

## Enhancement of Postgraduate Studies on Sustainable Agriculture and Future Farming Systems

Issue 1, September 2020

### Funding programme

**Programme:** Erasmus +

**Key action:** Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

**Action:** Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)

### Project duration

15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Description and key facts

The project addresses the demand of educating doctoral students on high quality and international standards to increase knowledge based solutions for sustainable agriculture and future farming systems – a topic of national, crossregional and international relevance.

Large agricultural areas characterize the landscapes and economies of Russia and Kazakhstan and both countries see the innovative development of this sector as a priority. Compared to this, skilled labour and innovation potential is lacking. As a reaction, a number of initiatives target to build up human resources on all levels (farm workers, specialists, managers) and as well to improve higher education institutions (HEIs). Despite the progress in joining and pursuing the Bologna process, brain drain of young talents and deficient and outdated educational offers for PhD studies impede the goals of HEIs to become international competitive.

### The Project Objectives

#### Objective 1:

to develop and establish four post-graduate modules at 8 HEIs in different regions to qualify doctoral students on inter- and transdisciplinary contents and approaches relevant for agricultural research and innovation

#### Objective 2:

to increase the human capacity, literature base and equipment of partner institutions to provide doctoral education according to international standards and best-practices

#### Objective 3:

to strengthen international and interregional academic exchange and research cooperation among project partners

#### Objective 4:

to establish a network on doctoral research and education in the agricultural field targeted on the exchange of best practices with a wider audience

### Contents

Key facts.....	1
Target groups.....	2
Project Kick-Off.....	3
Further activities.....	4
SAGRIS partners and contacts.....	5



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## SAGRIS Target Groups

### Students

Enrolled and potential postgraduate students get benefits from elaborated thematic and methodological modules, updated postgraduate education programmes and block-seminars. They gain additional qualification on in-depth professional knowledge and on inter- and transdisciplinary approaches for sustainable agriculture. Academic mobility and possibility to interact with other national and international experts of the same study field contribute to their deeper insight for a potential academic future.

### Academic staff

Increase their qualification and enhance their potential and expertise through the project findings and results as well as raise awareness to the issues of sustainable agriculture and future farming systems, facilitate inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation in these areas. The inter-institutional exchange serves to assess and reflect the different pathways and quality assurance for doctoral studies and further develop them by getting inputs and best practice examples from associated experts and invited resource persons.

### HEIs

Universities improve the quality of postgraduate programs, introduce innovative teaching methods, update the library fund, realize the mechanism for ensuring the quality of education and improve educational programs, exchange the experience of the consortium members, more deeply comprehend the standards of the quality of dissertation preparation, develop solutions and proposals to improve the quality of education at the level of doctoral studies in agriculture.

### Scientific audience

SAGRIS broadens scientific network in the field of sustainable agriculture and future farming systems and engages scientists from other educational and research institutions for cooperation, feedback and peer-reviews. Russian Academy of Sciences and NASEC are contributing their expertise and promote the scientific results obtained due the project course to scientific audience.

### Policy

SAGRIS project attracts attention of the policy makers and initiates a network structure to jointly promote the common interests in improving postgraduate education in the field of sustainable agriculture and future farming systems.

### Practice

SAGRIS informs small and medium innovative enterprises, agricultural producers, NGOs and other interested societal groups on project activities and innovative results.

### Wider audience

The project addresses the wider public audience as far as it concerns to bridge universities' activities with the embedding society and to raise awareness on the working fields of future farming systems, influence the research topics and approaches to them, improve partnerships with universities in the field of practical research, improve the quality of practice-oriented research, get qualified specialists with strategic thinking, capable of taking responsibility.

Found yourself among the target groups?...

Want to learn how you can benefit?...

Interested to cooperate with us?...

Contact  
us to find  
out more!



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## Grant Holder's Meeting in Brussels' 20

On January 27-28, 2020 Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) in Brussels, Belgium organised a meeting for the Erasmus+ National Agencies, National Erasmus+ offices with project winners of the Erasmus+: CBHE Call 2019. Over 420 participants from 79 countries attended the event. Project managers from Nuertingen-Geislingen University MSc. Anna Borsuk and from Novosibirsk SAU Ms. Liubov Shmidt participated in the event being the responsible Universities for the project management. Bilateral meeting with project officers of EACEA, NEO and project representatives was arranged and all the relevant and significant issues were discussed and agreed upon.



