

Case study on LL programs

Faculty of agriculture in Osijek, Croatia:

Specialist for rural development

Project manager in rural development

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Background

EU perspectives

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- **UN, Our common Future** - sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- 1992 Croatia supported **Agenda 21** and accepts development based on the concept of sustainability
- **Education** is a key for the achievement of sustainable development
- Ministry of Science, Education and Sport developed the **Action Plan for Education for Sustainable Development** aimed at introduction the concept of sustainable development in educational system in Croatia

Background

Croatia perspectives

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- **high unemployment rate** (18,4% August, 2013)
- a lot of **long-term unemployed persons** with higher education
- **need** for highly educated staff with specific expertise in preparation, writing and implementation of development **projects**
- **economy downturn** and low entrepreneurial rate
- Croatia: very **low level of use of European development funds**
- lack of personnel especially in rural communities

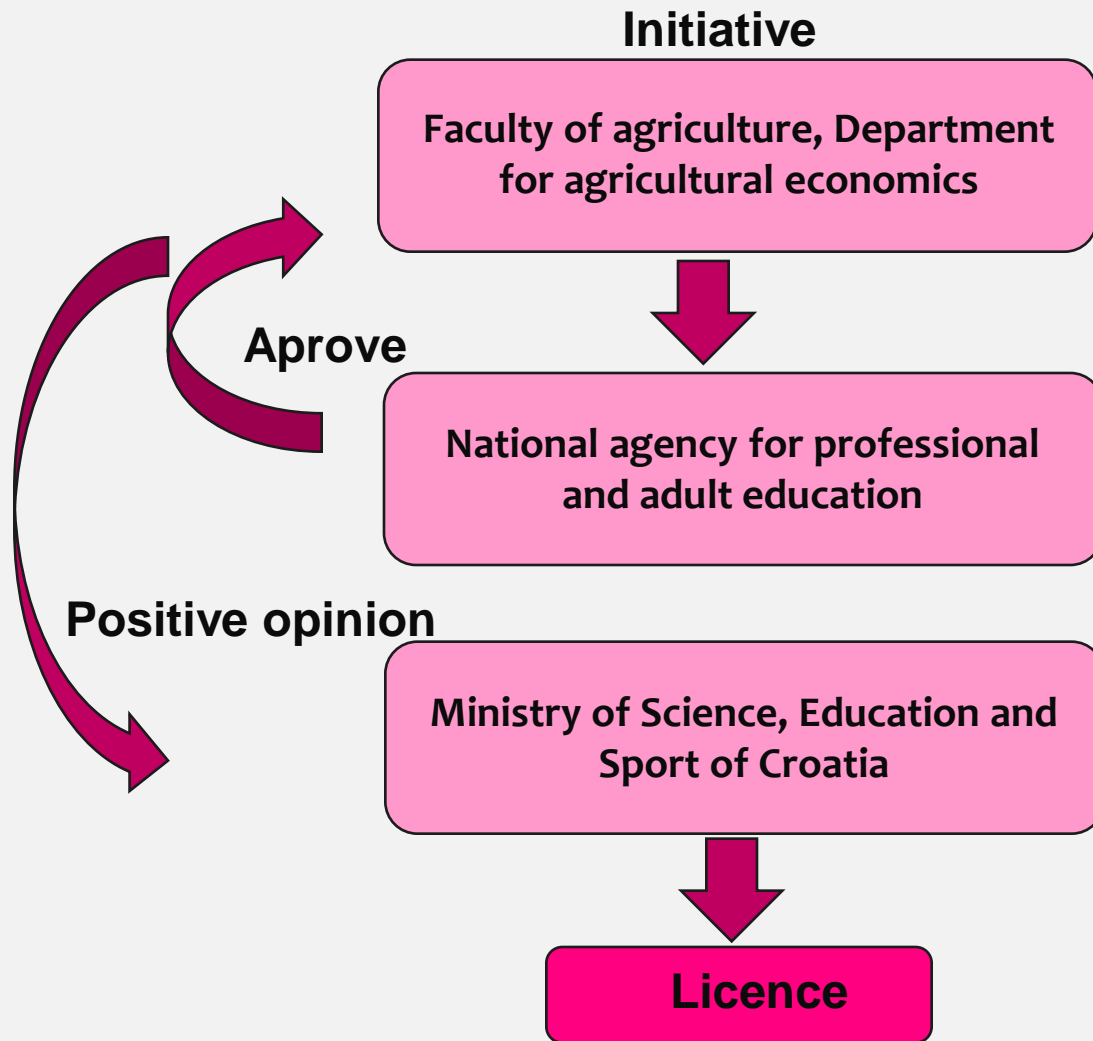
- **Faculty of Agriculture in Osijek** and partners designed and implemented the project: **THE HERA NET**, IPA EU programs, IPA Component IV - Human Resources Development
- Value 172,023.96 €, with a share of the EU grant funds 132,380.03 €
- **Partners:**
 - 3 counties in east Croatia,
 - Town of Valpovo
 - Croatian Employment Service

- **aim of project:** to create and implement **two curricula** for professional development program:
 - 1) **Specialist for rural development**
 - 2) **Project management in rural development**
- focus on further education of persons who have completed college and university education; 150 hours of regular classes according to schedule

Administrative issues

Accreditation process

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Administrative issues

Staff

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- project coordinator
- project leader
- one project administrator
- persons from two east Croatia counties
- one person from Croatian employment service
- teaching staff (professors from Faculty of agriculture and contracted teachers)

- **Professional knowledge:** professors from Faculty of Agriculture
- **Practical knowledge:** Center for technology development of Brod-Posavina County
- **Professors were not paid by HERA-NET fund** (Croatian law state budget users can't be users of EU projects funds)
- **Motivation:** computer and office equipment, participation on study tours and congresses
- After education under HERA-NET project 2013, **LL program Project management in rural development was repeated in 2014**, but participants **have to pay education** by themselves or by their employers

Implementation

Participants

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- **LL Program Specialist for rural development:** 25 participants who passed selection: high education, English language knowledge, computer skills and rural place of residence
- **LL program Project management in rural development:** 120 participants: for 51 of them funds have been provided via project HERA NET, and 69 of them were from LAGs or other interested persons who paid education by themselves or by their employers.

Implementation

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Organizational issues, place

- **Schedule:** working days in 2013, program was designed for unemployed persons
 - in 2014 over the weekend or in working days in the afternoon, users was employed persons
- 110 hours of theoretical education content
 - 90 hours of compulsory theoretical lectures
 - 20 hours of election lectures
- 40 hours of practical classes
- **Place:** Faculty of agriculture in Osijek and High school MA Reljkovic Slavonski Brod



Implementation Promotion

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**Under HERA-NET
(2013)**



CROATIAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICE



Acceptance Tests



**60 from 600
people passed**

**Comercial LL
program (2014)**



CROATIAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICE



**Interested
users**



posters

**Web page
informations**

Concluding remarks and recommendations

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- During HERA-NET **70% of participants started to work** in different companies and organizations
- in 2014, the greatest interest for education from **person from LAGs and persons who already work on projects**
- Established **good contacts** between university experts and program users
- HERA-NET has **developed a network with three employment offices** and now the net is **expanding to local municipalities** who need people and have place for education
- In the future plan is to **apply to EU projects** in order to obtain funds to train persons who work on projects within **Rural Development 2014-2020 program**

Thanks for attention!

