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Erasmus+ Programme  
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УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ У БАЊОЈ ЛУЦИ  
UNIVERSITY OF BANJA LUKA

# **VITALISING ICT RELEVANCE IN AGRICULTURAL LEARNING /VIRAL /**

Project description



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## PROJECT AIM

**Overall project aim of VIRAL to support university and business collaboration (UBC) through accelerating the use of ICT across Western Balkans agro-communities.** The concept is led by relevant regional AET facilities and based on enabling the use of different ICT solutions/techniques/tools in the classroom and outside of it in order to obtain desired integration of agriculture and it engineering which in effect reinforces UBC across regional agro communities.





### ***SOI: to increase the capacity of HEIs to apply and generate ICT in AET and practice***

Highly educated and skilled agriculture labour force is mandatory to create, share and use knowledge and so is the case with a vibrant system of teaching, research and innovation to be able to tap into global knowledge, assimilate and adapt it to the local need. Universities responsibility could be better served when HEIs are current in terms of modern ICT infrastructure and tools.

Thus, VIRAL offers a robust training component for teaching staff, students, non-formal educator and extension services providers whereby ICT solutions/techniques/tool are debated and use explained. Comprehensive set of training looks into importance/general use of ICT in agriculture, robotic management, software applications, drones and GIS.



**SO2: to improve effectiveness and employability of AET graduates**

Focusing on employability helps universities to attract and retain high quality students and maintain a competitive advantage, while for students employment outcomes form key motivation for pursuing certain education fields. With this in mind VIRAL puts emphasis on:

- 👉 **bridging the existing skills gap:** It is important to engage with businesses to facilitate closer correspondence between the skills universities teach and the skills businesses want in the agriculture field. Here, it is necessary to adopt a broad definition of ‘teach’ and acknowledge particularly related to the soft skills of ICT and entrepreneurship initiative which are often in shorter supply compared to hard skills – technical, faculty related attributes and
- 👉 **integrating employability into curricula:** in seeking ways to integrate employability-focused moments into curricula VIRAL uses employer relationships as a means of providing meaningful problem-based learning experiences. These are evidenced by organization of hackathons pitching competitions as capacity building tool for HEIs and output for use in industry. New knowledge is also generated through active involvement of students with prospective business operators networking at the hackathons.





### ***SO 3: to boost academic-business cooperation regional platform for sustainability, networking and exchange within agricultural and technological communities***

Stemming from successful implementation of the SO 1 and 2 which provide a structured capacity building frame, SO 3 represents a peak of efforts that build standing formal networking and alliance among ICT and agricultural SMEs with HEIs in the form of a spin off EXPO event and by:

- ☞ providing IT services appropriate to the needs of regional agro-communities including both AET and producers, increasing their efficiency & sustainability,
- ☞ ever-expanding knowledge base constructed around a user-friendly knowledge co-creation and transfer in the field that goes both ways from university to business and vice versa,
- ☞ competitive and available agricultural integrated IT solutions for agricultural business operators, increasing efficiency and profit-making ability of the sector.

# Work packages



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# Work package I

Work package type and ref.nr	PREPARATION		WP.1
TITLE	PREPARATION		
Tasks	1.1 To carry out comparative analysis of university-business cooperation in agriculture in the Western Balkans and EU and develop policy recommendations 1.2 To carry out needs analyses and map knowledge transfer potential 1.3 To create web portal 1.4 To organize Introduction conference		
Estimated Start Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	15-10-2019	Estimated End Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	28-02-2020
Lead Organisation	P8 UNIVERSITY MARIBOR (UM), P2 UNIVERSITY OF MOSTAR DZEMAL BIJEDIĆ (UNMO),		

# Work package II

Work package type and ref.nr	DEVELOPMENT		WP.2
TITLE	BUILDING COMPETENCES IN AET		
Tasks	2.1 To organize educational seminar on ICT in agriculture 2.2 To organize 2 training sessions 2.3 To purchase and install equipment 2.4 To organize 2 workshops and create University ToT teams and develop ToT course toolkits 2.5 To develop project applications for (inter)national grant-schemes 2.6 To create Practical Guide for the use of ICT in AET 2.7 To organize 2 workshops and create crash course on ICT in agriculture		
Estimated Start Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	15-02-2020	Estimated End Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	14-03-2022
Lead Organisation	P6 UNIVERSITY DONJA GORICA (UDG), P7 WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY (WU)		



