

ECOLOGICA

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ECOLOGICA EU PROJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL DATA BANK ON EUROPEAN LEVEL FOR THE EDUCATION OF ORGANIC FARMING ADVISERS.

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Key words: e-learning, knowledge Centres, organic farming, Advisers.

Abstract

This paper¹⁵ presents the results of the "ECOLOGICA" E.U. project, promoted within the Leonardo da Vinci Programme (HU/05/B/F/PP-170018), coordinated by Corvinus University of

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Budapest. The goal of the mentioned project was the development of coordinated operation of Knowledge and Education Centres and connection of them by Internet at the partner Institutions, that were the following: Biocert-Italy, Corvinus University-Hungary, AHOF/MÖGÉRT-Hungary, University of South Bohemia-Czech Republic, University of Maribor-Slovenija, Slovak Agricultural University-Slovak Republic, Estonian University of Life Sciences-Estonia, Latvian University of Agriculture-Latvia. Another goal was the collection of a basis of ecological farming knowledge on a joint server called "Ecolibrary". The Knowledge Centres have as their basic target the dissemination of collected knowledge for the organic farming advisers. That, in the frame of e-learning training courses, based on the mutually developed education material, adapted to the specific ecological, technological, social and economical circumstances.

Target group of the project

- a) graduated people with agricultural Diploma, for further education in organic farming;
- b) graduated people with Diploma, for retrain and reorientation, with no further limit of age;
- c) unemployed people, graduated in agricultural sector.

Project results

Training program adapted for Advisers' education in Organic Farming.

Advisers trained in organic farming.

Central Data Bank, connected to the knowledge Centres by virtual network, and its operating system (similar to Linux: open and flexible).

Data Base collected and created by partners and used in their local knowledge Centres on their own languages (presently in English and 7 languages of the partners).

The education program for organic farming advisers can be reached from actual database of server network locally at partner Institutions (in Italy, Hungary, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Slovenija, Latvia, Estonia).

The new training method

It is provided by the "module system", built for the specialized graduation level of the participants. The training program lasts 1 week/module. The teaching material is available on line in electronic version, at the knowledge Centres of the partner Institutions. The participating Institutes contribute as knowledge Centres and set their own website to organize the education program locally.

The structure of the on-line education

Training of trainers: to become familiar with the E-learning program "Ecologica".

Training of Advisers: from 14 weeks to 6 months, depending on the level of preliminary education.

The participating advisers get access to the on-line system and they can get the education material weekly. They are tested by test, and their works are controlled regularly weekly by the Tutor. The students can perform and finish the training in 14 weeks the shortest. The graduated advisers will get a certificate about the training program.

Tab. 1: Modules of the Ecologica Program and Partners

Modules of the Education Program for organic farming Advisers:	Institution to be charged of development:
1. Ecological farming, Principles	Corvinus University of Budapest
2. EU and national cultural knowledge. Multifunctionality of the Organic Farm.	Slovak Agricultural University, Nitra Biocert Association, Italy
3. Communication abilities, Marketing, Quality control	Biocert Association, Italy AHOF- MÖGÉRT, Hungary Corvinus University of Budapest
4. Advising knowledge.	Biocert Association, Italy
5. Plant growing	University of Maribor, Slovenija University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice
6. Animal husbandry	Corvinus University of Budapest
7. Plant protection	Slovak Agricultural University, Nitra University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice AHOF- MÖGÉRT, Hungary
8. Post harvest, and storage, processing	Estonian University of Life Science, Tartu
9. Horticulture	Corvinus University of Budapest
10. Agricultural regulations and programs.	Biocert Association, Italy
11. Conversion to organic farming.	Corvinus University of Budapest University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice University of Maribor, Slovenija
12. Controlling and certification of organic farms.	Biocert Association, Italy
13. Management and planning of organic farm.	University of Maribor, Slovenija
14. Soil Fertility, manuring, green manuring, composting.	Biocert Association, Italy Slovak Agricultural University, Nitra Corvinus University of Budapest

Dissemination of the project

The summary of the project and summary of the modules has been translated into 26 languages with more information about the program inserted in a connected DVD.

The partners of the project have created the Ecologica International Association for the further development of the program.

The partners have involved in the dissemination activities the organic farming Associations, for example in Italy the Ecologica platform was adopted for the training of the technicians by the Italian Association for the Organic Farming (AIAB).

Dissemination is also carried out through Innovation Adaptation LdV projects.

Availability of the Ecologica Platform

- <http://www.ecologica.net>
- <http://hu.ecologica.net>
- <http://it.ecologica.net>
- <http://sk.ecologica.net>
- <http://lv.ecologica.net>
- <http://ee.ecologica.net>
- <http://cz.ecologica.net>
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