



CEEAG - Centre of Excellence for European Agri-Food Chain

Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence project
No. 611446-EPP-1-2019-1-SK-EPPJMO-CoE

Project implementation phase – summary

The phase of the project implementation is dedicated to creation of the courses and online teaching materials, teaching and research activities, production of deliverables and organisation of events.

In terms of the **teaching** process, there were 4 subjects planned to be provided to the PhD students:

- Challenges and Impacts of the EU Agricultural Policy
- Risk Factors of Food Chain
- Agri-Environmental and Food Legislation of the EU
- EU Agrarian Marketing

The subjects are supervised by the renowned guarantors – professors from three faculties of the SUA in Nitra – Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development, Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Sciences and Faculty of Economics and Management. To facilitate the teaching process and to assure its maximum effectiveness, members of the Centre of Excellence created online teaching materials for the main target group of the project – the PhD students.

Research activities were conducted in both areas planned in the project – the EU dimension of the short food supply chains and the risk factors affecting animal and human health. Results of the research within both areas are provided in the form of scientific papers published in renowned journals.

Organisation of **events** was significantly affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Planned events were organised online via the MS Teams platform. Website of the project and an E – learning platform are the most significant **deliverables** in the project and are fully functional.

Teaching process

The teaching process was organised and carried out in accordance with the project proposal. All four of the above courses were included in the study plans of doctoral students and the students duly completed them. For completing the courses Challenges and Impacts of the EU Agricultural Policy and Agri-Environmental and Food Legislation of the EU, students received 10 ECTS (for each course). Within the remaining two courses, they received 12 ECTS. In the **academic year 2020/2021**, 12 students completed the above courses, with 6 students from the Faculty of Economics and Management, 4 students from the Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Sciences and 2 students from the Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development. In the **academic year 2021/2022**, 13 students completed the above courses, with 7 students from the Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Sciences, 3 students from the Faculty of Economics and Management, 2 students from the Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development and 1 student from the Faculty of Agrobiology and Food Resources.



The teaching thus focused primarily on students who are not in daily contact with the issue of European studies.

Research activities

In line with the CEEAG work plan, research was carried out in 2 areas:

- European dimension of short supply chains, and,
- risk factors affecting human and animal health.

Within the short supply chain, the research was focused on the evaluation of economic aspects of agricultural enterprises in the Slovak Republic associated in short supply chains, including the support of project measures within the Rural Development Program of the Slovak Republic 2014-2020. As a result, two research papers have been published in scientific journals. The article "Slovak agricultural enterprises in short food supply chains - evaluation of economic aspects" was published in the Journal of Central European Agriculture in December 2021 and is available at <https://jcea.agr.hr/en/issues/article/3228>. The article "Short Food Supply Chains and Small Farms — Evidence from Slovakia" was published in the Sustainability journal in February 2022 and is available at <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/5/2728>.

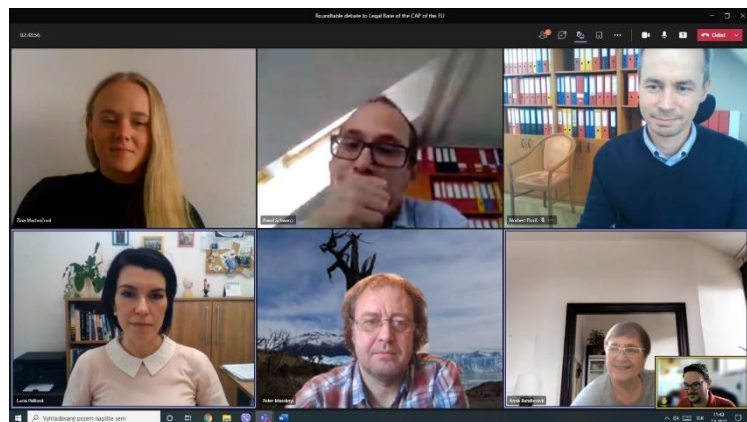
Within the risk factors affecting human and animal health, research focuses on the identification of risk elements in food and wildlife organs, as well as their effects on mycotoxin production. The results of these activities were published by research papers in scientific journals in 2021. The paper "Essential and xenobiotic elements in cottage cheese from the Slovak market with consumer risk assessment" was published in the Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part B and is available on the:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03601234.2020.1762420>. The article "Influence of environmental factors on the production of mycotoxins" was published in the Proceedings of the scientific work Environmental burden and its impact on human and animal health. The article "Biogenic and risk element in selected organs and tissues of fallow-deer" will be published in the form of an abstract in the Book of Abstracts, Risk Factors of the Food Chain and is available at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/riskfactorsfoodchain/book-of-abstracts>.

