

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARUD)

Erasmus + KA2 project number 561969-EPP-1-2015-1-DE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Information letter 30.11.2016

Dear partners,

This letter serves to provide you with some updates on the SARUD project progress made during the last months.

“OpenLIAS” – new content sharing platform

Considering the limitation of the intranet webpage, which was previously used for the content sharing by the project partners, we decided to introduce the new E-Learning and content sharing platform called “openLIAS” to be used in our project for further exchange of the materials and documents. OpenLIAS is a user-friendly content sharing platform which is at the same time in line with data use and data protection requirements. All content formally available in the intranet has been moved to the openLIAS platform. Since it is a simple and user-friendly tool, we hope you will enjoy working with it.

To get access to the openLIAS you first have to create your user account. Please follow the link below and fill in the online application for registration using the step-by-step guide (Annex I):

https://openilias.uni-hohenheim.de/goto.php?target=grp_21780&client_id=UHOH2

After having created the user account, you can enter our SARUD project group. There you will see that the content shared with all project partners is structured in the following way:

- **Literature lists and downloads.** Materials, articles and references on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (including RUDECO modules).
- **Meetings and Events.** Documentation (programmes, presentations, tasks summaries) and picture galleries of meetings and events.
- **Project Documents and Information.** This folder contains official project files (project description, grant agreement), templates (timesheets, reports etc.), project infoletters and monthly updated workplan.
- **Workpackage Material and Results.** For each of the workpackages, a separate folder shall contain the relevant presentations, working material and outcomes/reports.

Project progress and activities implementation

Please note that an overview of the general project progress is from now on also available on the openLIAS platform and not anymore in the intranet. Please check the openLIAS for the latest updates of the GANTT-chart under “Project Documents and Information → Workplans”.

3rd Steering Committee Meeting

The 3rd Steering Committee Meeting was conducted in **Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland** on **7-8 October 2016**. *We would like to thank the hosts for the perfect organization and warm welcome!*

During the meeting the Steering Committee precisely discussed the progress on the outcomes of the latter regional coordination meetings conducted in Kazakhstan and Russia in June-July 2016. The SARUD regional coordinators in Russia (OSAU) and Astana (KATU) reported on the curricula development and implementation of the professional master's study program at the Russian and Kazakh universities accordingly. Apart from that, the committee members discussed the quality criteria and procedures to be included into the quality control plan and monitoring of the project. Dissemination was also an issue for the discussion, Steering Committee members and the Work Package lead shared their ideas and decided upon the structure of the project dissemination strategy to be elaborated by the end of the year.

The representatives of the University of Life Sciences–SGGW (Warsaw) shared with the colleagues the results of the first part of the 1st Study trip. The University of Hohenheim and the University of Nuertingen presented their draft programme for the 2nd Study trip planned in February-March 2017 (see detailed information below).

The report on the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting and the photo gallery are available via the link:

https://sarud.uni-hohenheim.de/119254?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=33844&cHash=c3caa2c4483b71d179db9f9d5d0a5998

SARUD study trips

The 1st Study trip together with **the didactic training** for the elaborators of the SARUD study program took place on **2-15 October 2016 in Warsaw & Prague** (University of Life Sciences–SGGW (Warsaw) and Czech University of Life Sciences accordingly). The program of the event is available in intranet under "Meetings":

https://sarud.uni-hohenheim.de/intern0?no_cache=1#jfmulticontent_c277925-2

The activities started in Warsaw University of Life Sciences with the Symposium "Sustainable agriculture and sustainable development of rural areas – theory and practice", the practical part of which took place on the Ecological Research Station "Dolina Szklą". The participants had an opportunity to visit several local farms with the examples of the conventional, sustainable and organic agriculture. In the frames of the training there were also organized visits to the Ministry of Environment in Warsaw and the General Directorate of the National State Forests with the trip to the Forest District "Jabłonna".

