

MASTER **European Innovations for a Sustainable Management of Albanian Territories, Rural Areas and Agriculture: Instruments, policies, strategies**

Final Workshop of the SmartAL Project on

“Internationalisation of higher education: a European passport to the Albanian jobmarket?”

SmartAL Workshop on “Internationalisation of higher education: a European passport to the Albanian jobmarket”, October 6, 2021

On the occasion of the Final Steering Committee of the SmartAL project, the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM-IAMM), Coordinator, in collaboration with the Agricultural University of Tirana, the European University of Tirana, the University Fan S. Noli, Korçë, organised a Workshop gathering a large panel of stakeholders: Oltjon Rrumbullaku, Vice-Minister of Education and sport, Dhimiter Kote, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Hubert Perr, EU delegation to Albania, H.E. Elisabeth Barsacq, French Ambassador to Albania, H.E. Sofia Philippidou, Greek Ambassador to Albania, Mr Martin Karl Zickendraht, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Tirana.

After a welcome and an introduction by the Rector of the Agricultural University of Tirana who described the SmartAL project as a structural and "intelligent" project to improve the skills and competences useful to train future Albanian executives in their future missions, a speech was delivered by Mr. Dhimiter Kote, Deputy Minister of Agriculture on the importance of training students on agricultural and rural development issues, a key sector in Albania, in a context of decentralization.

Mr. Oltjon Rrumbullaku, Deputy Minister of Education and Sport stressed the importance of such diploma training in the field of rural and territorial development in higher education in Albania. Mr. Hubert Perr, EU delegation recalled the importance of the Erasmus + program and its role in the establishment of the SmartAL master in Albania and its major impact in the context of the pre-accession of Albania to the EU. Finally, H.E. Sofia Philippidou, Ambassador of Greece to Albania, expressed her great satisfaction to see such a project succeeded and the commitment of European countries to Albania for its achievement. About fifty people, representing the European, national, regional and local authorities, the Higher Education Institutions, the SmartAL consortium and the Executive Master students attended.

A presentation was made by Ms Magali Maire, CIHEAM-IAMM, Coordinator of the SmartAL project, on *“SmartAL Erasmus+ capacity building project – new competences for new requirements Impacts”* : After recalling the key stages of the project and its main results, such as the response to the pressing needs of the professional sector in rural areas in Albania through the creation of a new innovative Master's degree in the field of rural territory in a context of decentralization reforms, the education system and the pre-accession to the EU, Magali Maire presented the many impacts that the project has generated.

To mention only a few: the strengthening of internationalization and collaboration between Albanian and European HEIs, the improvement of collaboration between Albanian HEIs, the improvement of employability of young people in Albania in rural sector as well as the collaboration between Albanian HEIs and other public or private actors, future employers of students.

Pr As. Dr Fatmir Guri followed with a presentation on *“How to approach a new public in higher education? Professional students: How to teach? Lessons learnt”*.

It was the occasion to present the lessons learned by the teachers for this first period test by its novelty but also during the period of pandemic which was made at distance with the first promotion of students and in binomial with the Albanian and European professors.

A round-table provided a useful opportunity to debate on *“Internationalisation of higher education: a way to enlarge the adaptability of graduates to Albanian job market”*. It gathered Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku, Rector, Agricultural University of Tirana, Prof. Asc. Dr. Gjergji Mero, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University Fan S. Noli, Korçë, Pr Reiner Doluschitz, Hohenheim University and Mr Thierry Dupeuble, Director of the CIHEAM-IAMM.



From left to right:

Pr As. Dr Fatmir Guri, Agricultural University of Tirana
Mr Oltjon Rrumbullaku, Vice-Minister of Education and sport,
Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku, Rector, Agricultural University of Tirana
Mr Dhimiter Kote, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development,
Ms Magali Maire, Coordinator of the SmartAL project, International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM-IAMM).



From left to right:

Pr As. Dr Fatmir Guri, Agricultural University of Tirana
 Mr Oltjon Rrumbullaku, Vice-Minister of Education and sport,
 Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku, Rector, Agricultural University of Tirana
 Mr Dhimiter Kote, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development,
 Ms Magali Maire, Coordinator of the SmartAL project, International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM-IAMM).



Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku, Rector, Agricultural University of Tirana



Front row, from left to right:
Mr Martin Karl Zickendraht, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Tirana,
Mr Hubert Perr, Head of Cooperation, EU delegation to Albania,
H.E. Elisabeth Barsacq, French Ambassador to Albania,
H.E. Sofia Philippidou, Greek Ambassador to Albania.



Mr Hubert Perr, Head of Cooperation, EU delegation to Albania



H.E. Sofia Philippidou, Greek Ambassador to Albania



Ms Magali Maire, Coordinator of the SmartAL project, CIHEAM-IAMM