



AgriFoodBoost

Project title

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

Deliverable 4.3

Report on WP4 activities for the period M25-M42

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Duration: 42 Months

Project leader: Marija Cerjak

WP4 – Early stage researchers

WP4 Leaders Responsible: Leader: Marija Cerjak (FAZ)

Twin-Leader: Andreas Drichoutis (AUA)

Deliverable responsibility: Marija Cerjak (FAZ)

Other Contributors: Gabriela Šmit (FAZ)

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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 WP4 activities performed in the period M25-M42 of the project implementation (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 01/10/2022 to 29/03/2024**

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

In the reporting period, two early stage researchers left the project, so this report covers activities related to one PhD student at FAZ (Gabriela Šmit).

T4.1 Early stage researchers' mentoring exercise

Gabriela Šmit (formerly Sušac) has continued her work on her doctoral thesis under the mentorship of Prof. Marija Cerjak, PhD (FAZ) and Prof. Car-Johan Lagerkvist, PhD. In collaboration with her mentors, Gabriela Šmit has conducted several online meetings to define research methods and data collection approaches for the preliminary research necessary for her doctoral work. For instance, ecosystem services and their designated names to be employed in subsequent research were defined during online meetings. Decisions were made regarding selecting participants for preliminary research, and it was determined that the methodology of focus groups and the analytical hierarchy process (AHP) would be applied in preliminary research. As a result of these meetings, all preliminary research steps have been delineated, ensuring comprehensive preparation for the main research for the doctoral thesis.

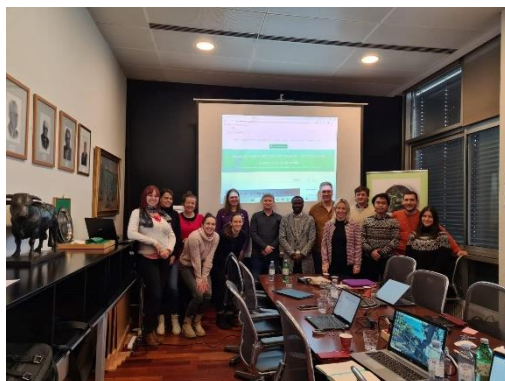
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant agreement No 952303”





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

Gabriela Šmit completed a long-term mobility (3 months) at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, where she collaborated with her international mentor from the project, Prof. Car-Johan Lagerkvist, PhD, working on all the described components of her doctoral thesis.



Winter school, Zagreb



Long term mobility, Uppsala

Gabriela Šmit attended the workshops and winter schools listed in the table.

Name of the event	Summer school leaders	Dates	Location
Workshop on Choice Experiments – Advanced Level (online participation)	Prof. Riccardo Scarpa, University of Verona, Department of Management	17-19 May 2023	Verona
Winter school: Economic experiments for policy making—From a research question to a study design	Associate Professor dr. Jens Rommel	23 – 25 January 2023	University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, Zagreb
Workshop Applied Econometrics using Stata	Associate Professor dr. Andreas Drichoutis	21 – 24 November 2022	University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, Zagreb





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

Gabriela Sušac presented her work on two conferences:

Cerjak Marija; Šimunec Dino; Sušac Gabriela: Perspectives of Glamping Tourism in Croatia - Opinion of Experts and Tourists, Book of Abstract - IV international symposium for agriculture and food ISAF 2022, Ohrid, North Macedonia, 2022.

Cerjak Marija; Sušac Gabriela; Mesić Željka: AgriFoodBoost – economic experiments applied to agriculture, food and environment, Book of Abstracts - IV international symposium for agriculture and food ISAF2022, Ohrid, North Macedonia, 2022.

Cerjak Marija; Ivanković Ante; Šmit Gabriela: The potential of local breeds as innovative gastronomic products - chefs' views on Istrian cattle. Innovation and agribusiness, international conference, Osijek, Croatia, 2023.

Gabriela Šmit was a member of the organizing committees for the international conference "Innovation and Agribusiness" in 2022 and 2023, as well as the local organizing committee for "Fascination of Plants Day" in 2023. Additionally, in 2022, she was elected as the Secretary of the Croatian Society of Agricultural Economists.

Gabriela Šmit actively collaborates with the Agency for Rural Development of Istria, responsible for the preservation of local livestock breeds, and maintains continuous communication with the breeders of these local breeds.

