



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DELLA
Tuscia



DAFNE
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE
AGRARIE E FORESTALI

Via S. Camillo de Lellis s.n.c. 01100 – Viterbo

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Prof. Roberto Mancinelli

Viterbo, 3/10/2016

To the Director
of the Department of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (DAFNE)
of University of Tuscia

The EPOS project (Innovative Education towards the Needs of the Organic Sector) supports cooperation between seven European universities (in which our University of Tuscia takes part) to develop, test and implement innovative educational approaches addressing the needs of the labour market in European organic sector and beyond.

The high international quality, comprehensive knowledge in the area of organic food should be transferred to the wide community of students through the educational programme of single universities.

The set of methods proposed in the EPOS Project is attuned to address European employers' expectations, both sector-specific and general (including e.g. strengthening of students' team working skills, communication skills, computer skills, ability to adapt to new situations, analytical and problem solving skills, and fluent communication in English).

In the EPOS project were developed and tested the following tools and combined methods of study for the training at University level:

- e-learning;
- Intensive Summer School;
- internship with stakeholders.

Consequently, given the good results achieved in the EPOS project and given that changes to training programs are proposed and discussed in the winter time, I would like to propose to the Dept. DAFNE the possibility of inclusion of the tested tools and combined methods of study in the study programs at MSc level of the Department.

In addition, I would like to propose the inclusion in a degree course program of the teaching course titled " Problem solving within organic farms" of which the program is reported below.

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Teaching Course of "Problem solving within organic farms" (3 ECTS)

Lecturers:

Roberto Mancinelli; Emanuele Radicetti

Prerequisite:

It is recommended that students have a good level of knowledge in Agricultural Ecology, Agronomy, Herbaceous crops as well as general knowledge of Agrometeorology, Biology, Botany, Plant Physiology, Soil chemistry, in order to follow and better understand the discussed issues and relations between the various topics considered in the course.

Program

Course objectives

The course aims to provide basic knowledge on:

- European legislation and functioning of the organic production sector in Italy;
- The factors which influence the production in the organic sector;
- The quality characteristics of the organic products and organic food chain;
- The methods to find solutions in such critical situations in the organic farm;
- The cooperation with the stakeholders in the organic sector;
- The development of innovative solutions for the organic food production;
- The development of group work to reach the best solution for stakeholders and the overcoming of all critical issues along the organic food chain.

Course contents

The aim of the teaching course is to transfer to the students the practical activities and the practical problems that occur in the organic farms. Students will learn how to solve critical situations in the practical way.

The main aspects which will be addressed with students will be:

- acquisition of the concept of farm as agro-ecosystem;
- principles and functioning of the production and transformation of organic food;
- Influence of agronomic interventions on the production of quality and quantity of organic food;
- understanding of the European legislation on organic production;
- investigation on the agronomic innovative solution in the organic production;
- training at the working an interdisciplinary work of group to find the best solutions in the solving of the problems.
- development of the ability of students to collaborate with stakeholders;
- development of group work to reach the best solution for stakeholders and the overcoming of all critical issues along the organic food chain.

References

Literature suggested during the course by the professors.

Lectures in the class: 4 hours.

Activities in the farm: 20 hours.

Work at home: 51 hours.