

## ECAP - ENHANCING COMPETENCIES OF CENTRAL ASIAN UNIVERSITIES IN AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOCUSED ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & LAND MANAGEMENT

### Project background

Environmental protection has been a main priority of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union (CAP) in previous programming periods and is highly sophisticated in the current one. Developing the cooperation with countries outside the EU in any economic sector, it is necessary to harmonise basic rules concerning environmental protection and land management to follow objectives defined by the European Commission in mentioned fields.

Strengthening environmental governance and support the development of legislation following EU/international standards is the basic condition for future cooperation between the EU and the region of Central Asia (CA). The project starts from the necessity of enhancement and strengthening the awareness in environmental protection and land management as integral parts of the agricultural policy needed to be implemented in Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan via innovative curricula addressed to students of Uzbek and Kazakh universities, with intention of initiating a public discussion at both - academic level, as well as at the level of policy makers in relevant fields.

### Expected outputs

- **Target Group Needs Analysis** – a document describing training needs of CA partners;
- **Methodological Manual for Curricula Development** – methodological guidelines facilitating creation of courses by adequate methodological approaches;
- **Training Curricula and Courses** – training curricula for students of CA universities at the undergraduate degree;
- **Electronic Platform** – electronic media for placing courses, database of experts, discussion forum;
- **Dissemination materials** – newsletters, posters, leaflets.

### Project objectives

The main objective of the project is to enhance the level of competencies and skills of the Higher Education Institutions in Central Asia (Uzbek and Kazakh universities) by providing them with innovated programme curricula in the field of “Environmental protection and Land Management”.

#### Partial objectives of the project are:

- to develop an innovated programme curricula within the related study programme in order to improve the quality of education in Central Asian countries in the field of environmental protection and land management in the context of a new agrarian policy;
- to increase the awareness of students from Central Asia on legal tools supporting environmental friendly farming practices;
- to create a partnership of European and Central Asian higher education institutions which will benefit from mutual support of education in the field of environmental protection and land management, exchange of knowledge and skills concerning environmental friendly agricultural practices and legal tools development in the field of environmental protection and land management.



## Project consortium

**Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia** – project coordinator. The top educational and scientific institution with 8700 students providing higher education in agriculture and related sciences, such as European studies and regional development, food science, biotechnology, economics and management, landscape architecture, landscape engineering and other technical fields.



**University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria** – the only Austrian university in the area of Natural Resources Management and Life Sciences, with some 12000 students (21% of which are international), with vast experience in co-ordinating research and educational EU projects and managing student and staff exchanges in various scholarship programmes.



**Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, Czech Republic** – in line with the Bologna process, the university provides bachelor, master and doctoral education for more than 23 000 students; from that number more than 2 400 are International students, including approximately 400 students from Central Asia (319 from Kazakhstan and 31 from Uzbekistan).



**Kazakh National Agrarian University, Kazakhstan** – one of the first universities in Kazakhstan which successfully realized the three-levelled-system of preparation of specialists: BSc – MSc – PhD, one of the leading universities in Kazakhstan creating conditions for the development of competitive specialists that are demanded in the agroindustrial sector and the global scientific and educational space.



**Kostanay State University A. Baytursinov, Kazakhstan** - the leading educational scientific and methodological centre in the northern part of the country, comprising 7 faculties with 34 Bachelor, 21 Master and 4 PhD programmes, member of the European Association of Universities, satisfying needs of the regional development via improving the quality of research and education.



**Samarkand State University named after Alisher Navoi** – one of the oldest and largest higher education institutions in Uzbekistan, officially inaugurated during the early years of the 20th century, tracing its roots back to the Ulughbek period in the 14th century. The institution is home to nine faculties with 10 000 students who study undergraduate and graduate degree courses in the institution.



**Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh** – one of the biggest universities located in the western part of Uzbekistan, focusing on the adaptation and development of master program in GIS. Provided education involves bachelor and master courses focused on geographic information systems, environmental monitoring, nature protection and nature management, soil science and land use.





