

ENHANCE Newsletter

N° 3 | June 2017



Project: **Building an Excellency Network for Heightening Agricultural ecoNomic researCh and Education in Romania - ENHANCE**
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 691681

THE ENHANCE PROJECT IS HALF WAY THROUGH

Dear ENHANCE members,

This newsletter is an overview of the first half period of the ENHANCE project, reviewing the activities carried out, the newest events in the last six months and the activities that are scheduled until the end of 2017.

The first one and a half year of “**Building an Excellency Network for Heightening Agricultural ecoNomic researCh and Education in Romania**” (ENHANCE) project was strewn with important activities and results, on the way to fulfill its most important objectives: three training sessions scheduled for year 2016 and three for the first six months of 2017, the first Summer School at USAMV, eight completed and three ongoing staff exchanges, all these having a great scientific impact on the beneficiaries.

The following results have been achieved:

- **Training sessions**



In the last six months, three more training sessions were organized and completed at USAMV, in order to refresh and increase the qualification of USAMV staff and PhD students in economic theories and methods.

In general, the courses consisted of lectures, exercises, home reading and group work.

At the end of each course, all participants received a Certificate of Attendance.

In total, six training sessions out of twelve were conducted by the three international project partners, i.e. BOKU, AGROSCOPE and IAMO, respectively.

BOKU focuses on “qualitative and quantitative research design”, AGROSCOPE on “econometrics” and IAMO on “economic modelling and simulation methods”.

These training sessions complement individual, bi- and multilateral research in the framework of the staff exchange and mentorship activities.

The agenda and further information are available at:
www.enhance-project.ro –educational platform/ training sessions

- **Staff exchanges**

The main objective of the staff exchanges was to implement a bilateral interaction on scientific and professional issues between the USAMV beneficiaries and host partners and the partners’ beneficiaries and USAMV’s hosts. From these experiences all the persons involved had important results and benefited from the foreign infusion of knowledge.

Departing from USAMV in the **year 2016**, three staff exchanges were organized: two departures were hosted by the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies from Germany (IAMO) - **Mr. Dragoş Smedescu**, Ph.D., Lecturer at FMIEADR and **Ms. Armenița Arghiroiu**, also a Ph.D., Lecturer at FMIEADR and one to Austria, at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences - **Ms. Stelica Cristea**, Ph.D., Professor, Director of IRMVA Doctoral School.

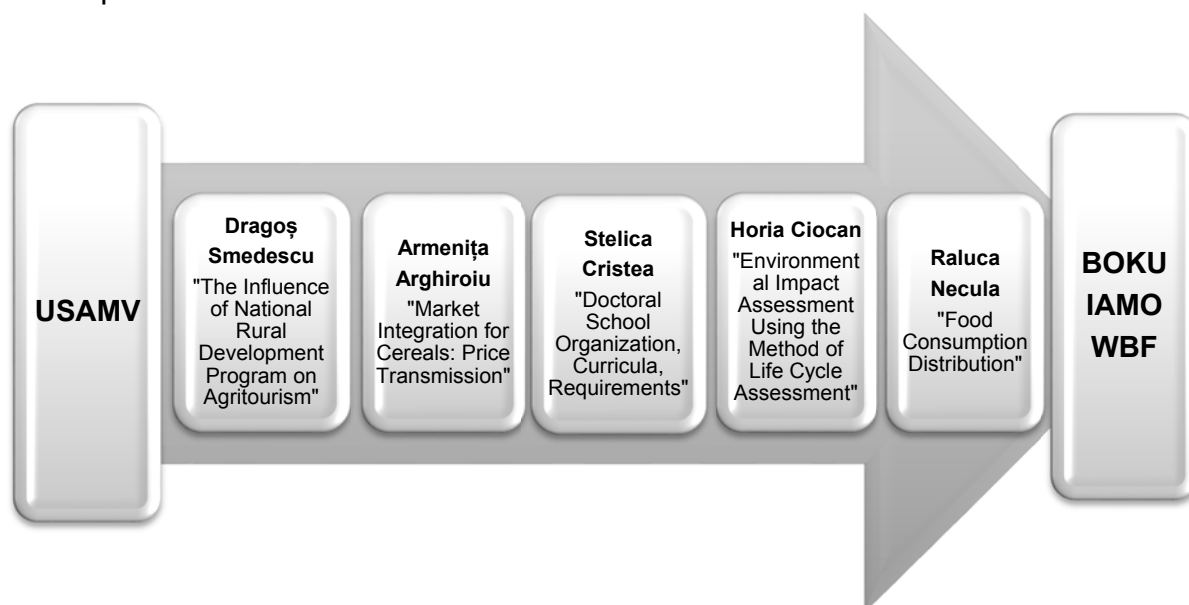
In the first six months of the **year 2017**, two more departures were carried out.