# Work package III

Work package type and ref.nr	DEVELOPMENT		WP.3
TITLE	DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT PITCHING COMPETITIONS – HACKATONS		
Tasks	3.1 To organize an introduction web-streaming seminar on student pitching competitions 3.2 To organize study visit to international student pitching competition 3.3 To develop student pitching competitions 3.4 To implement student pitching competitions 3.5 To create video compendium on ICT solutions in agriculture developed by students		
Estimated Start Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	15-04-2020	Estimated End Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	31-08-2022
Lead Organisation	P14 INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER TEHNOPOLIS (IECT), P15 INNOVATION CENTER BANJA LUKA (ICBL), P16 FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT (INTERA), P17 MONTENEGRIN ASSOCIATION FOR NEW TECHNOLOGIES (MANT)		

# Work package IV

Work package type and ref.nr	DEVELOPMENT		WP.4
TITLE	CREATION OF UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS COOPERATION PLATFORM		
Tasks	4.1 To organize introduction seminar on university-business cooperation 4.2 To organize development workshops on university-business cooperation 4.3 To create EXPO identity, founding documents, guidelines and materials 4.4 To constitute EXPO managing structures and plan of work 4.5 To implement EXPO 4.6 To extend EXPO membership and revise university-business cooperation work plan		
Estimated Start Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	15-07-2020	Estimated End Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	30-09-2022
Lead Organisation	P8 UNIVERSITY MARIBOR (UM), P1 UNIVERSITY OF BANJA LUKA (UNIBL)		

# Work package V

Work package type and ref.nr	DEVELOPMENT		WP.5
TITLE	KNOWLDEGE TRANSFER ACROSS AGRI-COMMUNITY		
Tasks	5.1 To implement student crash courses 5.2 To organize knowledge transfer seminar for extension service providers 5.3 To organize knowledge transfer seminar for agronomists and agriculture cooperatives 5.4 To organize knowledge transfer seminar for policy makers in AET 5.5 To organize knowledge transfer seminar for agriculture businesses		
Estimated Start Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	15-10-2021	Estimated End Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	30-04-2022
Lead Organisation	P9 UNIVERSITY OF AGRONOMIC SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE OF BUCUREȘTI (USAMV), P3 SVEUČILIŠTE U MOSTARU (SUM)		

# Work package VI

Work package type and ref.nr	QUALITY ASSURANCE		WP.6
TITLE	QUALITY ASSURANCE		
Tasks	6.1 To organize Quality team meetings 6.2 To carry out 2 progress evaluations 6.3 To carry out external evaluation 6.4 To carry out verification of costs		
Estimated Start Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	15-10-2019	Estimated End Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	14-10-2022
Lead Organisation	P4 UNIVERSITY IN TUZLA (UNTZ), P13 WESTERN BALKANS INSTITUTE (WEBIN)		



