

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION**
**CURRICULUM OF STUDENTS INTERNSHIPS / PROBLEM SOLVING PROJECTS**
**Developed within the EPOS Strategic Partnership project (No. 2014-1-PL01-KA203-003392)**

Title/name of the course	<b>Problem Solving Projects in The Organic Food Production Chain</b>
<b>Background</b>	<p>According to the ‘Agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems 2011’, higher education should provide graduates with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed on the labour market. As stated in the Agenda, involving employers in the study programmes and including practical experience in courses may help attune curricula to current and emerging labour market needs and foster employability and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>One of the sectors of the European market characterized by dynamic growth, but still hardly supported by well-educated and skilled quality experts, is organic food sector. As organic farming has recently come to the fore as an agricultural approach that can produce safe, high quality food, the organic food sector in Europe is dynamic, creating workplaces for the skilled and knowledgeable graduates. This indicates the urgent necessity of educating high quality experts in the field of organic food and farming, to satisfy the labour market and to support the organic sector.</p>
<b>Overall scope &amp; content of the course</b>	<p>The course is organised around work on real life cases that support development of the organic sector. During the course, students carry out a problem-solving project in co-operation with stakeholders operating in the field of organic food production chain. The stakeholders define a development challenge connected to their activities, and the students, working as a small group, attempt to find a solution or solutions. During the project, students learn from the experts in such fields as organic food production, processing, retail, administration or research.</p>
<b>Course phases (steps)</b>	<p>The phases of the course are as follows: (1) Selection of the companies – a teacher can use existing contacts or search for new partners; (2) Identification of problems to be solved; (3) Building students groups (3 students/group); (4) Matching the students and companies; (5) The students, supervised by the teacher, work with companies, to offer solutions to the identified problems; (6) Writing final reports &amp; preparing oral presentations; (7) Final assignments; (8) Course evaluation by participants.</p>
<b>Course duration</b>	16 weeks (4 months)
<b>Course supervision - roles</b>	<p>Course supervisor (teacher): selects companies, participates in creating the students groups, provides background, meets up with the students once a week to monitor progress &amp; gives advice on any current issues, grades student, carries out the final course evaluation &amp; analyses the students &amp; stakeholders feedback. If necessary (depending on the studied problem), organizes consultations with additional experts.</p>
<b>Course objectives</b>	<p>The proposed cooperation of students with employers, thus providing practical experience to students, aims to enhance the quality of education, increase its relevance towards the labour market conditions &amp; needs and, in perspective, to improve students’ employability.</p>
<b>Language of the course</b>	In EPOS: Polish, Finish, German, Spanish, Czech, Estonian, Italian (language of the country where the course is organized)
<b>Teaching methods</b>	<p>Group work; Virtual &amp; face-to-face meetings &amp; discussion with stakeholders; Interviews with stakeholders &amp; experts; Studying literature &amp; reports; Creative problem solving attitude; Writing report; Group presentations.</p>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>The course will allow successful students to: (a) apply theoretical knowledge to practical problems in a real life context; (b) carry out a small-scale project; (c) practice skills in oral and written presentations, and communicate in and with a group of experts; (d)</p>

