

# Newsletter No.5 – June 2018

## Project ENHANCE - Excellency Network for Agricultural ecoNomic researCh and Education



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

### 6 MORE MONTHS TO GO!

Our ENHANCE project is approaching its last stages and since all good things must come to an end, so is our hard work under the ENHANCE project, that has just 6 more months to go! Finish lines are not always a bad thing, they are just a sign that hardworking people from all partners put their all into accomplishing each and every task. It might also mean that something else is about to begin, and we are sure that this great team that was formed within the ENHANCE project will keep having great and valuable achievements together, and more than anything, WE WILL KEEP ENHANCING OUR KNOWLEDGE!

The project “**Building an Excellency Network for Heightening Agricultural ecoNomic researCh and Education in Romania**” (ENHANCE) is proud to announce that it has completed two and a half years of intensive and successful activities, with extremely valuable results: two successful summer schools, ten training sessions, a number of nine staff exchanges of three months and five of two months from Romania to the partners' centres and four staff exchanges of two months from partners to Romania (3 AGROSCOPE, 1 IAMO), 2 of 1 month (BOKU) and 3 of half month (2 IAMO, 1 BOKU). In addition to all of these, we took part in many events such as conferences, workshops, trade fairs, meetings, etc.

### The following results have been achieved:

- **Training sessions**

Two more training sessions were completed during the analysed period, contributing to the objective of the project, improving the qualification of FMIEADR staff and PhD students:

- The courses on “*Introduction to applied panel data and instrumental variable regression methods*” were held between **13-16 February 2018**, teaching the participants the latest calculation and interpretative methods: common least squares (OLS), Panel data methods, Instrumental Variables, supported by the software R. The lectures were given by PhD. Ulrich Morawetz, a specialist from the University of Natural Resources Life Sciences, Vienna. The courses were well received by the participants.... [Read more](#)
- The second training session of 2018 was held between **25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June**, course on “*Text Analysis*” structured differently from the previous ones, in 5 days and were delivered by the partners from Switzerland (Agroscope)- PhD. Stefan Mann and PhD. Isabel Haerberli.... [Read more](#)

With these two courses, a total of ten training session have already been carried out from the twelve that were scheduled to be accomplished during the project.

For the future training sessions that will be implemented at the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest (USAMV) in 2018, the schedule and curricula are already set and available at: <http://course.enhance-project.ro/course>

- **Staff exchanges**

The staff exchanges were conducted around these highly important objectives:

- Selecting the most promising candidates for personnel exchange
- Organizing and conducting an exchange of personnel in both directions for the purpose of achieving a lively interaction on scientific and professional issues between specialists from both sides.

The six months that passed were highly productive with an important number of activities taking place during this period- three persons from FMIEADR were and some still are involved in the stages held at IAMO and AGROSCOPE and six persons from BOKU and IAMO joined us at the USAMV in Bucharest.

#### ***Ph.D. students & Researchers from USAMV to our partners' centres***

- **Ph.D. Ion CERTAN**, Researcher conducted a three months stay (*from 11<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2018*) in IAMO, Germany having as tutor Ph.D. **Taras Gagalyuk** to study a subject of great interest "*In-depth research of land consolidation patterns in Romanian agriculture*".
- **Ph.D. Student Alexandra TRIF**, was selected for a two months stage (*from 9<sup>th</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2018*) at IAMO Germany under the guidance of Ph.D. **Sun Zhanli**, her research is conducted around the theme "*Exploring innovative methods in mapping land use/cover*".
- **Ph.D. Student Roxana FRANZUTTI**, one of the last beneficiaries from USAMV, has a three months stage (*from 20<sup>th</sup> June to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018*) at AGROSCOPE, Switzerland under the guidance of Ph.D. Stefan Mann, together researching the actual theme "*Impact of CAP Payments in Romania: the challenges of territorial diversity*".