Mr. Horia Ciocan, Ph.D., Teaching Assistant at FMIEADR (28 November 2016 – 25 February 2017) hosted by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), with analyses in the field of organic agriculture, sustainable agriculture and climate change under the guidance of Dr. Iris Kral.

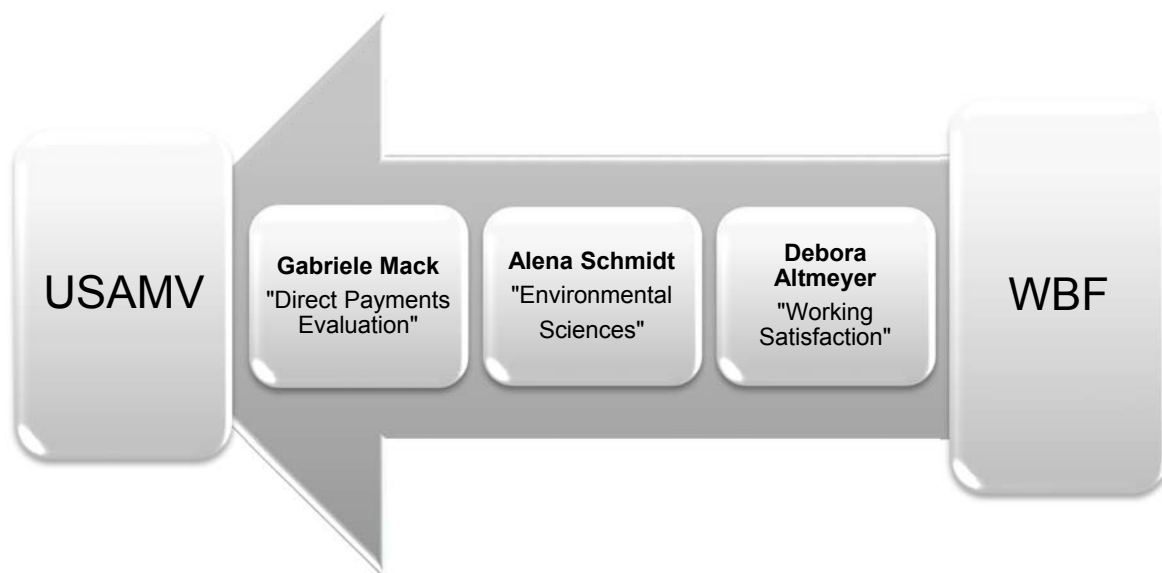


Ms. Raluca Necula, Ph.D., Lecturer at FMIEADR (3 January 2017 – 2 April 2017) was guided by Dr. Stefan Mann, Researcher at AGROSCOPE (WBF), the Federal Research Centre for Agriculture from Switzerland, in the analysis of the food consumption distribution.



The staff exchanges having as host USAMV were all from AGROSCOPE, the Federal Research Centre for Agriculture from Tänikon, Switzerland and were organized as follows:

- One in **year 2016**
 - **Ms. Debora Altmeyer**, PhD Student, guided by Mrs. Iulia Zaharia, Lecturer at FMIEADR, into the work satisfaction analysis.
- Two in the first six months of **year 2017**
 - **Ms. Alena Schmidt**, PhD. Student (23 January 2017 – 23 March 2017), hosted by three lecturers from FMIEADR, Mr. Petrică Ștefan, Mrs. Cristina Buzatu and Mr. Dragoș Smedescu, studying together issues related with the environmental sciences.
 - **Mrs. Gabriele Mack**, Researcher (4 April 2017 – 4 June 2017) who had as main research topic an evaluation of the direct payments in Romania, collaborating with Mrs. Gina Fîntîneru, Ph.D., Professor at FMIEADR.



