

Intensive Program entitled “The Position of Agriculture in Regional Development”

27/04/2014 - 10/05/2014, Podkylava, Slovakia

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Faculty of Economics and Management is organising Intensive Program entitled “The Position of Agriculture in Regional Development”. The coordinator of the project is a dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management, Doc. Ing. Iveta Zentková, CSc. This activity is supported by the Slovak National Agency of the Lifelong Learning Programme under The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

The intensive program is organized with 9 other universities and institutions from the European Union countries: Faculty of Regional Development and International Studies, Mendel University in Brno (Czech Republic), Aleksandras Stulginskis University (Lithuania), Krakow University of Economics (Poland), University of Agriculture in Krakow im. Hugona Kołłątaja (Poland), Economics University in Wroclaw (Poland), University of Padova (Italy), Karoly Robert College (Hungary), University of Szeged (Hungary), Ghent University (Belgium).

Dates and Place of IP

From 27.04.2014 – 10.05.2014 first edition of the intensive program is organized in the region Myjava in the agro farm Podkylava in Slovakia by Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra as a project coordinator. The agro farm is the partner of co-ordinating universities. The aim is to allow the participants directly contact with agriculture and create opportunity to observe interactions and multifunctional of agriculture in the all aspects of region.

The presented Intensive Programme is aimed at supporting international collaboration between partner Universities and developing knowledge and awareness in focused topic of Intensive program. The Intensive programme has multidisciplinary character. The topic of the intensive programme is "Position of Agriculture in regional development".

The objective of this IP is to teach the students existing theories on multifunctional rural development, sustainable agriculture and competitiveness of rural areas; to show them what it means in practice, to enable students to critically evaluate the existing situation and to define the role of agriculture in building up a territorial identity which may be an asset for competitiveness of rural areas and natural environment conditionings.

The objective will be realized by:

- providing theoretical lectures combined with study trips,
- introducing instruments for analyzing and formulation of regional development strategies,
- multidisciplinary case study by small international groups of students with presentation and final report.

Among the partial objectives of the intensive programme belong:

1. Strengthening of international cooperation between involving partners.
2. Creating interactive platform for exchange experiences in focused area.
3. Building partnerships and increase quality study - creating opportunity for participating in the Intensive programme with new interactive methods.
4. Higher added value - practical approach in the intensive programme.
5. Improving skills in the team work of participant.
6. Increase quality of educational process - teaching and implementing new interactive methods.

Target group:

Target groups are students who study in discipline Agricultural Economics, Economics and Management and Regional development and policy and teachers (tutors) who focus their studies on the related topic. It is foreseen maximum 5 students and 1-2 tutors per each university (number of teachers depends on the related topic).

Selection criteria of students:

- master students or students who started their PhD
- good knowledge of English is a must
- interest in the subject of IP – motivation letter

High added value is in innovative methodological approaches provided in Intensive programme. New and innovative tools can help to involve participants in to the focused topic and drive them to interesting comments and conclusions. For deeply involvement participants into the solving topic contribute location of IP.

Erasmus Intensive programme consists form two parts:

- First part of intensive programme represents theoretical approach (theoretical approach is created by theoretical modules related with the main topic of IP provided by participating teachers from partner universities and special guest lecturers).
- Second part is created by practical approach (the practical approach provides unique opportunities to utilize the knowledge and theoretical findings of participants in the real conditions and develop their skills realized by group work, excursion and study trips).

Among the main activities of Erasmus IP belong:

- Building theoretical background on related topics is taught by teachers and experts.
- Organizing study trips and educational excursion - the aim is involved the participants in to the problems, providing practical view, best practices
- Active participation on study trips - questionnaire, photo documentations, data collection
- Teaching and implementation new interactive approaches
- Active team work practices
- Preparation of the final presentation and report - presentation the results of the intensive programme.

Expected outputs of Erasmus IP:

Learning outcomes of intensive programme are implementation of new interactive methodology, theoretical and practical skills connected business subjects, regional development, and agricultural policy. The aim is to highlight importance of position business subjects in the region (especially emphasis on agribusiness), to understand the role connections and functions of the subjects in regional development.

As expected outputs we are planning to publish the text material, which will include the final results of the intensive programme. The monograph will provide all important information about the programme; describe methodology and interpretation of all results and comments of participants and tutors. As expected outcomes for participants will be certificate of active attendance on IP and 5 ECTS credits.