#### ***Ph.D. students & Researchers from our partners' centres to USAMV***

- **Ph.D. Tom Dufhues**, Senior Researcher in the Department Agricultural Policy from IAMO, had a short stage at USAMV (*from 29<sup>th</sup> January to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018*) with two hosts, Ph.D, assistant professor, Elena Toma and Ph.D., Lecturer Adina Iorga, his research being centred on "*Return migration and farm investment*".
- **Ph.D. Martin Kniepert**, Senior Lecturer from BOKU, had also a short stay at USAMV (*from 18<sup>th</sup> of February to 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2018*) under the guidance of Ph.D Professor Gina Fintineru, Ph.D, Lecturer Carina Dobre and Assistant Denisa Burcea, having as a research subject "*Teaching Agricultural Economics*".
- **Ph.D. Iris Kral**, Researcher from BOKU benefited of a one month stay in Bucharest (split into two stays, *from 23<sup>rd</sup> of April to 4<sup>th</sup> of May and summer term 2018*) under the guidance of Assistant Horia Ciocan. The joint research is focused on "*Life-Cycle-Analysis*".
- **Ph.D. Tamara Mitrofanenko**, Researcher from BOKU, was selected for a one month stage at USAMV (split into two stays, *from 30<sup>th</sup> of April to 11<sup>th</sup> of May and summer term 2018*) having as hosts two lecturers, Phd. Dragoş Smedescu and Ph.D. Ştefan Petrică, specialized in "*Agritourism and Sustainability*".
- **Ph.D. Axel Wolz**, Associate Researcher from IAMO, with a half month stay ( *from 4<sup>th</sup> of June to 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2018*) at USAMV, hosted by Ph.D., Lecturer Marius Micu, with the objective to deepen the knowledge on "*Development options of agricultural cooperatives and producer groups*".
- **PhD Student Anna Hajdu**, from IAMO participated in a two months stage (*from 19<sup>th</sup> of April to 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2018 and from 23<sup>th</sup> of July to 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2018*) at USAMV having as host Ph.D. Lecturer Dragoş Smedescu, with the research theme "*Corporate social*".

*responsibility in primary agriculture”.*

## **Dissemination activities**

### ➤ **Conferences & Congresses**

The ENHANCE team was present at the following events and was able to present the results of the project, to exchange knowledge and create connections:

- The International Conference of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest "[Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture](#)" June 7 - 9, 2018, Bucharest, Romania, <http://agricultureforlife.usamv.ro>
- The “**IAMO Forum 2018**” conference on "Large-scale agriculture – for profit and society?" held at IAMO in Halle (Saale), Germany, June 27-29, 2018, <http://www.iamo.de/forum/2018>
- The 9<sup>th</sup> CASEE Conference "Research based education at life science universities in the Danube region towards a sustainable future". Two members of Enhance project, [Mrs. Gina Fintineru](#) and [Mrs. Gabriele Mack](#), were invited as Keynote Speakers in the plenary common section of the International Conference between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

### ➤ **Events**

Participating in various related events proves to be of great importance for increasing the overall visibility of the project and the dissemination of its results. In this six month period the ENHANCE project was present at important events in the fields of education and agricultural economics:

#### ➤ Presenting the results of ENHANCE project to PRO AGRO FEDERATION

- PRO AGRO FEDERATION – Executive Board Meeting on 31 January 2018...[Read More](#)
- PRO AGRO FEDERATION – Executive Board Meeting on 14 March 2018...[Read More](#)
- PRO AGRO FEDERATION – Extraordinary General Assembly on 19 April 2018...[Read More](#)
- FARM FOOD FORUM on 8-9 May 2018...[Read More](#)
- PRO AGRO FEDERATION – Executive Board Meeting on 5 June 2018...[Read More](#)

#### ➤ **Project transnational meeting**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2018, at the LEIBNIZ-INSTITUT FUER AGRARENTWICKLUNG IN TRANSFORMATIONSOEKONOMIEN (IAMO), in Halle (Saale), Germany, was held the third transnational meeting of the ENHANCE project, having as participants the members from all partners and the exclusive presence of the advisory board. More information can be found [here](#).