Ongoing staff exchanges of FMIEADR staff to partner institutions

At present three more staff exchanges are ongoing, with a very broad field of research:

- **Mr. Petrică Ștefan** (3 May 2017 – 31 July 2017), is currently studying the wine tourism in the Federal Research Centre for Agriculture (AGROSCOPE) from Tänikon, Switzerland together with Dr. Ștefan Mann.
- Also at AGROSCOPE is hosted **Mrs. Gina Fîntîneru** (19 June 2017 – 6 August 2017) continuing the research started in Romania with Mrs. Gabriele Mack on the impact of direct payments on the attractiveness and vitality of rural areas.
- A research stay in another host partner (IAMO) is now developed by **Mrs. Ionela Mituko Vlad** (11 June 2017 – 8 September 2017), studying the evolution of the structure of farm population in Romania, the impact on labour use, EU project SURE- Farm and demographic issues of Romanian Agriculture, with the important help of Dr. Ilkay Unay Gailhard and Dr. Alfons Balmann.

- **The summer school**

- Last year in September **the first Summer School of this project, USAMV Bucharest Agricultural Economics and Policy** took place in Bucharest, **focusing on “Scientific Working”**, with lecturers from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria.

It was a first experience of the USAMV organizers with a Summer School event, the results and feedback of the participants being more than overwhelming, encouraging the preparations for the next Summer School at USAMV that will take place in September, 2017.

- **The second ENHANCE Summer School** (18-22 September 2017) will focus on **“Policy Evaluation in Agriculture”** and the subjects will range from the normative foundations of policy evaluation over methodological tasks to public policy as the object of evaluation. The course tutors will be Dr. Stefan Mann from The Federal Department of Economics, Education and Research (AGROSCOPE) and Dr. Matthias Stolze from The Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL), both Switzerland, two lecturers with impressive experience in teaching and applying policy evaluation.

The best participants were selected by a commission of academic and scientific experts from the Consortium institutions, the selection criteria including:

- Education in fields related to agricultural economics and policy.
- Previous experience and knowledge in the agro-economics and policy field.
- Geographic balance.
- Gender balance.

The detailed program and more information are available at:
<http://course.enhance-project.ro/>

