



d8.3 External Evaluation

*Review and assessment of D3.2 “Organisation of Seminars and lectures” and D9.5 “Organisation of Laboratory demonstrations”*





**Deliverable 8.3External Evaluation**

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| **Author(s):** | Prof. Dr. Spiro Drushku |
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**List of abbreviation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AUA** | Agricultural University of Athens  |
| **AUT** | Agricultural University of Albania |
| **CULS**  | Czech University of Life Science |
| **EACEA** | Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency |
| **EU** | European Union |
| **EUT** | European University of Tirana |
| **D.** | Deliverables |
| **HEIs** | High Education Institutions |
| **MESCS USK** | Ministry of education, science, culture and sport of Una-Sana Canton |
| **ReadLab** | Research Innovation and Development Lab Private Company |
| **UC** | Universum College |
| **UNBI** | University of Bihac |
| **UNSA** | University of Sarajevo |
| **USAMVB** | University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Bucharest |
| **WB** | Western Balkans |
| **WP** | Work Packing |
|  |  |

# Executive Summary

As members of the External Evaluators Team, it is our obligation to objectively assess the project's results in light of the quality indicators that are specifically included for each work package in the project description. When assessing the implementation and relevance of Task 3.2 and Task 9.5, the following documents and materials have been taken into account:

* *STEPS project description.*
* *Interim evaluation report.*
* *STEPS reports of deliverable 3.2 “**Organisation of Seminars and Lectures”.*
* *STEPS reports of deliverable 9.5 “Organisation of Laboratory Demonstration”.*
* *Others (cited in the document).*

In the document “Review and Assessment of D3.2 and D9.5” are included a general information in the frame of T3.2 and T9.5, assessment of the methodology followed, and assessment of the report delivered in the frame of the task 3.2 “Organisation of Seminars and Lectures” task 9.5 “Organisation of Laboratory demonstration”

# Introduction

Task 3.2 “Organisation of Seminars and Lectures” is part of the WP3 “Professional development of scientific staff”. The objective of the seminars and lectures is to improve the capacity of scientific staff of the partner countries HEIs, by transferring/exchanging knowledge. In order to fulfill this task, an important role was played by programme countries. They were responsible for developing open lecture based on the needs of academic staff of WB. The organisation of seminars and open lecture started after the assessment of stakeholders needs that perform in food sector WB and the design of STEPS master programme, where the needs of the academy staff towards quality/safety and management of the food chain in the framework of the sustainability of food products were highlighted. Based on the Technical Description of STEPS project the event “Organisation of Seminars and lecture” were schedule as follows:

* *Meeting in Peja (UHZ), September 2019[[1]](#footnote-1)*
* *Meeting in Sarajevo (UNSA), December 2019[[2]](#footnote-2)*
* *Meeting in Bihać (UNBI), November 2021*
* *Meeting in Pristina (UC), May 2022[[3]](#footnote-3)*
* *Meeting in Tirana (AUT) November 2022[[4]](#footnote-4)*

The gap between the meeting in Sarajevo and the meetings that follows are due to the Covid-19 Pandemic[[5]](#footnote-5)

Task 9.5 “Organisation of laboratory demonstration” is part of WP9 “Dissemination & Exploitation”. The main outcomes of this task are the organisation of the events and the delivery of a report. The events “Organisation of Laboratory Demonstration” were held in 2022 in three HEIs of Western Balkans:

* *UC in Pristina, Kosovo, May 2022*
* *AUT in Tirana, Albania, November 2022*
* *UNSA, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2022*

The aim was to disseminate the capacity in terms of laboratory infrastructure of the HEIs where the Master of Science in Sustainable food production systems/STEPS is implemented. Along with the organisation of the workshops, laboratory demonstrations are one of the main routes chosen for the dissemination purposes of STEPS project.

# RELEVANCE OF THE METHODOLOGY

What we have managed to ascertain is that the organisation of the aforementioned events represents steps of a comprehensive methodology that was followed during the implementation of STEPS project.

 The results obtain after a deep ***analyses and assessment of stakeholders needs towards sustainability of food production systems in Western Balkans*** *has been the key driver to design the Master of Science programme and courses. Courses were structured under to main pillars of food productions systems. i.e.:*

* *Food engineering, quality and safety*
* *Food production systems management*

After the define of master courses the needs of academic staff from WB have emerged. The events in frame of these needs were arranged as mentioned above under the name “Organisation of Seminars and lectures”.

The next step was to draw up a list of equipment in accordance with the two of courses mention above. The purchase of the equipment and the development/enhanced of research laboratories in frame of STEPS project[[6]](#footnote-6) were finalised with the organisation of three events under the name “Organization of laboratory demonstration”.

The advantage of the followed methodology lies in ensuring the sustainability of the Master of Science programme implemented in the HEI in the WB in the frame of STEPS project.

