

Improvement of Information Exchange between Education Institutions in the SEE Region

Workshop

**Godollo, Hungary
1-3, June 2005**

The meeting was organized as the follow-up of the following events:

FAO National Committees on the Internet (Godollo, Hungary, 1999);
FAO-related National Information on the Internet (Prague, Czech Republic, 2001);
CEE Expert Meeting (Budapest, Hungary, 2004).

The main objective of the meeting was to enhance e-communication among the agricultural education institutions within the countries of the SEE Region, and evaluate the possibilities to develop further the AgroWeb sub-portal structure.

The workshop was attended by twelve participants from seven SEE region countries, namely Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovenia. Representatives from other institutions involved in the process of information management in agriculture - namely the FAO SEUR, AgroWeb CEE, Osteuropazentrum – University of Hohenheim, Progis and the GAK NGO - also took part in the meeting.

During the presentations and the discussions special emphasis was put on the initiatives that promote bridging the rural digital divide and support information literacy in the region, such as Agora and iMARC.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants expressed their willingness to cooperate in the following topics:

1. To create Web-based platform for information exchange (AgroWeb education platform) between the education institutions within the SEE region and later share and extend the cooperation with other important agricultural information related services outside the region;

- Mr. Cosmin Salasan, Romania, was appointed as the programme coordinator for education network. The following experts were appointed as national coordinators in the respective countries: Ms Mersiha Alkic, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Ms Lina Yordanova, Bulgaria; Mr Ivan Pejic, Croatia; Mr Toni Dovenski, FYR Macedonia; Ms Ludmila Costin, Moldova; Mr Cosmin Salasan, Romania; Mr Dusan Petric, Serbia and Montenegro; Mr Tomaz Bartol, Slovenia. The contact data are available in the AgroWeb contact database: <http://agrowebcee.net/agroweb/contacts/>;
- The network could cooperate with and can be supported by OEZ (Osteuropazentrum – University of Hohenheim), FAO, and other institutions;

3. Nomination of Mr Tomaz Bartol, Slovenia as a programme coordinator for the Library and Information Centres sub-portal;

- the sub-portal serve as a common platform for the library and information centers within the AgroWeb Network, with close collaboration with IAALD. National coordinators will be Ms L. Yordanova, Bulgaria; Mr I. Kraljevski, Macedonia; Ms L. Costin, Moldova, Ms C. M. Salasan, Romania; Mr T. Bartol, Slovenia;
- the tools of Open Access to Information should be better exploited and promoted on the AgroWeb, such as DOAJ- Directory of Open Access Journals; the examples of Acta Agriculturae Slovenica or Journal of Central European Agriculture (<http://www.doaj.org/>). Tomaz Bartol and Karmen Stopar will analyse the contents of DOAJ with the view of attracting more SEE collaborators;
- -IAALD could be exploited as a way of enhancing library and information networking among the professionals and institutions in the region;
- explore possibilities of organizing the tenth CEE or pan European Library Roundtable (<http://www.iaald.org/cee/index.php?page=roundtables.php>) in cooperation with IAALD in the Budapest (October 2006 or May 2007);

4. Improvement of the Food and Nutrition sub-portal under the coordination of Ms Mirjana Pavlovic, Serbia and Montenegro;

- national coordinator of the Food and Nutrition sub-portal for Bulgaria will be Ms Stefka Petrova, the others will be identified later;
- sub-portal recommendations will be sent to all AgroWeb portal managers in all respective countries and program coordinators for Food and Nutrition;
- World Food Day activities in all countries will be included in this sub-portal based on the recommendations of the Program Coordinator;

5. Introduction of a new Land-related sub-portal under the coordination of Mr Vladimir Evtimov, FAO SEUR Land Tenure and Rural Development Officer. The content of the sub-portal will be worked up later. A test application will be piloted by a few AW national pages with the participation of Bulgaria (Mr Pavel Milenov) and Austria (Mr Walter Mayer); it should serve as an important component in advanced agricultural practice, including education for agriculture;

6. Introduction of a new sub-portal on Animal Welfare under the coordination of Mr Rastislav Kolesar, WSPA. The SEE countries will nominate national coordinators as soon as possible;

7. Establishing an expert working group with the aim of addressing technical issues regarding the AgroWeb (standardization). (Mr C. Salasan, Mr I. Hitrec, Mr I. Kraljevski in cooperation with Mr A. Manukyan);

8. Prepare conditions for implementation of WAICENT tools for content management (EIMS and NEMS) on the AgroWeb sub-portals in cooperation with FAO GILW/F and FAO SEUR;

9. In addition to English as a common language of the AW CEE network, national pages should intensively use and promote national-language information services;

10. AgroWeb should be exploited as a teaching tool for students at different levels of higher education; it can entail further possibilities in the area of distance learning. The example of AW Slovenia can be received;

11. Experienced AgroWeb portal managers will assist less advanced partners (e.g. I. Kraljevski of FYR Macedonia will assist M. Alkic of Bosnia & Herzegovina in resolving technical issues);

12. AW network should act as an information catalyst between the developed countries and the less advanced countries, especially in the CAC region. The example is the enfolding Agora project carried out by T. Bartol, Slovenia, in cooperation with the FAO SEUR in the region of CAC;

13. All presentations of the workshop will be published as electronic proceedings of the SEE Workshop on the AgroWeb SEE pages (<http://management.usab-tm.ro/awsee>). Emphasis must be put on informative and quality workshop papers. Mr I. Pocza, Mr T. Bartol, and Mr C. Salasan will act as editors of the Proceedings.

Annex 1. Evaluation form for AgroWeb portal

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Evaluation of the AgroWeb portal and sub-portals in

(insert country name)

Prepared by *(insert your name)*

1. How long do you work in AW?
2. How often is the page updated?
3. What are the major problems your AW page has to face?
4. How many persons, and namely who are those, who coordinate national sub-portals in your country? How do you cooperate?
5. What are the major characteristics and specifics of the national language version?
6. Where is your page hosted? *(e.g. your institutional server, public domain server or external host)?*
7. What kind of support would you like to receive from AW technical staff?
8. Proposals for development of the AW Network: *(technical and content)*
9. Other remarks

PAPERS WILL BE REVIEWED AND PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE WORKSHOP. THE PROCEEDING WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE WORKSHOP. THE SIZE OF THE PAPER SHOULD BE 1-2 PAGES.