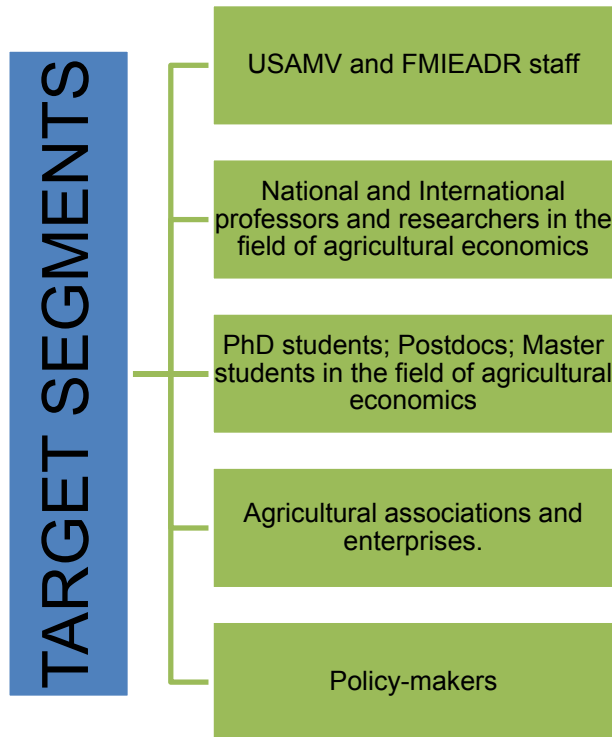
Dissemination activities

The screenshot displays the ENHANCE project website. At the top left is the ENHANCE logo with the tagline "Building an Excellency Network for Heightening Agricultural economic research and Education in Romania - ENHANCE". Below this, it states: "The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 691681". The European Commission logo is on the top right. A navigation menu includes: HOME, ABOUT ENHANCE, ACTIVITIES, EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS, FORUM, EVENTS, DISSEMINATION, and CONTACT. A search bar is located on the right. A dropdown menu for "DISSEMINATION" lists: NEWSLETTER, PHOTO GALLERY, MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES, SUMMER SCHOOL TESTIMONIALS, RECOMMENDED JOURNALS, RECOMMENDED SCIENTIFIC EVENTS, and ENHANCE OFFICIAL FACEBOOK. On the left, a sidebar menu lists: HOME, ABOUT ENHANCE, ACTIVITIES, EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS, FORUM, EVENTS, and DISSEMINATION. The main content area features a "Newsletter" section with a "Subscribe to our mailing list" form (email address field and SUBSCRIBE button). Below the form are two green buttons: "Download Project Newsletter - December 2016" and "Download Project Newsletter - August 2016".

These dissemination activities aim at raising the general awareness of the project goals and documenting the developments that have been achieved up to now.

A significant number of communication activities have been carried out by all the partners in the first 16 months of the project.

All partners reported ENHANCE activities by means of their channels of communication (a total number of 28 communication actions that have been implemented addressing a total of over 40,000 people).



o **Posters and slide-shows** presenting ENHANCE have been accepted for important events.

More information is available at: <http://enhance-project.ro> *Dissemination section/ Materials and activities*

o **Social Media:** an official Facebook account of the project was created where all partners can update with last minute information, news, photos. Also the account enables the beneficiaries of the training sessions, staff exchanges and Summer schools to give feedback on their experiences.

More information is available at: <http://enhance-project.ro> *Dissemination section/ ENHANCE Official Facebook*

Past Events in year 2017

Project transnational meeting in Switzerland (1st and 2nd of March 2017)

On the 1st and 2nd of March, at the Socioeconomic Department of AGROSCOPE in Tänikon, Switzerland, the second transnational meeting of the project ENHANCE took place, having as participants the members of all the partners and the exclusive presence of the advisory board. Within the meeting important dates were established, internal problems were discussed and solved and future actions and activities were envisaged in order to fulfill all the objectives of the project.



ENHANCE Workshop- “Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture” Conference, Bucharest (8th June, 2017)

At the MIEADR Faculty in Bucharest, a two-hour meeting between the ENHANCE project team and the beneficiaries of staff exchange was held.

The Workshop was planned within the conference “Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture”, after the first day of presentations, additionally having as participants the ENHANCE Swiss partners.



The main objective of the meeting was the staff exchanges' experiences, past beneficiaries and future beneficiaries having the opportunity to debate and conclude the strong and weak points of the stages, and to learn from the past experiences.

ENHANCE - Mid Review Meeting in Brussels with the members of the European Commission (26th June, 2017)



The meeting concerned internal issues related to the tasks carried out by the projects members. At this meeting all the partners were represented and each Work Package was presented together with its results and future actions. Very positive feedback and helpful suggestions were received from the Project Officer for the second implementation period of the project.

Forthcoming events in 2017

- **Participation at IAMO Forum 2018** “Large-scale Agribusiness - Between Profit and Societal Value”, 20 – 22 June 2018, Halle (Saale), Germany
- **Participation at the XV Congress of the European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE)** in Parma, 28 August – 1 September 2017
- **Training sessions:** Qualitative and quantitative research design (BOKU): 25 – 29 September 2017 and Economic modelling (IAMO): 20 – 24 November 2017
- **Second Summer School “Policy Evaluation in Agriculture”** (September 18-22, 2017) at USAMV Bucharest

Project information

Title: Building an Excellency Network for Heightening Agricultural ecoNomic researCh and Education in Romania (ENHANCE)

Funding: European Union Horizon and innovation programme under grant agreement No 691681, 1097020 Euro.

Duration: 01/01/2016-31/12/2018 (36 months)

Objective: The general objective of the project ENHANCE is to fully realize and to further develop the currently existing scientific potential of the agricultural economists of the USAMV, particularly with respect to quantitative methods like modelling, simulation, econometrics as well as mixed methods research such as institutional economics.

Project website: www.enhance-project.ro

Consortium

Project Coordinator - The University of Agronomic Science and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest (USAMV)

Contact: Gina Fîntîneru

Project Partners

WBF - Federal Research Centre for Agriculture (Switzerland)

Contact: Stefan Mann

IAMO - Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (Germany)

Contact: Thomas Herzfeld

BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Austria)

Contact: Peter Walder



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