## Project activities and news

The Kick-off Meeting took place 13-16 March 2016. The main aspects of the project were discussed, the financial and administrative issues of the project were reviewed and further steps to implement objectives of the project were identified. According to the results of the meeting, responsibilities for the implementation of the project for each university have been assigned. All ECAP project partners during the kick-off meeting approved the composition of the steering committee. Partners of the project approved the composition of the Quality Management Committee. Quality Management Committee has developed a questionnaire (Partner Meetings' Evaluation Sheet), which was filled by each participant in the opening meeting of each university partner.



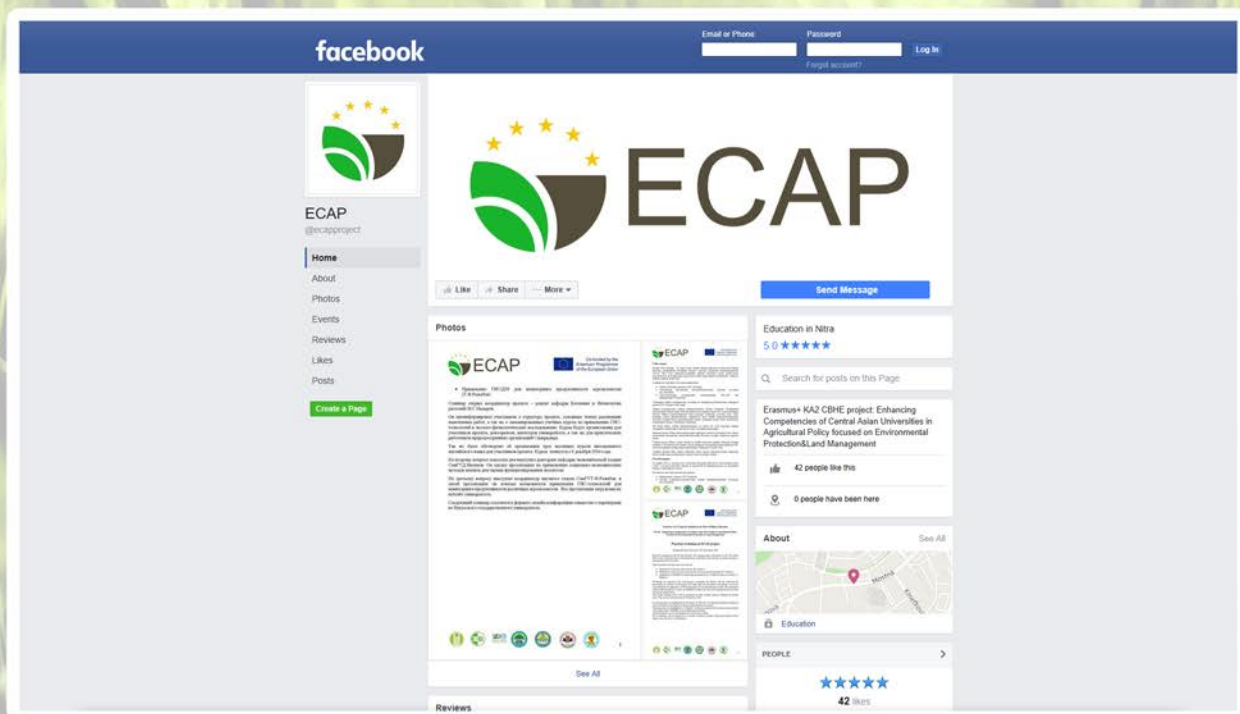


**Training for teachers** from the universities of Central Asia was held in the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague on 19-23 September 2016. Topics of the training were following: Land Management and Soil and Water Resources; The Development and Implementation of Environmental Policy (world, EU, individual states); Land Use Planning and Agriculture: Austrian Experiences and Challenges; Remote Sensing and GIS as Tools for Sustainable Land Management; EU and latest Development in Agricultural Policy; Environmental Protection in Terms of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU. The lecturers were representatives from the European partner universities. The training was conducted in an interactive and discussion form.





Project dissemination has been carried out through the project web page and the Facebook page.



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