



Deliverable 3.1. Assessment of training needs

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Author(s):	Agim Rysha
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Executive Summary

STEPS Project has a very important component related to “Professional development of scientific staff”, which is described in WP3. The results from the assessments and analyses of stakeholder’s needs (WP1), and outcomes out of the course design of the study program “Sustainable Food Production systems” (WP2) were used as a prerequisite for the assessment of the specific training needs of the Western Balkans STEPS project partners and for the preparation and implementation of activities related to the professional development of scientific staff.

Partner countries in meetings and open discussions with their staff have identified their needs, which served for the preparation of open lectures and training seminars with an intention to further develop the professional capacity of the academic staff from the partner countries in the field of sustainable food production systems.

The assessment of training needs in partner countries showed that there is a need for further training and knowledge and experience exchange on topics that are relevant to sustainable food production systems. In total, partner countries proposed around 25 specific topics, in which they would need to be supported by open lectures and trainings.

The identified training needs served to prepare lectures and seminars on topics such as advanced technologies related to food production and processing, as well as aspects related to sustainable management of food systems which include food supply chain management, environmental management and economics. In addition, seminars were used for acquiring skills related to educational platforms and preparation of educational material in electronic form, which will be used for improving courses delivery at Western Balkans HEIs.

1 Introduction

STEPS Project has a very important component related to “Professional development of scientific staff”, which is described in WP3. Implementation activities foreseen in this work package include measures for further professional development of scientific staff in Western Balkans HEIs. Improvement of the capacities of the scientific staff of the partner countries is planned to be achieved through close cooperation between partner countries’ HEI-s and EU HEI-s in transferring/exchanging knowledge. To this end, a large number of seminars and lectures on specific scientific topics related to Sustainability food systems were delivered during the implementation of the MSc. Program.

Results from the assessments and analyses of stakeholder’s needs (WP1), as well as outcomes of course design of the MSc. study program “Sustainable Food Production systems” (WP2) were used as prerequisites for the assessment of the specific training needs of STEPS Project partners. In addition to the assessments and analyses of stakeholders’ needs and the outcomes during the course design of the MSc. study program, an assessment of training needs in specific topics was conducted in partner countries. The objective of the assessment was to identify the needs, which would serve as a base for the preparation of open lectures and trainings for professional development and improvement of capacities of scientific staff from partner countries on specific scientific topics related to sustainable food systems. The present report aims to present the results of the assessment of the specific training needs of STEPS Project partners in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo.

2 Assessment of training needs on HEIs partners

UHZ as a leader in WP3 has asked partner countries to propose their specific training needs. Partner countries in meetings and open discussions with peers have analysed their needs, which served for the preparation of open lectures and training seminars with an intention to further professional development and capacity building of the academic staff from the partner countries in the field of sustainable food production systems. All partners agreed that they would need further training on educational practices based on the modern ICT tools and platforms. In addition, specific scientific topics were also addressed in order for the scientific staff exchange knowledge, views and approaches that are listed in the following.

2.1 Training needs in Albania

In addition to needs identified through the assessments and analyses of stakeholders’ (WP1), and outcomes out of the course design of the MSc. (WP2), the Agriculture University of Tirana has identified also the following specific training needs in the following subjects or modules such:

- Fundamentals of food production systems;
- Agricultural and food industry waste management;
- Traceability systems of food products and Innovative product development;
- Environmental Chemistry towards Food Processing.

2.2 Training needs in Bosnia and Hercegovina

In terms of scientific backgrounds and teaching competencies, UNSA has identified the following training need (knowledge, lectures):

- Food ethics;
- Economics of Sustainability,
- Sustainable food value chain management,
- Sustainable water management in the food industry,
- Processing by-products of the food industry,
- Sustainable energy using in the food industry;
- Data analysis and decision making.
- On the other side, UNBI has identified the need for training and seminars in areas such as:
 - Supply chain,
 - Sustainable food production systems,
 - Advanced food science and technology,
 - Sustainable management,
 - Management of food production systems,
 - Food Ethics, Low input agriculture,
 - Consumer science,
 - Rural development and Business economics and international trade in the agri-food sector.

UNBI has proposed also the need for training of their staff in terms of practical work on

- Kjeldahl Distillation Solutions for Food and Feed;
- Automatic distillation unit (determination of nitrogen protein/nitrogen in raw materials, meat, cereals, poultry, oilseeds, food for domestic, Analytical Instrument - Automated Titrators (Acid/Base; Redox; Precipitation, detect peroxides, salts); color measurement instrument - portable colorimeters for measuring reflected color and color difference in a wide range (for color inspections of food, quality control).

2.3 Training needs in Kosovo

In addition to the needs identified during the analyses of stakeholder's needs, as well as outcomes of course design of the MSc assessment in Kosovo, UHZ proposed the specific training needs in the following subjects or modules:

- Introduction to sustainability
- Entrepreneurship in the food industry
- Food legislation
- Introduction to supply chain
- Consumer science and sustainable consumption
- Nutrition

3 Conclusions

The assessment of training needs in partner countries showed that there is a need for further professional development of the staff through lectures and seminars on topics that are relevant to sustainable food production systems. In total, partner countries have proposed 25 specific topics in which they would need to be supported by open lectures and trainings. The identified training needs served to prepare lectures and seminars on topics such as advanced technologies related to food production and processing, as well as aspects related to sustainable management of food systems which include food supply chain management, environmental management and economics. Apart from knowledge exchange on topics mentioned above, the scientific staff also gained experience in modern teaching and learning methodologies.