From right to left: Anna Borsuk (University Nuertingen-Geislingen), Liubov Shmidt (Novosibirsk State Agricultural University)



From right to left: Anna Muraveyeva (NEO Russia), Olga Oleynikova (NEO Russia), Gulmira Kuttybayeva (NEO Kazakhstan), Anna Borsuk (SAGRIS project manager, University Nuertingen-Geislingen), Anne Spangemacher (SAGRIS Project Officer, EACEA)



From right to left: Liubov Shmidt (Novosibirsk State Agricultural University), Anna Borsuk (University Nuertingen-Geislingen)

## Project Kick-Off and the 1st Steering Committee Meeting

On 6-8 February the project coordinator, Nuertingen-Geislingen University, Germany has welcomed all project partners representing wide geography of institutions from Europe to Central Asia, Siberia and Far East for the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee Meeting. The meeting served a platform for a fruitful exchange among project partners on project objectives and roadmap. Implementation of a large-scale project like SAGRIS is, assumes a well thought structure and functioning bodies, therefore the Steering Committee paid attention to set up of project working groups, allocation of responsibilities and establishment of project procedures for quality assurance, project dissemination and management. A core part of the meeting was dedicated to the issues regards elaboration of SAGRIS Modules for doctoral education as well as to establishment of cooperation network on postgraduate studies.



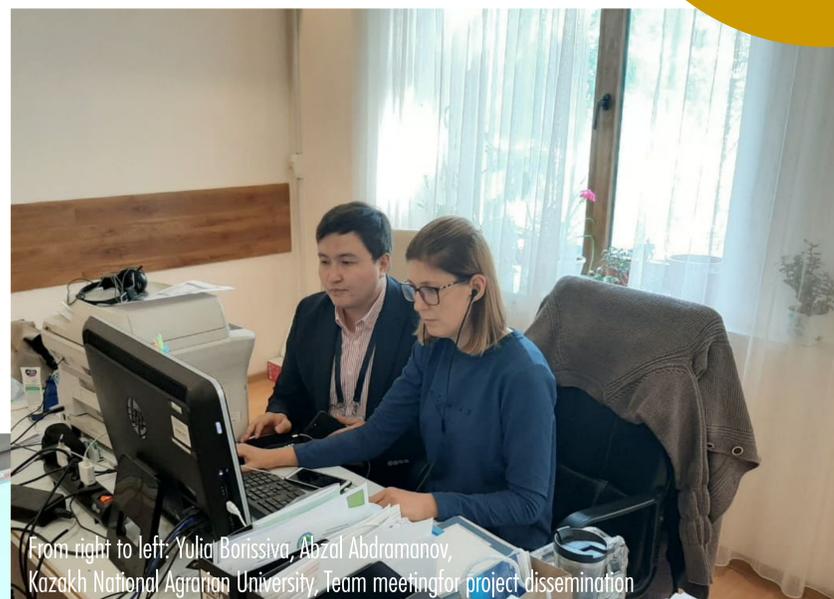
From right to left: Liubov Shmidt, Aliya Ismailova, Nadezhda Meleshenko, Anarkul Tursinbaeva, Brigitte Kaufmann, Gulshat Shaikamal, Irina Bogdashkina, Yuliya Borissova at the 1st Steering Committee Meeting in Nuertingen-Geislingen University



From right to left: Roger Evans, Axel Schwerk, Ivan Kochish, Konstantin Nifontov, Galina Motova, Svyatoslav Serikov, Nurgul Kydyrmina, Michal Lostak at the 1st Steering Committee Meeting in Nuertingen-Geislingen University



From right to left: Galina Motova, Elena Savinykh  
National Centre for Public Accreditation, SAGRIS Steering Committee meeting



From right to left: Yulia Borissiva, Abzal Abdramanov,  
Kazakh National Agrarian University, Team meeting for project dissemination



Margarita Novgorodova,  
Arctic State Agro-Technological University,  
Steering Committee Meeting



From right to left: Irina Bogdashkina, Gulzhamal Irgalieva,  
Zhangir Khan West Kazakhstan Agrarian-Technical University, Module 4 Working Group meeting



From right to left: Yulia Bezgina, Svyatoslav Serikov,  
Stavropol State Agricultural University, Strategy Network Group meeting

## Further SAGRIS activities

- During the upcoming project years, the consortium core activities will be implemented in relation to the new SAGRIS Modules and their pilot implementation.
- Study trips to EU partner institutions will be a part of the training and capacity building for the key staff from partner universities, responsible for implementation of new modules.
- Block Seminars with involvement of the leading national and international experts from the module-related areas will be offered to doctoral students from partner institutions.
- Two public conferences on the project-related audience with involvement of leading scientist, international experts and wider audience, addressing the demand-driven issues of sustainable agriculture and doctoral education in partner countries.
- And many more....

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## SAGRIS partners and contacts

### EU partners

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### Non-academic partners

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### Associated partners

#### Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation

#### Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

#### Sustainable Agriculture and Future Farming Systems

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