

CONFIRMATION OF REFERENCE

For the purpose of applying assessment criteria no. 3 within the framework of the Call for submission of content within the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 for measure 1 - Knowledge transfer and information actions, sub-measure 1.1 - Support for vocational training actions and skills acquisition, b) Education programs not exceeding 18

Name of the subject (final beneficiary, educated subject): Foundation Agro-Centre for Education (FACE), Skopje, Macedonia

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By his signature, he confirms that he / she was the recipient of educational activity: ICTs as a toolkit for delivering agricultural extension services: Collaborative platform for ICT in Agricultural Extension in WB based on V4 best practices (AEWB-ICT), provided by Agroinstitut Nitra, statny podnik, in the period from the March 2017 to June 2017.

Reference: (a description of the satisfaction with the professional, organizational aspects of the educational activity):

Main aim of the AEWB-ICT project was to identify the best practices in Agricultural Extension (AE) in V4 and Western Balkan (WB) countries to determinate the list of best practices and different type of solutions currently used. WB have limited implementation and usage of Information and communication technologies (ICTs) for providing AE services. Existing V4 (Slovakia) experience for using ICTs in AE presented an asset that can accelerate the process of adopting these technologies in WB's AE. The project included identification of the challenges (technical, organisational and financial) in the development and implementation of the ICTs in AE. The main part was to conduct in-depth interviews with agricultural advisors, working on supporting farmers in the sub-sectors in the country. This process required understanding of farmers' needs, their willingness to accept ICTs and AE's capacity to adopt ICTs. The results of the V4 educational activity were presented for WB countries and the model for development, implementation and usage of ICTs in AE in V4 and WB countries was defined. Valuable information was presented a foundation for creating common platform for exchanges of agricultural data, knowledge and experience among V4 and WB countries.

More specifically, the project resulted in more efficient incorporation of WB's AE in Integrated Administration and Control System and compliant Farm Advisory System, which have an impact of the process of harmonization of WB to EU's Common Agriculture Policy. Additionally, synchronization of the level of development of the AE in WB with V4 countries have a significant impact on the level of harmonization of the agricultural sectors between the two groups of countries which have an impact on the overall economic cooperation.

Place, date: Skopje, 17/08/2017



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