	strengthen entrepreneurship, team-working skills, ability to adapt to new situations, analytical and problem solving skills.
<b>Methods for verification of the teaching effects</b>	Verification tools: written group report and an oral group presentation. Each group produces a written report and a presentation on their case. The reports are assessed by the teacher. The groups receive grades & feedbacks. The stakeholders are invited to the final course evaluation event and give their opinions together with the teacher.
<b>Number of credits (ECTS)</b>	3-4 ECTS
<b>Target group</b>	The course is targeted to students studying Organic Agriculture, Agriculture, Food Science, Environmental Protection and related areas. The main target group: Master degree students; optionally: students of the last year of Bachelor degree.
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Ideally: Basic knowledge & understanding of the organic farming & food sector. Specific prerequisites: depending on the stakeholders & problems addressed (different background is needed for the farmers and processors; as well as for the marketing related problems vs. the crop rotation problems).
<b>Products of the course</b>	PPT presentations, written reports
<b>Course evaluation methods</b>	Questionnaires for students and stakeholders participating in the course, to be completed during the final course evaluation meeting.
<b>Relevant literature</b>	Depending on the identified stakeholders' problems, different literature items should be recommended. The most important background literature necessary to introduce participants into the topic of organic food & farming would be: - IFOAM Principles of Organic Agriculture: <a href="http://www.ifoam.bio/sites/default/files/poa_english_web.pdf">http://www.ifoam.bio/sites/default/files/poa_english_web.pdf</a> - FIBL&IFOAM 2016. The World of Organic Agriculture: <a href="https://shop.fibl.org/fileadmin/documents/shop/1698-organic-world-2016.pdf">https://shop.fibl.org/fileadmin/documents/shop/1698-organic-world-2016.pdf</a> - Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91: <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:189:0001:0023:EN:PDF">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:189:0001:0023:EN:PDF</a>
<b>The authors &amp; organizers of the course within EPOS (name of the University in the national language, Erasmus code, country)</b>	Szkoła Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego w Warszawie (WULS-SGGW), Poland (PL WARSZAW05); Helsingin Yliopisto (UH), Finland (SF HELSINKI01); Universitaet Kassel (UoK), Germany (D KASSEL01); Universidad Politecnica de Madrid (UPM), Spain (E MADRID05); Jihočeská Univerzita w Ceskych Budejovicach (USB), Czech Republic (CZ CESKE01); Eesti Maulikool (EULS), Estonia (EE TARTU01); Università degli Studi Della Tuscia (UNITUS), Italy (I VITERBO01).
<b>Teachers supervising the course within EPOS (names &amp; contact email-addresses)</b>	<b>Poland (WULS):</b> Prof. Ewa Rembiałkowska ( <a href="mailto:ewa_rembialkowska@sggw.pl">ewa_rembialkowska@sggw.pl</a> ) and Dr. Dominika Średnicka-Tober ( <a href="mailto:dominika_srednicka_tober@sggw.pl">dominika_srednicka_tober@sggw.pl</a> ). <b>Finland (UH):</b> Dr. Ritva Mynttinen ( <a href="mailto:ritva.mynttinen@helsinki.fi">ritva.mynttinen@helsinki.fi</a> ), Dr. Eeva Uusitalo ( <a href="mailto:eeva.uusitalo@helsinki.fi">eeva.uusitalo@helsinki.fi</a> ), and Doc. Irina Herzon ( <a href="mailto:iryna.herzon@helsinki.fi">iryna.herzon@helsinki.fi</a> ). <b>Germany (UoK):</b> Prof. Peter von Fragstein und Niemsdorff ( <a href="mailto:pvf@uni-kassel.de">pvf@uni-kassel.de</a> ). <b>Spain (UPM):</b> Prof. Teresa Briz ( <a href="mailto:teresa.briz@upm.es">teresa.briz@upm.es</a> ). <b>Italy (UNITUS):</b> Prof. Roberto Mancinelli ( <a href="mailto:mancinel@unitus.it">mancinel@unitus.it</a> ) and Dr. Emanuele Radicetti ( <a href="mailto:radicetti@unitus.it">radicetti@unitus.it</a> ). <b>Czech Republic (USB):</b> Doc. Jan Moudry ( <a href="mailto:JMoudry@seznam.cz">JMoudry@seznam.cz</a> ) and Doc. Petr Konvalina ( <a href="mailto:konvalina@zf.jcu.cz">konvalina@zf.jcu.cz</a> ). <b>Estonia (EULS):</b> Prof. Anne Luik ( <a href="mailto:Anne.Luik@emu.ee">Anne.Luik@emu.ee</a> ).
<b>Additional comments</b>	A high interest and very positive feedback from the students, teachers and stakeholders participating in the EPOS Problem Solving Projects shows that this innovative teaching tool should be widely disseminated, introducing more labour-marked oriented education into the existing teaching offer of higher education institutions across Europe. Moreover, it can be easily applied to a wide range of field/areas, not necessarily related to (organic) food and farming.