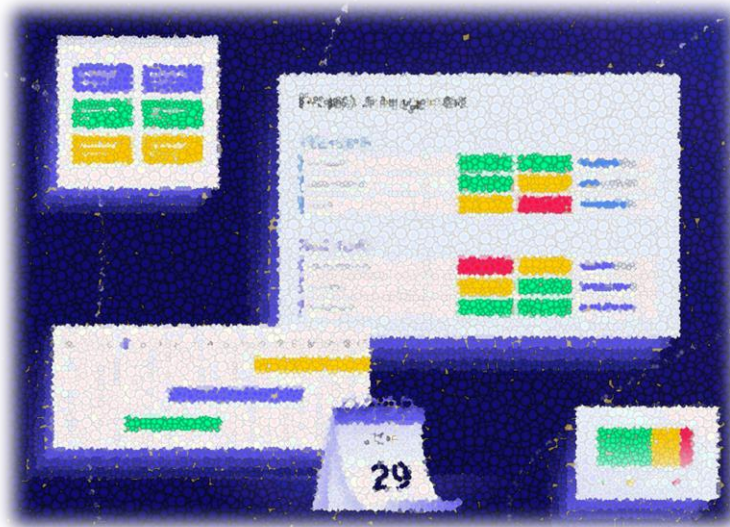




Eight-quarter Joint Report of AGFORWEB project





Project information

Project title	Agroforestry practices in West Balkan for sustainable development: weaknesses and strengths
Project acronym	AGFORWEB
Project reference number	2022-1-RS01-KA220-HED-000089900
Coordinator	University of Belgrade
Project start date	December 1, 2022
Project duration	24 months

Document control sheet

Title of the Work Package	WP1 Project Management
Title of Deliverable	Eight-quarter Joint Report (QR8)
Institution(s) and Author/s of the deliverable	University of Belgrade Sara Lukić
Contact	Sara Lukić sara.lukic@sfb.bg.ac.rs
Status of the document	Final



In the eight three-month period from September to November activities were planned in all WPs according to the timeline of the Project (Fig. 1).

	Months	22	23	24
		Sep.24	Oct.24	Nov.24
P1	Project management team meetings	PMU		
	Guidelines for reporting and correspondence			
	Reports			
	Day-to-day correspondence and administrative tasks			
P2	Analysis of the existing curricula			
	Consultations regarding curricula analysis and methodology for digital			
	Creating a methodology for digital data base			
	Forming a digital database			
P3	Curricula improvement			
	Proposal for change of curricula in next accreditation round			
	Study visits for professors and students		UB	
	Guest lectures			
	Master thesis			
P4	Creating a learning materials for students			
	Manual for using the digital database			
	Guide for Farmers and Local SelfGovernment			
P5	Development of Quality Assurance plan		QA Report	
	Development of Dissemination plan		Σ	
	Promotional material			
	Website establishment and maintenance			
	Workshops for local community			
	Quality Assurance Committee meetings			⊕

Figure 1. Timeline of AGFORWEB project for the period from September to November (8th quarter)

In the WP1 activities, the Project management team held meeting on October 4th, 2024 on Goč Mt., Serbia. PMU meeting covered topics related to activities in WP3 and WP4, overview of the activities in 7th quarter period (June - August), action plan for the final three months and overview of remaining funds and financial reporting.

Report of the sixth PMU meeting was submitted.

Activities in WP3 are in progress in the period from September to November.

Activity 3.3 – Study visits. The fifth study visit was organized by UB and held from 2nd to 4th October in Serbia. The main consideration of this study visit has been agroforestry practices related to protective forest belts in Vojvodina, experimental fields of dynamic agroforestry near Sremska Mitrovica, and examples of silvopastoral practices near Kraljevo. Report of the study visit was submitted by organizer - UB.



With this study visit activity on study visits for professors and students has been completed.

Activity 3.4 – Guest lectures. Guest lecture sessions were held during study visits on Goč Mt., Serbia in organization of UB on October 3rd, 2024. Six guest lectures were held: Dr. Georgi Kostov held guest lecture entitled: *“Resilient landscapes, through integrated management”*, Dr Vladimir Zebec held guest lecture entitled: *“Agricultural land suitability for agroforestry systems”*, Dr Jelena Lazarević held guest lecture entitled: *“Pathogenic and beneficial fungi in protective forest belt”*, Dr Teodor Nedelin held guest lecture entitled: *“Commercial truffles for Bulgaria - ecology, distribution and economic importance”*, MSc Anton Brenko held guest lecture entitled: *“Prerequisites for the production of inoculated seedlings of economic tree species with black truffles”*, and MSc Ivana Zegnal held guest lecture entitled: *“Evaluation of inoculated seedlings of economic tree species with black truffles”*. The lectures were attended by 49 attendees - undergraduate students from University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry, graduate students from the Faculty of Forestry and Biotechnology at Zhejiang A&F University in China and professors.

As part of the Project two guest lectures were held on October 22, 2024, at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry by professors from Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek – Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences. The first guest lecture was delivered by Dr Dalida Galović on *“Cattle Breeding in the Agroforestry System”* and the second guest lecture was held by Dr Vladimir Margeta on *“Free-Range Pig Production in Agroforestry Systems”*. The lectures were attended by 45 attendees, among them students from the University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture and the Faculty of Forestry, along with staff members and project participants.

