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PREPORUKE EVROPSKOG PROJEKTA

Nakon dvogodišnjih aktivnosti Evropski projekt pod nazivom *Balkanska agroprehrambena mreža* (Balkan Agro Food Network - BAFN) izdao je svoj završni izveštaj 17. aprila 2008. godine.

Od maja 2006. godine, 13 organizacija uključenih u BAFN projekt je implementiralo nekoliko aktivnosti sa ciljem unapredjenja saradnje naučnika zemalja EU i Zapadnog Balkana u oblasti poljoprivrede i prehrambene industrije. Napravljena je baza podataka sa više od 330 istraživačkih grupa i 480 kompanije iz poljoprivrednog i prehrambenog sektora koja se nalazi na web adresi: www.bafn.eu. Više od 180 istraživačkih grupa je učestvovalo u proceni trenutne situacije u oblasti poljoprivrede i prehrambene industrije zemalja Zapadnog Balkana. Organizovana su četiri sastanka sa ekspertima Albanije, Bosne i Hercegovine, Srbije i Makedonije sa ciljem identifikacije prioriternih aktivnosti u oblasti poljoprivrede i prehrambene industrije za naučnike ovog regiona.

Osnovni cilj projekta BAFN je bio identifikacija istraživačkih oblasti koje su najprikladnije za saradnju naučnika zemalja EU i Zapadnog Balkana. Drugi cilj projekta je bio predlog mehanizama podrške koji mogu doprineti agro-prehrambenoj istraživačkoj zajednici u zemljama Zapadnog Balkana. Finalni rezultati su razmatrani sa predstavnicima Evropske Komisije u martu 2008. godine u Parizu.

Na osnovu uradjene studije se može zaključiti da je budućnost istraživačke zajednice u oblasti poljoprivrede i prehrambene industrije u zemljama Zapadnog Balkana ugrožena, prvenstveno veoma niskim budžetom namenjenim istraživanjima. Istraživački kapaciteti su rasuti na veliki broj istraživačkih organizacija (80 istraživačkih organizacija uključujući 16 univerziteta) dok je, s druge strane, istraživačka zajednica mala, tj. procenjuje se da ima 3500 istraživača u poljoprivrednom i prehrambenom sektoru. S toga je ključna poruka nadležnim za pokretanje saradnje u oblasti istraživanja da će »sa malo truda imati veliki učinak«: podstiče se EU da projektima FP7 ali i zemlje članice EU da bilateralnim programima učvrste saradnju i daju podršku istraživačkoj zajednici zemalja Zapadnog Balkana u oblasti poljoprivrede i prehrambene industrije.

Konačno, BAFN projekt ističe mehanizme pomoći istraživačima u oblasti poljoprivrede i prehrambene industrije koji se odnose na inicijative za nabavku istraživačke opreme i potrošnog materijala, stimulaciju istraživačke mobilnosti i usavršavanja, veću dostupnost naučnim časopisima, elektronskim bazama podataka, itd. Takođe su identifikovane oblasti pogodne za saradnju sa drugim zemljama. Velika je zainteresovanost za projekte koji obuhvataju genetičke resurse i ugrožene vrste u kontekstu biodiverziteta. Istaknuto je, takođe, da su istraživanja hemijskih kontaminanata, alergena i toksina u hrani i zoonoza, kao i istraživanja u oblasti nutricionizma i dijetetike od velikog interesa.



After two years of activity, the European Project BALKAN AGRO FOOD NETWORK (BAFN) published its final reports on the 17th of April 2008.

Since May 2006, the 13 organisations involved in the BAFN project have implemented several activities in order to improve cooperation between agri-food scientists from EU and from the Western Balkan Countries. A directory with more than 330 research groups and 480 companies from the agricultural and food sector was set up at www.bafn.eu. More than 180 research groups participated to a survey on the situation of agricultural and food research in the Western Balkan Countries. Four meetings with experts from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia and FYROM were organised to identify the region's future priorities in the agri-food research sector. Several consultations of stakeholders were also organised.

The main objective of BAFN was to identify research topics suitable for cooperation between scientists from EU and Western Balkan Countries (WBC). Another objective was to propose support mechanisms which could benefit to the agri-food research community from the WBC. The final results were discussed with representatives from the European Commission in Paris in March 2008.

The study reveals that the future of the agri-food research community in the Western Balkan Countries is jeopardised mainly because of the very low budget available for research. The research capacity is scattered into a large number of organisations (47 research organisations including 17 universities) but overall, the agri-food research community is small with an estimate of 3.500 researchers. Hence, a key message for those in charge of programming research cooperation is that "*a small effort will have a big impact*". The project encourages the EU and member states to reinforce their cooperation with the Western Balkan Countries through the FP7 and through bilateral programmes.

The final BAFN report highlights several mechanisms which could help agri-food research in the WBC, such as incentives for the purchase of research equipment and consumables, stimulation of researcher mobility and training or easier access to resources (scientific journals, electronic databases etc). Areas suitable for cooperation with other countries were also identified. There is a large consensus for biodiversity with projects related to the conservation of genetic resources and indigenous species. Research on chemical contaminants, food allergens and toxins in food, animal husbandry and zoonoses as well as nutrition and dietetics have also been identified as interesting topics.