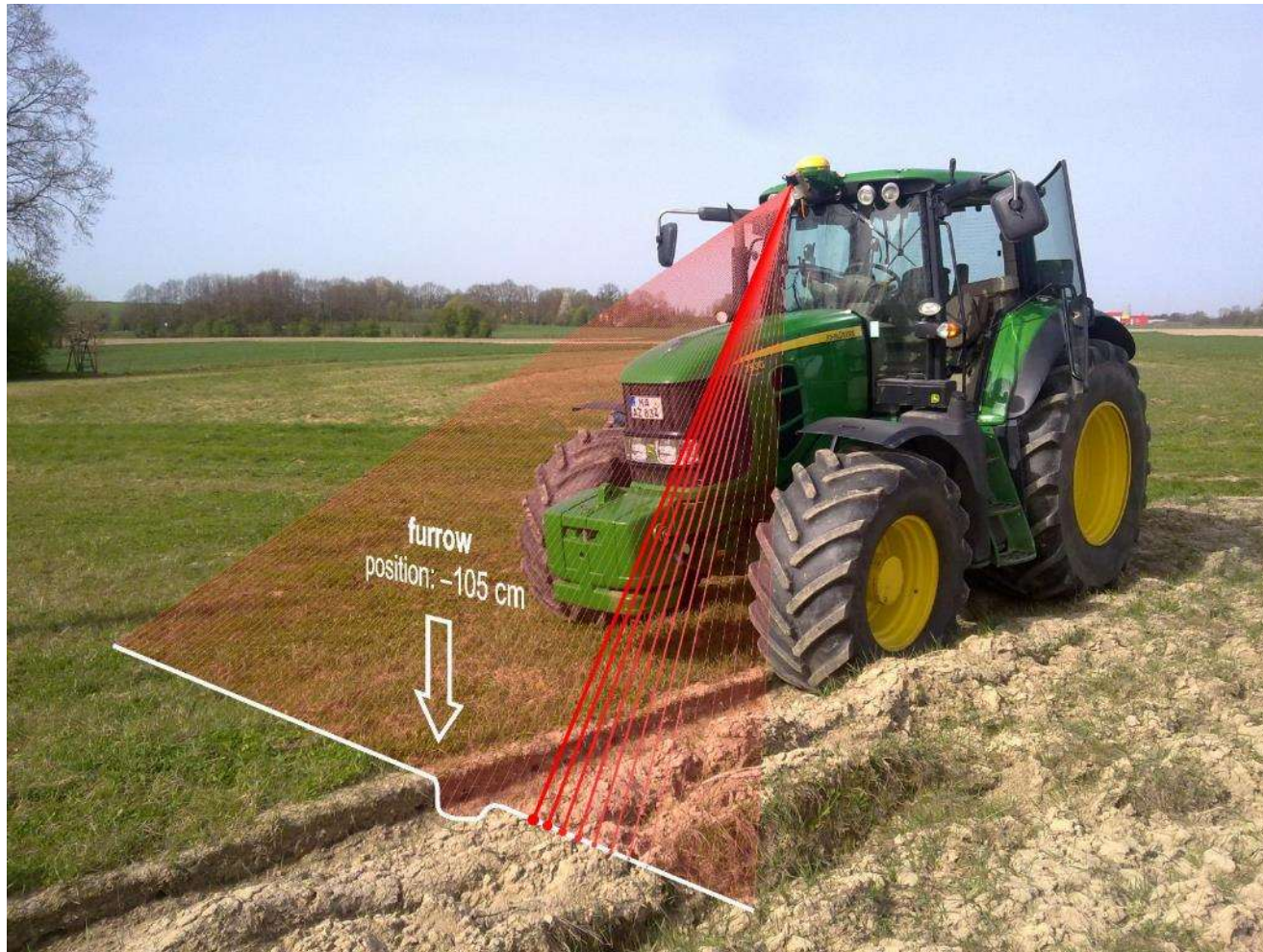
# Work package VII

Work package type and ref.nr	DISSEMINATION & EXPLOITATION		WP.7
TITLE	RESULTS DISSEMINATION & EXPLOITATION		
Tasks	7.1 To provide for project web portal regular maintenance 7.2 To organize internal institutional dissemination events 7.3 To carry out small-scale improvements of agriculture teaching practice 7.4 To carry out media promotion 7.5 To organize dissemination conference		
Estimated Start Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	15-10-2019	Estimated End Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	14-10-2022
Lead Organisation	P13 WESTERN BALKANS INSTITUTE (WEBIN), P5 UNIVERZITET BIJEIJINA (UBN)		

