

## **ORGANIC FARMING EDUCATION WITH SOME NEW APPROACHES – CASE OF SLOVENIA**

### **NEKI NOVI PRISTUPI U OBRAZOVANJU IZ EKOLOŠKE POLJOPRIVREDE – SLUČAJ SLOVENIJE**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Official, inspected and certified organic farming started in Slovenia in 1998 and almost one decade later we have the first accredited Organic farming study programme on B.Sc. professional level at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Maribor. It is also possible to continue the study programme on master and PhD level, too. At the moment there is no special programme for organic farming on the secondary education level, but there are some courses on organic farming on this level. Almost all agricultural schools have nowadays part of their estates converted to organic farming and one of them converted the whole estate (Kranj). Getting also a very some practical knowledge is important part of new study programmes in Slovenia.

On the other hand there is lack of new knowledge on organic farming among farmers and especially among agricultural advisors. Based on this, the Leonardo da Vinci pilot project the central data bank has been established on European level for the education of ecological farming advisers. Knowledge and education centres at eight partner institutions have been developed. Collection of the basis of ecological farming knowledge is on a joint server called Ecolibrary. The Knowledge centres disseminate collected database to advisers and other interested groups in the frame of e-learning training courses based on the mutually developed education material that would be adapted to the given ecological, technological, social, national and economical circumstances of the partners.

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Round table 2, Higher education in organic agriculture, at 2<sup>nd</sup> Mediterranean Conference on Organic Agriculture – *Contribution to Sustainable Ecosystem*, Dubrovnik, April 2-4, 2008,

14 modules have been developed: (i) ecological farming, (ii) EU and national cultural knowledge, (iii) marketing, quality control, communication abilities, (iv) advising knowledge, (v) plant growing, (vi) animal husbandry, (vii) plant protection, (viii) post harvest, storage and processing, (ix) horticulture, (x) agricultural regulations and programs, (xi) conversion to ecological farming, (xii) management and planning of organic farms, (xiii) inspection and certification of ecological farms, (xiv) soil fertility, fertilizing and composting. Training of advisers takes 14 weeks to 6 months depending on the level of preliminary education. The participating advisers will get access to the on-line system, receive education material weekly, and be examined by test and will have tasks controlled regularly by a tutor. They can perform and finish the training in 14 weeks; the shortest and the longest training period is 6 months. The graduated advisers receive a certificate on finishing the training programme. It is possible to disseminate this project in Croatia and some other interested countries.

Based on three international summer schools Erasmus Socrates “Alternatives for organic crop production” in the years 2003, 2005 and 2007 in Maribor, new activities are going on, such as “double degree” with University of Kassel and preparation of Erasmus Mundus M.Sc. study programme on Organic farming with international partners.

Key words: advisors, e-learning, organic farming, study programme

## SAŽETAK

Ecologica je nov pristup dobivanja znanja putem e-obrazovanja. Putem Leonardo da Vinci pilotnog projekta Razvoj centralne baze podataka na europskoj razini za e-obrazovanje u ekološkoj poljoprivredi izrađena je platforma za e-obrazovanje savjetodavaca za ekološku poljoprivredu. U osam partnerskih organizacija razvijeni su Centri znanja i izrađena je internetska veza. Elektronska zbirka znanja nalazi se na zajedničkom serveru pod imenom Ecolibrary. Centri znanja brinu se za širenje nakupljenog znanja i informacija pojedinaca kao što su savjetodavci za poljoprivredu i drugi zainteresirani za ekološku poljoprivredu te prihvaćaju program e-obrazovanja. Sadržaji se temelje na zajedničkom razvijanju i pripremi obrazovnog gradiva prilagođenog specifičnim ekološkim, tehnološkim, socijalnim i ekonomskim uvjetima pojedinih zemalja. Razvijena su 14 modula: (i) ekološka poljoprivreda –

osnove, (ii) EU i poznavanje nacionalnih kultura, (iii) marketing, kontrola kakvoće, komunikacijske vještine, (iv) znanja na području savjetodavanja, (v) biljna proizvodnja, (vi) stočarstvo, (vii) zaštita bilja, (viii) požetvene tehnologije, skladištenje i prerada, (ix) hortikultura, (x) legislativa i programi u poljoprivredi, (xi) preusmjerenje na ekološku poljoprivredu, (xii) management ekoloških gospodarstava, (xiii) kontrola i certificiranje, (xiv) plodnost tla, gnojidba i kompost. Program obrazovanja traje između 14 tjedana do 6 mjeseca ovisno o prethodnom obrazovanju i znanju. Sudionici imaju on-line vezu sa studijskim gradivom i mogu tjedno dobivati novo gradivo. Testovima se tjedno provjerava njihovo znanje i nastavnici redovito provjeravaju njihov rad. Na kraju dobivaju certifikat koji dokazuje, da su program e-obrazovanja uspješno završili.

Ključne riječi: e-obrazovanje, ekološka proizvodnja, savjetodavna služba

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