Online guest lecture session was held on November 7th, 2024, at Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek – Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences. The first guest lecture entitled *“The honey resources in the forest territories of Bulgaria”* was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Slavcho Savev from UFS, the second guest lecture in the session *“Dendrochronological analysis of forest health status”* was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Zafirov from UFS, and the third guest lecture entitled *“Mycorrhization of forest tree seedlings with native fungi - importance and application in agroforestry”* was delivered by dr.sc. Jelena Lazarević from University of Montenegro Biotechnical Faculty, Podgorica. Guest lecture session was attended by 23 students from the Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences Osijek, second year of the bachelor study program “Plant production” as well as two Master students from Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences Osijek and five ERASMUS students.

An online guest lecture took place on November 8th, 2024, at the University of Montenegro – Biotechnical Faculty. The lecture, titled *“Agroforestry and Horticulture”*, was delivered by Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova from the University of Forestry, Faculty of Agronomy, Sofia, Bulgaria. The event was attended by 16 participants, including undergraduate and master's students.

The activity on guest lectures was completed in this period.

Activity 3.5 – Master thesis. Two master theses in the field of Agroforestry were defended at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry:



Candidate: BSc Jelena Mašić

Master thesis title: Shelterbelts as an agroforestry practice in sustainable management

Mentor: dr Sara Lukić, associate professor

Defence date: 20th September, 2024. at UB Faculty of Forestry

Candidate: BSc Jelena Peulić

Graduation thesis title: Protective Forest Belts for Improving the Environment in the Area of Bačka Palanka

Mentor: dr. Sara Lukić, associate professor

Defence date: 11th October, 2024. At UB Faculty of Forestry

The topics of the master's theses at UoM Biotechnical Faculty have been selected and a committees have been approved at the session of the Council of the Faculty of Biotechnology held on 28.02.2024. In March 2024, this decision was confirmed by the Commission for Master's Studies of the UoM. Before the summer season, the students collected data from the Ministry's of Agriculture database on households engaged in livestock breeding and using katuns in the study area, and in cooperation with the mentor and members of the project team from Montenegro, prepared questionnaires for field work. During the summer season, when the Katuns are used, a field visit was carried out, the Katuns were geolocated, and a survey of producers who apply silvopastoral practices was conducted. Data collection was carried out during the fall. Unfortunately, the finalization of the master thesis and its defense could not be carried out within the Project's timeline because the dynamics of these activities are heavily influenced by the level of engagement from the student candidates. Finalizing and defense of this master thesis is expected to be during 2025.

The activity on master thesis was completed in this period.

Activity 4.1 – Textbook for students. Finalization of the textbook in English was the main activity in this period.

Each partner submitted the corrected and proofread chapters of the textbook in English within the given deadline mid-September. Reviewers of the textbook in English **Agroforestry Practices in Southeast Europe** submitted their review reports which were approved by Teaching Scientific Council of the University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry by decision no. 01-2/159 from September 25th, 2024.

Procurement procedure was initiated immediately after all textbooks and manuals were submitted in form prepared for printing and printing was completed in this period. The delayed review by one of reviewers of the textbook in English **Agroforestry Practices in Southeast Europe** postponed activities in WP4 related to printing, but the textbooks in languages together with manual **GIS Application in Agroforestry** in English and in partner languages were available to students in digital form.



Activity 4.2 – Manual for using the digital database. Manual **GIS Application in Agroforestry** in English was translated in partner languages, prepared for print (each partner prepared their edition of the manual for print), and printed in this period.

Activities in WP4 were completed in this period.

Activity 5.1 – Development of Quality Assurance Plan. The analysis of survey evaluations is completed. Final Report on quality assurance is in preparation.

Activity 5.2 – Development of Dissemination Plan. Dissemination Plan is under final revision and Final Report of dissemination is in preparation.

Activity 5.4 – Website establishment and maintenance. AGFORWEB website <https://agforweb.org/> has been weekly updated with news, information on events and results and outputs of the Project.

Activity 5.5 – Workshops for local community. On November 5th, 2024 a workshop for the local community was organized in the University of Forestry - Sofia, Bulgaria. It consisted of three lectures held by Krasimira Petkova, University of Forestry, Sofia, Zornitza Petrova, Dobrudja Agricultural Institute, General Toshevo and Jordanka Stancheva, University of Forestry, Sofia. Within the framework of the seminar, a farmer's market was held in the yard of University of Forestry, where mostly organic producers presented their products. This initiative was met with great interest by lecturers, staff and students. The workshop was attended by representatives of farms for organic agriculture, foundation of organic agriculture, Dobrudya Agricultural Institute in General Toshevo, lecturers and staff from University of Forestry, a total of 18 people of which 6 completed questionnaires for evaluation.



On November 5th 2024 a workshop for the local community was organized with the Municipality of Bač in National Library “Vuk Karadžić” building. The workshop consisted of three presentations held by Sara Lukić, Snežana Belanović Simić and Aleksandar Baumgertel from the University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry. The audience was introduced to the concept of agroforestry and gained insight into the project's objectives, which align with the key goals of the EU Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027. These goals include mitigating climate change, protecting the environment, preserving landscapes and biodiversity,



revitalizing rural areas, and ensuring food quality and health. The workshop concluded with discussion and Q&A session.

The workshop was attended by 29 attendees, including 15 students from the Secondary Agricultural School from Bač. A total of 21 evaluation questionnaires were completed.



Planned workshops were conducted in this period and this activity has been completed.