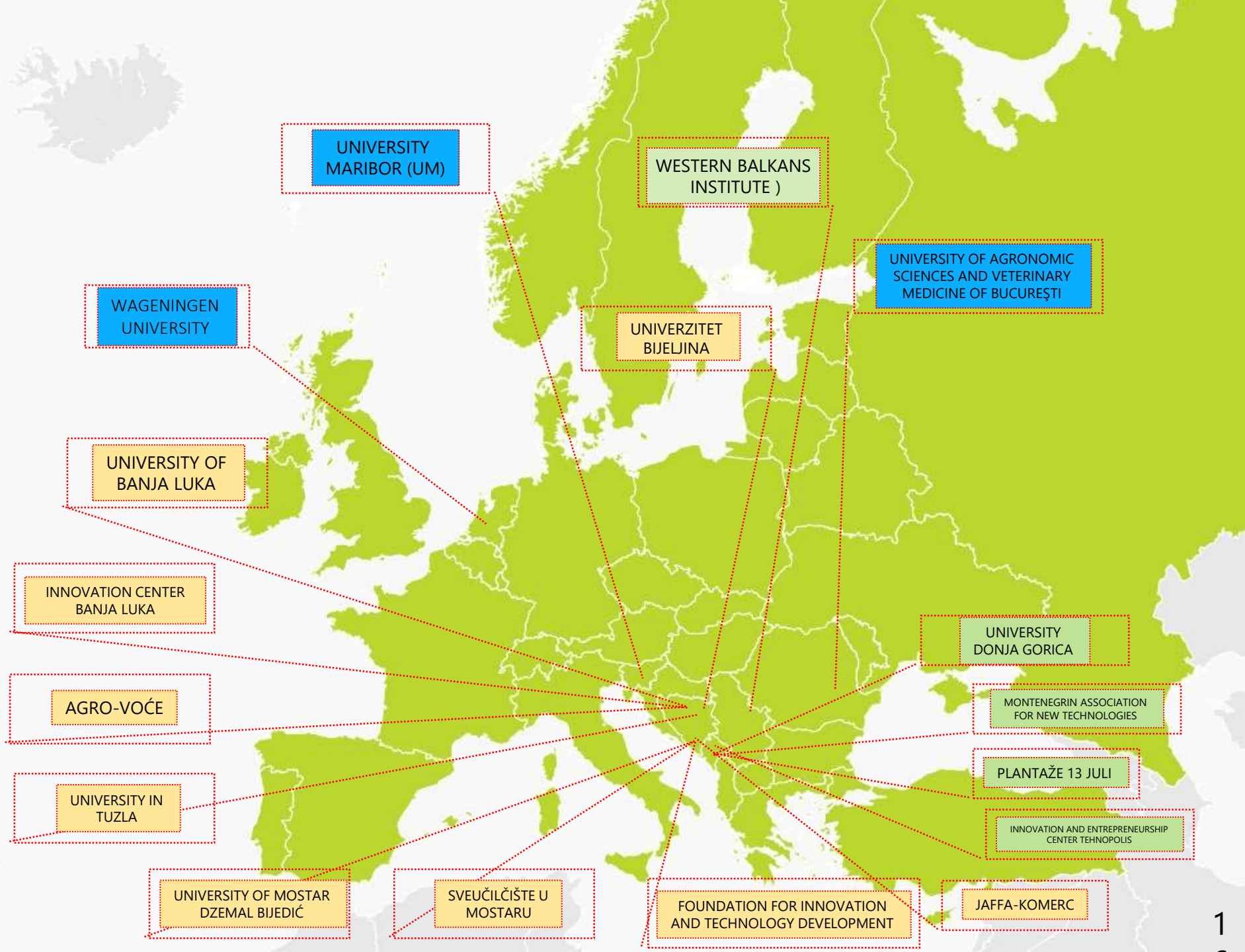
# Work package VIII

Work package type and ref.nr	MANAGEMENT		WP.8
TITLE	MANAGEMENT		
Tasks	8.1 To organize Kick off meeting and and deliver PM training 8.2 To organize Steering Committee meetings 8.3 To provide for smooth daily project management and administration		
Estimated Start Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	15-10-2019	Estimated End Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	14-10-2022
Lead Organisation	P1. UNIVERSITY OF BANJA LUKA (UNIBL)		

# Partners







UNIVERSITY  
MARIBOR (UM)

WESTERN BALKANS  
INSTITUTE )

UNIVERSITY OF AGRONOMIC  
SCIENCES AND VETERINARY  
MEDICINE OF BUCUREȘTI

UNIVERZITET  
BIJEJINA

WAGENINGEN  
UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF  
BANJA LUKA

INNOVATION CENTER  
BANJA LUKA

AGRO-VOĆE

UNIVERSITY IN  
TUZLA

UNIVERSITY OF MOSTAR  
DZEMAL BIJEDIĆ

SVEUČILIŠTE U  
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AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

JAFFA-KOMERC

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DONJA GORICA

MONTENEGRIN ASSOCIATION  
FOR NEW TECHNOLOGIES

PLANTAŽE 13 JULI

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
CENTER TEHNOPOLIS



**Duration:**  
november 2019 – september 2022



**Budget:**  
888.000 €



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