The study trip continued in Prague with the workshop on the socioeconomic aspects of rural development. The trainees from Russia and Kazakhstan also got acquainted with the Local Action Groups established and operating in Poland and Czech Republic with support of the European Union in the framework of "LEADER" program.

As the methodological support for the study trip served the three-days didactic training implemented by Agency for Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas of the Federal State of Baden-Wuerttemberg (LEL), Germany. The training covered practice and action oriented teaching, facilitation methods and approaches for project work planning and conduction.

The report on the 1st Study trip and didactic training and the photo gallery are available via the link:

https://sarud.uni-hohenheim.de/119254?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=33821&cHash=58c1947c741e029f6189d9aefc0a039c

The 2nd Study trip will take place in **February-March 2017 in Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany**. The University of Hohenheim and the University of Nürtingen will host 14 representatives of Russian and Kazakh universities. The selection process of participants is ongoing. It aims at building an interdisciplinary team consisting of representatives from four main thematic areas of the sustainable rural development: economics, ecology, social sciences and agro-technological field. The 2nd Study trip will also include the three-days didactic training, conducted directly at the Agency for Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas of the Federal State of Baden-Wuerttemberg (LEL), Germany.

Support and backstopping visits

Considering the urgent demand on for a vocational training in sustainable rural development (SRD) for RU and KZ universities, elaborating contents for the new master course, it was decided to conduct a support visit of EU partners for holding a seminar on SRD. Under the guidance of the European experts, attention is supposed to be paid to all three pillars of sustainability, social, economic and ecological. Dates and venue are to be defined.

Future events

For the upcoming year there are several events planned in the frames of the SARUD project.

In addition to the trainings mentioned above, there will be **the 3rd Regional Coordination Meeting of the Russian and Kazakh universities** in **May 2017**. Place and exact time of the event are to be discussed later.

On **3-5 July 2017** all partners are kindly invited to take part in **the Interim conference in Astana (Kazakhstan)**. The event can be conveniently combined with a visit to the EXPO-2017. The online registration is in the intranet, you have to fill in the online form via the link: https://sarud.uni-hohenheim.de/intern0?no_cache=1#jfmulticontent_c283721-3 .

Knowledge platform

The Russian State Agrarian University - Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy works on design of the knowledge platform in the frames of the SARUD project. The university is

currently in the process of discussion with the Russian Civil Chamber and the Ministry of Agriculture of a possible collaboration for the implementation of the platform and its placing on the ministry website.

Dissemination

We are glad to inform you that a new SARUD flyer is now available in both English and Russian and can be downloaded from the project webpage:

English version

https://sarud.uni-hohenheim.de/fileadmin/einrichtungen/sarud/Images_Presentations/SARUD_Projectflyer_303-216mm_final_print_2400.pdf

Russian version

https://sarud.uni-hohenheim.de/fileadmin/einrichtungen/sarud/Images_Presentations/SARUD_Projectflyer_303-216mm_final_ru.pdf

We would like to remind you that we are still missing information from some partners requested in order to update **the SARUD webpage**. Therefore, if not done yet, we would kindly remind you:

- To place information about your participation in the project on the webpage of your institution (please always use the SARUD logo and EU flag with acknowledgement the support under Erasmus+ programme – both are available in the intranet) and link this information to our project web page <https://sarud.uni-hohenheim.de/start>;
- Always, when you publish any information, incl. online (related to the project, news, reports, etc.), please send us a link to these publications or a scanned copy of the paper source. It will help us document the dissemination and interlink the published materials with the SARUD webpage;
- **Partners in Russia and Kazakhstan** are kindly asked to check information about their institution and main representatives, which was placed on the SARUD webpage under the link <https://sarud.uni-hohenheim.de/partners> and give a short feedback whether this information is correct and up to date. Please also provide the institution's description in Russian language for the Russian version of the webpage. We would be grateful to receive feedback from all partners **by the end of the year 2016**.

We wish you an enjoyable end of the year. Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Your SARUD Team