# SIGNIFICANCE/RELEVANCE OF SEMINARS AND OPEN LECTURE

The significance/relevance of the events organised in the frame of seminars and open lectures lies in

* Enrich the scientific background of scientific staff of partner countries HEIs, transfer and exchange knowledge mostly on “hot” topics, related to:
* advanced technological achievements related to food production, processing, quality monitoring and food safety, from an engineering point of view and ii) aspects of sustainable management of food production systems, including supply chain management, economics and environmental management.
* Gain experiences of how MSc courses can be structured and delivered by utilizing modern infrastructures, experimental rigs and ICT-based educational material and methods.
* Ensure continuation in the connection between the academic staff/researcher and stakeholders needs in frame sustainability of food production systems.

# SIGNIFICANCE/RELEVANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF LABORATORY DEMONSTRATION

Relevance of development of two types of laboratories, food quality control laboratory and food production systems management laboratory and the events organised are related with:

• Supporting the STEPS master courses

• Improving the capacities/infrastructure in HEIs in Albania, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina

• Dissemination of STEPS project through the organization of laboratories trainings in the field of food qualities and food management systems and also throughout the publication of scientific papers.

The reports delivered for this task, development of laboratory infrastructure (D5.1 and D5.2), sheds light on the significance that the project partners have given to the accomplishment of this task.

# EVALUATION OF D3.2 “ORGANIZATION OF SEMINARS AND OPEN LECTURES” REPORT

General conclusions about the report of D3.2 "Organisation of Seminars and Open Lectures"[[7]](#footnote-7) based on the aforementioned are as follows:

*• The report is well structured in line with STEPS template for compiling a report*

*• The report is writing with a clear and grammatically correct English language.*

*• The report reflects all the issues that are highlighted in the technical description of the project[[8]](#footnote-8).*

In the report are clearly underline:

* All the topics of open lectures held in each events
* Responsible Academic staff/professors for each open lectures.
* Indicators in the frame of the event such as:
* Total number of open lectures
* Total number of academic staff/researchers who followed the events.
* The impact of “Seminars and open lectures” event in the professional development of academic staff from HEIs of WB[[9]](#footnote-9).

In the report is mention the feedback and the assessment of the participants toward the event , based on the data from the questionnaires.

# EVALUATION OF D9.5 “ORGANISATION OF LABORATORY DEMONSTRATION” REPORT

According to the Technical Description of STEPS project research labs will be developed in all partner countries HEIs, in order to build the capacity of HEIs in terms of advanced software licenses and experimental devices. Two types of laboratories will be developed/enhanced in partner countries HEIs where the STEPS Master of Science is implemented:

* Food Quality Control Lab.
* Food Production Systems Management Lab.

Based on the aforementioned, the general findings regarding the report of D9.5 “Organisation of laboratory demonstration” are[[10]](#footnote-10):

• The report is well structured in line with STEPS template for compiling a report

• The report is writing with a clear and grammatically correct English language.

• The report reflects all the issues that are highlighted in the technical description of the project:

* General information in the frame of laboratory infrastructure capacity offered from in HEIs of UC, AUT and UNSA toward the Master of Science programme in Sustainable food production systems
* Types of laboratories that has been developed/enhanced in the frame of STEPS project[[11]](#footnote-11)
* The purpose of equipment in regard to STEPS master program/courses
* Demonstration with some of the equipment’s purchased with the participation of STEPS master students and academic staff/research from UC, UNSA and AUT.
* Quality indicators for this type of the event

A special section in the report is dedicated to the assessment and feedback of the stakeholders. All the data were extracted from the questionnaire delivered for each event organized in UC, in UNSA and in AUT. In the report, in annex section, are included:

* Questionnaire template.
* Participant list in each event (at list 50 participant per each event).
1. [*http://steps-project.eu/event/peja-meeting/*](http://steps-project.eu/event/peja-meeting/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [*http://steps-project.eu/event/sarajevo-meeting-seminar-lecture/*](http://steps-project.eu/event/sarajevo-meeting-seminar-lecture/) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [*http://steps-project.eu/event/pristina-meeting/*](http://steps-project.eu/event/pristina-meeting/) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [*http://steps-project.eu/event/agricultural-university-of-tirana-aut-meeting-tirana-albania/*](http://steps-project.eu/event/agricultural-university-of-tirana-aut-meeting-tirana-albania/) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Second annual report in the frame of WP 10 “Project management and coordination”, D10.3 “Coordination and management”.* [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *STEPS project is co-funded by Erasmus+ Program, Key Action – 2 Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices -Capacity Building in the field of higher education with project no. 598963-EPP-1-2018-1-AL-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP.* [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [*http://steps-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Deliverable-3.2\_F.pdf*](http://steps-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Deliverable-3.2_F.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *\***A specific information regarding the evaluation of D3.2 “Organisation of Seminars and open lectures” report is included in evaluation form.* [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *Quality evaluation of the training seminars session of the STEPS project is included in the interim and the final*

*Internal Quality Evalutaion reports of the project.* [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *A specific information regarding the evaluation of D9.5 “Organisation of laboratory demonstration” report is included in evaluation form.* [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. D5.2 “Teaching/learning environment” report. <http://steps-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/D5.2.-Development-of-research-labs-24.01.2023-FINAL.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)