### ➤ **Workshops**

- Prof. Dr. Toma Dinu, the Dean of the Faculty of Management, Economic Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development is organizing every year a meeting with the faculty's staff to present his report on the faculty's results of the last years. More information can be found [here](#).
- A Workshop on challenges of sustainable agritourism development in the Carpathian area of Romania took place in USAMV on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. It was focused on identifying approaches to cooperating within the ENHANCE project on sustainable agritourism

development, in the framework of the Carpathian Convention. The participants from Austria and Romania discussed the importance of involving the local population when designing strategies and action plans in the field of agritourism, as well as in the research process. It has been decided that the next steps should include identifying pilot communities in Romania, and working closely together with the local stakeholders in order to analyse the possibilities of supporting agritourism development in the Carpathian area of Romania. A photo from the event can be found [here](#).

- The Enhance International Scientific Workshop “*Comparative research under the ENHANCE twinning project*”, International Conference “*Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture*”, 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> June 2018. More information can be found [here](#).
- Eng. PhD. Iris KRAL from BOKU, Austria, presented her results on *Life Cycle Assessment* to the FMIEADR staff on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The main discussions were on Ms. Kral’s stage, the main results and important aspects for the participants’ knowledge in terms of the presented concepts. More information can be found [here](#).
- During a training Workshop that took place in Patras, Greece, between 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2018, information the ENHANCE project, project results, summer schools, training sessions and staff exchanges were presented by a team of members from the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest. At the ENHANCE project workshop presentation participated more than 30 participants from 6 different countries. Photos from the event can be found [here](#).

#### ➤ **Presentations within the International Conference “*Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture*”**

1. **Authors:** Peter Walder, Franz Sinabell, Fabian Unterlass, Denisa Burcea, Martin Kapfer, Andreas Niedermayr, Jochen Kantelhard  
**Paper** “*Making single farmer innovativeness measurable - The Austrian agricultural innovation survey*”
2. **Authors:** Raluca Necula, Stefan Mann,  
**Paper** “*Comparing demand patterns for meat*”
3. **Authors:** Iuliana Zaharia, Linda Reissig,  
**Paper** “*Preliminary stage for comparative burnout rate study: Overview on the Romanian farmers' burnout rate*”
4. **Authors:** Axel Wolz, Judith Möllers, Marius Micu  
**Paper** “*Cooperation among individual farmers in Romania: constraints and options*”
5. **Authors:** Peter Walder, Aurelia Bălan, Jochen Kantelhard,  
**Paper** “*The infancy of sharing economics and possible learning from agriculture*”
6. **Authors:** Vlad Ionela Mituko, Ilkay Unay Gailhard,  
**Paper** “*Challenging the link between youth migration and farm performance*”
7. **Authors:** Debora Altmeyer, Stefan Mann  
**Paper** “*Work satisfaction and the easterlin paradox – A survey among agricultural researchers*”
8. **Authors:** Petrică Ștefan, Stefan Mann  
**Paper** “*Studies concerning the comparative situation of wine producers in Romania and*

## Forthcoming events

### ➤ **Training Sessions**

The fourth and final training session “**Agricultural Sector Models**” will be supported by staff members from IAMO, between **16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018** having PhD. Nodir Djanibekov, Senior Scientist as lecturer.

The fourth and final training session held by BOKU representatives will take place from September 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 2018. The lecturer, Mr. Andreas Niedermayr will introduce the participants to the subject of “**Spatial Econometrics in Agriculture**”.

### ➤ **Third Summer School “Institutional Economics and Agricultural Development” (September 17-21, 2018)**

Preparations for the next USAMV of Bucharest Agricultural Economics and Policy Summer School have already started. The third ENHANCE summer school held by lecturers from IAMO focuses on “**Institutional Economics and Agricultural Development**” and will take place at USAMV of Bucharest from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018...[Read More](#)

### ➤ **Staff Exchanges:** The majority of staff exchanges to and from the Western Partners have already taken place. Nevertheless, the final staff exchanges for 2018 in both directions are also scheduled and will be announced soon on the [website](#) and [Social Media](#).

## 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](http://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

For further information check our website starting January 2018.



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