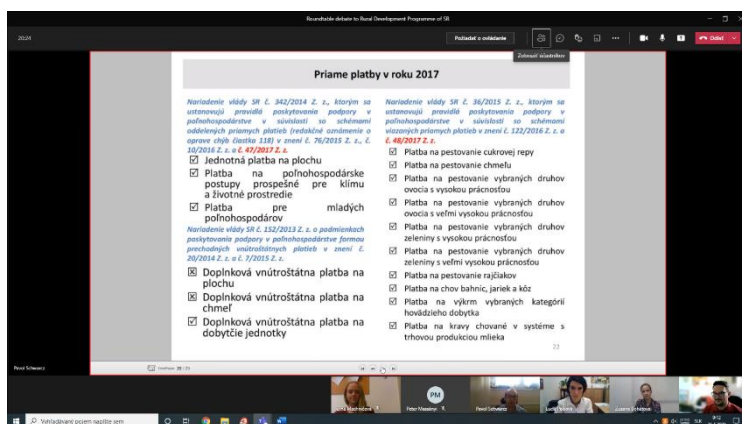
Events

Due to the unfavourable pandemic situation, events, which were originally planned as on-site, took place online via the MS Teams platform. *The Legal Base of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU and its Implementation at the EU and national level* took place on 7.5.2021 as the "round table discussion". The aim of the event was to acquaint the participants with the basic principles of the EU Common Agricultural Policy, as well as to assess

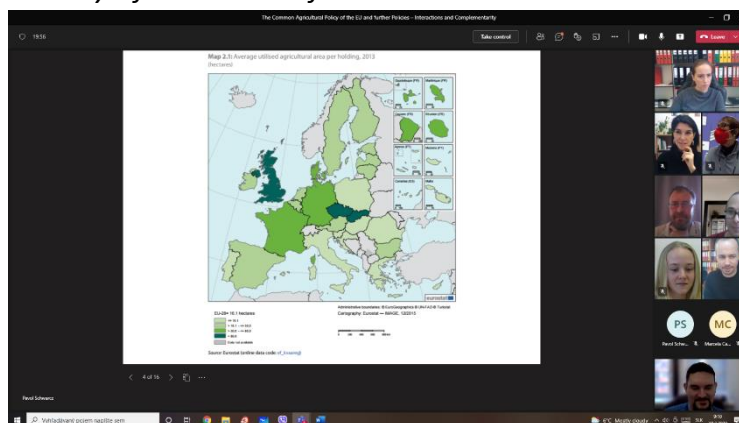


its impact on the agricultural sector of the Slovak Republic. The event was attended by teachers and PhD. students.

Another “round table discussion” entitled *Short Food Supply Chains - Conditions of Support and Operational Requirements* took place on 31.5.2021. The main aim of the event was to provide participants with basic information on the concept of short supply chains and on national and European legislation on short supply chains. The event was attended by teachers and PhD. students.



Workshop *The Common Agricultural Policy of the EU and further Policies – Interactions and Complementarity* took place again online on 18.2.2022. The main goal of the event was to provide participants with more detailed information on the implementation of cross-compliance at national and European level, an overview of the system of direct payments and measures of the Rural Development Program SR 2014-2020, as well as assess the impact of other European policies on agricultural practice. The event was attended by teachers and students.



Upcoming events

The CEEAG Centre of Excellence is preparing an international scientific conference to be held on 11.5. - 13.5.2022 as one of the sections of the International Scientific Days 2022, which is organized together with the Faculty of Economics and Management. The Centre of Excellence will provide more information on the upcoming conference.

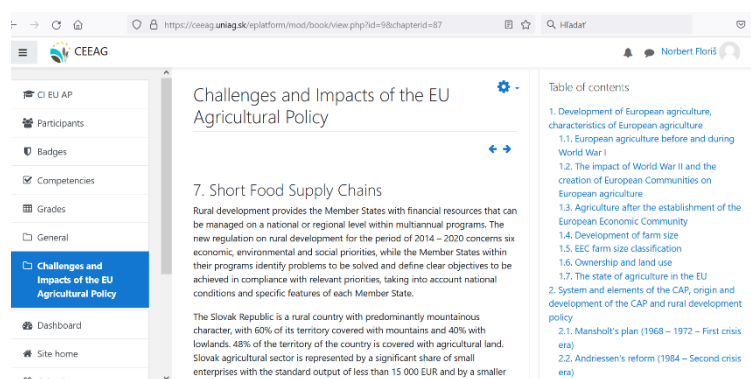


Project results

The project website as the main source of information and dissemination tool of the project is fully functional. In addition to information about the project, it also provides access to other project results, also to the **Electronic Platform**, which is available at <https://ceeag.uniag.sk/eplatform/>.

The electronic platform provides target groups with access to teaching

materials created in four subjects (p. 1) in order to improve the teaching process and provide comprehensive information to target groups in the areas of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, EU agri-marketing, EU agri-environmental and food legislation, as well as in the area of risk factors affecting human and animal health.



News in the agricultural sector of the Slovak Republic and the EU

Approval of a document of national importance

The Government of the Slovak Republic approved a document of national importance, the Strategic Plan of the EU Common Agricultural Policy for the years 2023-2027. The document is fully in accordance with EU priorities in the field of biodiversity protection, ecological practices and animal welfare, as well as in the field of cooperation of producers, processors and customers, while from the perspective of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic particular emphasis is given on support of small and young farmers. More information at:

<https://www.mpsr.sk/aktualne/vlada-schvalila-dokument-narodneho-vyznamu/17505/>.

Objectives of the European Green Agreement and agricultural studies

Various recent studies have analysed the possible impact of some elements of the Farm-to-Fork strategy and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 on EU agriculture, including a study by the Commission's Joint Research Centre. Studies provide the scientific community and policy makers with a valuable overview of risk mitigation policy instruments. An fact sheet containing an overview of each study and elements considered has been published by the European Commission and is available at:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/green-deal-2030-targets-and-agricultural-production-studies-2021-oct-18_sk.

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