action plan for transfer of knowledge to extension services in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Presentations on seminars/workshops for the Agricultural Advisory and professional services and others.
- Knowledge base on the project web site has been created. The knowledge base includes workshop presentations and papers produced in the project and this is freely available to all stakeholders.
- The Learning Management System (LMS) has been developed and it is fully available to extension workers and other stakeholders.
<http://umb-elearning.no/>
- Manual/book "Adaptation to climate change in agriculture (*Now is the time to act*)" prepared and disseminated to extension service and stakeholders in agriculture sector.

THANK YOU!