



**Western Balkans Institute and Faculty of Agriculture- University in Belgrade
– VIRAL Sustainability workshop
3. – 4. 04. 2023.**

Report

The Western Balkans Institute and the Faculty of Agriculture hosted partners from the VIRAL project at a workshop on sustainability and opportunities for continued cooperation between the agricultural and business sectors on **3-4 April** in Belgrade. The cooperation of these two sectors with the application of ICT in agriculture are the main goals of the VIRAL project, so this workshop was an opportunity for partners to find a way to expand cooperation after the end of the project. The workshop was attended by over 30 representatives of the project teams, and the moderator was Marko Stojanović from the Western Balkan Institute.



The first day of workshop

The activities took place at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Belgrade. The meeting was opened by the project coordinator - professor Miljan Cvetković from the Faculty of Agriculture in Banja Luka. Participants were greeted by professor Dragan Nikolić from the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Belgrade, who presented his faculty and its current activities.

During the first working session, the partners reflected on the two EXPO events. They talked about good experiences, but also key issues they faced during the implementation of these events, all with the aim of their realization in the future.

During the second session, the workshop participants analyzed the selected Horizon calls, which are an opportunity for partner institutions to work on the preparation of new project applications and thus continue the cooperation started on the VIRAL project.



The next activity was a workshop in which the participants were divided into 4 groups with the aim of mapping the weaknesses and good opportunities for cooperation in the business and agricultural sector in the Western Balkan region, based on past experiences and results, through SWOT analysis.

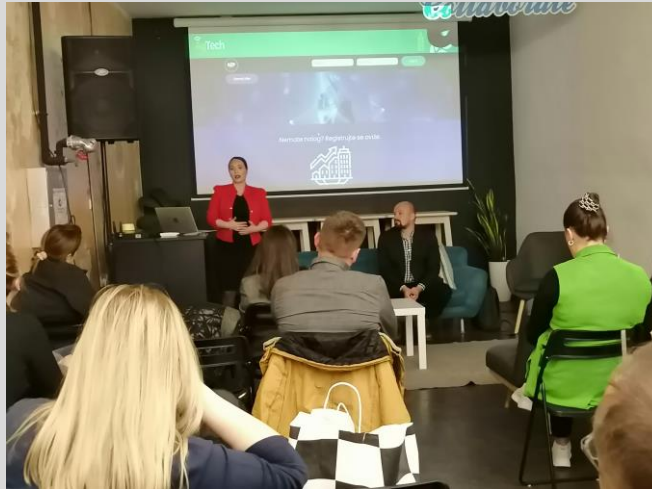


The second day of workshop

Due to the bad weather conditions in Belgrade, the workshop participants were not able to visit Agrodrion.

During the second day of the workshop at the ICT Hub, the participants were introduced with the AgTech supercluster, led by, among others, the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, the Biosense Institute, Delta Holding and the Faculty of Agriculture within the Serbia Innovates project.

Marko Stojanović from WEBIN presented the VIRAL project and its result, while Marijana Marinković from the Serbian Chamber of Commerce introduced the participants to the AgTech supercluster.



Professor Miloš Pajić from the Faculty of Agriculture in Belgrade introduced the participants to the new master's program at this faculty, which was created as a result of the supercluster. After the presentation of the master's program "Digitalization in agriculture and food production", the attendees discussed the possibilities of including similar programs at their institutions, but also exchanged experiences gained during the implementation of VIRAL and AgTech supercluster.

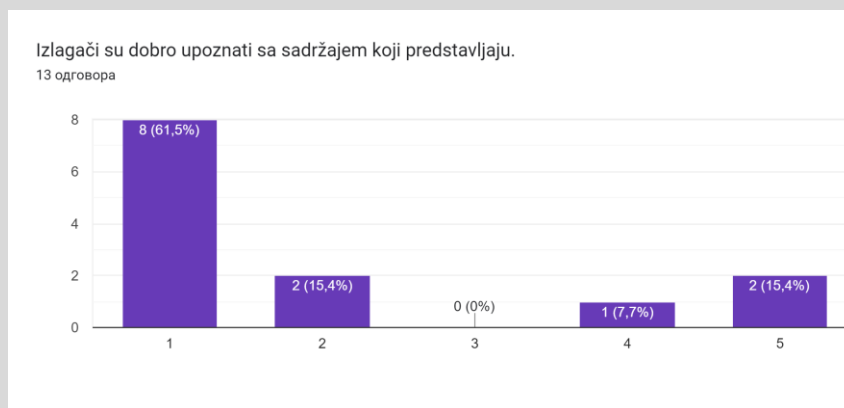


The participants had the opportunity to expand their contact network, which in the future could contribute to new collaborations between higher education institutions and technological companies from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro with companies in Serbia.

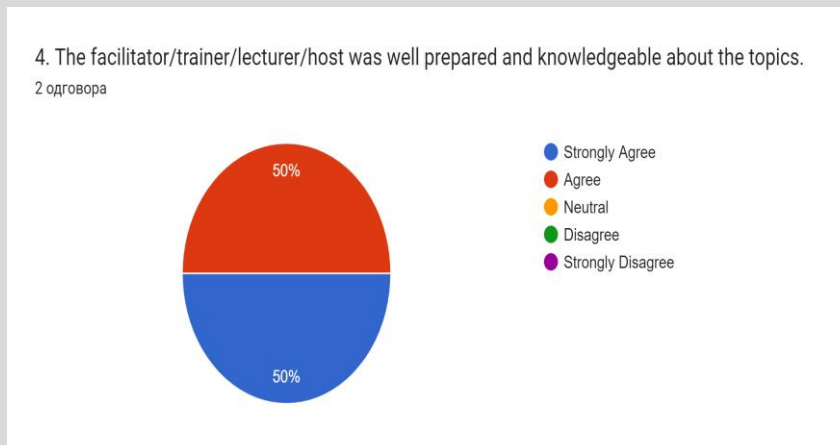
At the end of the workshop, the participants filled out a form for evaluating the quality of the workshop.

15 responses were received. According to the opinion of the majority of participants (12 of them), the workshop fulfilled their expectations. Three participants declared that they were dissatisfied with the quality of the workshop.

Most of the participants positively evaluated the working conditions and the space where the workshop was held. According to the answers received, the lecturers were well prepared, and the attendees could equally participate in the workshop.



*The facilitator/trainer/lecturer/host was well prepared and knowledgeable about the topics.



What the participants liked most about the workshop was the visit to the ICT Hub and the opportunity to learn more about the results of the AgTech supercluster, especially the new study program at the Faculty of Agriculture. The respondents were satisfied with the

exchange of experiences and the discussion that started after the presentation. The members of the VIRAL project teams also noted that analysis of the selected Horizon calls was very useful in terms of future cooperation. Participants liked the least the bad weather conditions which prevented visit to the Agrodrome.

Beograd,

12.4.2023.

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