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4th Steering Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

University of Maribor
Faculty of Agriculture and Biosystem Sciences
Pivola 10, 2311 Hoče, Slovenia

September 7th, 2021

The meeting started on time. The representatives of all institutions took an active part in the meeting. Delegated members of the Steering Committee, except in cases where absence was justified and a replacement was delegated, mainly attended the meeting, some of them present in person, some present online.

SC Chairperson Alisa Hadžiabulic (UNMO), opened the meeting suggesting adoption of the proposed agenda.

- Welcome speech and adoption of proposed agenda
- EACEA – Project implementation Report – Comments and recommendations
- Project implementation status – progress, issues, reporting and project management in general – WP8
- Open questions and milestones in project implementation. Consideration of the need for a project extension (6 months)?
- Project sustainability - how to ensure the continuation of activities in the field of ICT in agriculture after the completion of the project?

The proposed agenda was unanimously adopted, being followed by the working part. VIRAL coordinator, Miljan Cvetković (UNIBL) briefed on the report received from EACEA, pointing out that all the points were positively commented, and that WP2 activities regarding courses is also on its way to be implemented as planned. He then commented the activities that are ongoing within the packages:

- WP2 – ongoing activities in the final phase, about to be completed as planned
- WP4 - activities for organization of EXPO events are ongoing and it is necessary to use maximum of efforts in upcoming period to have this event organized in the best possible way.



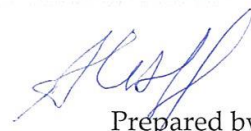
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He also informed the members of the Steering board about the situation regarding financial reporting and equipment purchase issues.

The next agenda point referred to the new situation regarding the necessity for submission of request for the official extension of VIRAL project deadline. Official deadline which is 19th of November 2022 it cannot be seen as reality for completing of all planned activities. COVID pandemic influenced the implementation especially in planned trainings and visits to EU universities. Also, there is a real problem with purchase of the equipment which should be used for planned training activities. After the short discussion, SC member unanimously adopted the decision to request the extension of VIRAL project activities for the period of nine (9) months, believing that this would be period long enough for the implementation of all planned activities.

SC members discussed the ideas for the sustainability. The ideas were numerous were interesting, and some of them were proposed by Radovan Stojanović (MANT). One of them was to include ICT in agriculture as regular session of MECO Conference and the other one referred to the establishment of Balkan association referred to ICT in agriculture development. These ideas were welcomed by SC members.

The meeting ended at 16.00


Prepared by:
Alisa Hadžaiabulić



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