



AgriFoodBoost

Project title

**Boosting Excellence in Experimental Research
for Agri-Food Economics and Management**

Deliverable 4.2

1st year report on WP4 activities

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Project leader: Marija Cerjak

WP4 – Early stage researchers

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| Dissemination Level | | |
| PU | Public | X |
| PP | Restricted to other programme participants (including the | |
| RE | Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the | |
| CO | Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services) | |





This report is a summary of all WP4 activities performed in the first year of the project (Early stage researchers' mentoring exercise, Building scientific know-how of early stage researchers, Building capacity of early stage researchers in educational, scientific and business communication).

Period covered by the report: **from 01/10/2020 to 30/09/2021**

Abbreviations used in the text:

AUA - Geoniko Panepistimion Athinon

ESR – Early stage researcher

FAZ - Sveučilište u Zagrebu Agronomski fakultet

SLU - Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet

UNIBO - Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna

Introduction to the project

The University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture (FAZ) has qualified scientists in the field of agri-food who are willing to improve their scientific, innovative and academic capacities in order to become competitive in the scientific market, but also to offer new expertise to the agri-food sector. For this reason, a 3-year project was developed in collaboration with 3 partners from Italy, Greece and Sweden, focusing on the application of experimental economics to the agriculture, food and environment sectors. The project was developed in collaboration with the University of Bologna (UNIBO), Agricultural University of Athens (AUA) and Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU). The AgriFoodBoost project will support FAZ to become a regional leading Centre for experimental agri-food economics and management. The project is aligned with the EU and Croatian Smart Specialisation Strategies and addresses sectors that are among the most competitive in Croatia. AgriFoodBoost activities include researcher exchanges, thematic summer schools and workshops, expert visits, participation in conferences, the establishment of an experimental economics laboratory and a research HUB, which aims to bring together universities, industry and public administration. Special attention has been given to early stage researchers, including long-term visits and dual supervision, participation in summer schools, workshops and PhD conferences. A specific task will help improve the project management/administration skills of FAZ researchers and administrative staff. Communication, dissemination and exploitation activities include efforts to raise awareness of recent developments in experimental economics among the scientific community in Croatia and the neighbouring region. In addition, these activities target businesses and policy makers with the aim of improving their awareness and understanding of the purposes of the experimental economy, its potential areas of application and its benefits. It also aims to promote experimental economics to the general public as a support for rational and responsible decision-making in order to achieve positive social and economic impacts on society.



Objectives of WP4 “Early stage researchers”

The main objective of this WP4 is to promote the involvement of early stage researchers/doctoral students in FAZ and the international scientific environment.

The specific objectives of this work package are:

- 4.1 Improve early stage researchers' career plans, advise on PhD research, review and co-mentor PhD theses
- 4.2 Improve early stage researchers' skills in scientific communication
- 4.3 Develop early stage researchers skills for effective transfer of knowledge and research ideas towards industry/companies
- 4.4 Support early-stage- researchers to network and integrate into interdisciplinary research teams both at universities and in industry
- 4.5 Ensure sustainability of the research group.

Explanation of the work carried out within the framework of WP4 (M1-M12)

WP4 is divided into 3 tasks:

| Task number | Task name | Month |
|-------------|--|--------|
| Task 4.1 | Early stage researchers' mentoring exercise | M 3-36 |
| Task 4.2 | Building scientific know-how of early stage researchers | M 6-32 |
| Task 4.3 | Building capacity of early stage researchers in educational, scientific and business communication | M 6-35 |

This report covers activities related to two early stage researchers/PhD students at FAZ (ESR1 and ERS2).

T4.1 Early stage researchers' mentoring exercise

Early stage researchers had the opportunity to meet foreign experts through the **online consultations**, but also through **one-on-one meetings** with local and foreign researchers. In these interviews, the early stage researchers presented their current work as well as their future career preferences and plans. Based on these consultations, each early stage researcher was assigned a mentor from the FAZ project team and a co-mentor from a partner institution. The mentors and co-mentors have continued to support the development of the early stage researchers' action plans and will monitor the progress of the early stage researchers.

Both early stage researchers have **held 3 meetings** with their mentors and co-mentors.





As a result, **action plans** have been created for both early stage researchers involved. They cover the time frame of the project and correspond to the current professional interests and preferences of the early stage researchers. These plans are in line with the objectives of the project/WP4.

T4.2. Building scientific know-how of early stage researchers

Planned **long-term visits** (2-6 months) to partner institutions were not included in the first year of project implementation due to Covid 19 measures and will be included as soon as the epidemiological situation allows. Until then, regular meetings of early stage researchers and mentors will take place. The University of Bologna (UNIBO) was selected for the long-term mobility of the two researchers.

Due to the Covid 19 measures and the postponement of the **summer school and workshops**, the early stage researchers were not able to participate in these educational events. However, they will participate in all such events in Zagreb next year.

ESR2 participated in the **Biotechnical Sciences PhD Open Day** organised by FAZ and held at FAZ on 16 and 17 September 2021. She presented her work in a poster session.



Task 4.3. Building capacity of early stage researchers in educational, scientific and business communication

Both early stage researchers have **participated in all of the project's online consultations** so far. At these meetings they had to present themselves and their ongoing work.

They both **participated in the entire 5-hour workshop** entitled "How to present a paper in a scientific conference in social and economic sciences", which took place on 19-20 April 2021 and was organised by University of Bologna. The researchers also **participated in an 8-hour two-day workshop** entitled "Writing a scientific paper in social and economic sciences" organised by University of Bologna on 27-28 April 2021.

ESR1 was a **participant in the Pre-Congress Symposia REECAP workshop** (Research network on Economic Experiments for the Common Agricultural Policy) held on 19 July 2021 and also participated with **three papers in the 56th Croatian & 16th International Symposium on Agriculture** in Vodice, Croatia. At the same symposium, she participated in the dissemination of the AgriFoodBoost project together with other members of the AgriFoodBoost team.

Both PhD students actively participated in dissemination activities on the AgriFoodBoost social media profiles and project website.

ESR1 supervised bachelor theses (6 students) and master theses (3 students) and also worked with PhD students by supervising them during their internship (4 students).





List of WP4 Milestones to be realized in the 1st year of the project

| Milestone number | Milestone name | Related work package(s) | Due date (in month) | Status |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| MS8 | Action plans for early stage researchers completed | WP4 | 6 | Done |

MS8 - Action plans for early stage researchers was submitted as Deliverable 4.1 and contains a detailed plan of activities to be carried out by early career researchers from the Faculty of Agriculture in Zagreb (FAZ) during project implementation.

