

ERASMUS+ Partner Identification

A. PARTNER ORGANISATION	
PIC number	999870278
Full legal name of the institution (National Language)	Agricultural University of Plovdiv
Full legal name of the institution (Latin characters)	Agraren universitet Plovdiv
Acronym	AUP
Erasmus ID Code	BG PLOVDIV01
Official Legal Status	Public higher education institution
Official Registration No	000455464
Vat Registration Number	BG000455464
ECHE	proposal: 101006733
Postal address	12, Mendeleev Str., 4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Region	Plovdiv
Head of Institution	Prof. Hristina Yancheva, PhD
Institution's web site	https://www.czu.cz/en
Email	rector@au-plovdiv.bg
Telephone	+359 888990655
Fax	
B. PROFILE	
Type of organisation	Public higher education institution
Is the partner organisation a public body?	yes
Is the partner organisation a non-profit?	yes
C. ACCREDITATION	
Has the organisation received any type of accreditation before submitting this application?	Yes. Erasmus Charter for Higher Education: BG PLOVDIV01 and institutional accreditation. The statutory body for evaluation, accreditation, and monitoring of the quality in HEIs, aiming at the enhancement of teaching and research, as well as of the development as scientific, cultural, and innovative organizations. Source: https://www.neaa.government.bg/en/accredited-higher-education-institutions/higher-institutions Certificate issued in 2019, valid until 2025 by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency, grade 9,61 out of 10.
Has the organisation received any EU Erasmus grants?	Yes.

D. BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Please briefly present the partner organisation.

The Agricultural University of Plovdiv was established in 1945. It is the only specialized state university in Bulgaria in agricultural and related sciences, enjoying national, European and international prestige. In 2019 it was granted an institutional accreditation with a grade of 9.61 on the ten-point scale, which places our educational institution among the TOP THREE universities in Bulgaria.

University Mission:

- To provide high quality training, guaranteeing student knowledge, entrepreneurial skills, self-confidence for successful transition to the Bulgarian and European labour market.
- To train experts who are able to provide healthy and safe food, feed and biofuels, complying to the high requirements of the European standards through the use of innovative practices under the conditions of the information society.
- To conduct fundamental and applied research studies, oriented towards rapid implementation in practice for adequate integration of the sector into European agriculture.
- To build a responsible attitude towards farming as a provider of public services, including those related to climate change.

To preserve the love of the Bulgarians of the land, the thirst for knowledge and the traditions of the higher agricultural education, giving increasing importance to values and ethical public understanding for preserving traditional products and production technologies.

The major structural units are the four faculties (Faculty of Agronomy, Faculty of Horticulture with Viticulture, Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology, Faculty of Economics). Training is provided for acquiring the bachelor's and master's degree in eight professional fields. 27 doctoral programmes are also available.

The research policy. The University addresses the current and future technologies in agronomy, plant protection, agroecology, environment safety, marketing and management of agri-food holdings, agri-food quality and safety, recycling, etc. Extensive experimental fields (i.e. vineyards, horticulture and animal husbandry) allow for integrated applied research in priority areas such as food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, environmental quality and food safety, responses to climate change, environment and resource efficiency. Various animal breeds are maintained for training and reproduction purposes. The herds of cows and sheep, as well as the silk-worm genetic resources are registered in the National Genetic Fund. Modern challenges in agriculture and economy open new prospects for our University with the participation in the National Research Programmes, the major aim being:

- Encouragement of joint problem-oriented research by encouraging the interaction between HEIs and Research Organizations;
- Creating a critical mass of scientists to work on social issues;
- Supporting the development of the scientific capacity of HEIs;
- Attracting young scientists for research careers and creating a new generation of highly qualified specialists.

AU is the Coordinator of the national research programmes:

1. Healthy Foods for a Strong Bio-economy and Quality of Life, (www.nnp-food.au-plovdiv.bg), 2018-2022
2. Improving irrigation systems in accordance with climate change in Bulgaria, 2019-2021
3. Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Fellows
4. Smart Plant Production, 2021 – 2023
5. European Research Network, CAPBIO4BG, 2021 – 2023
6. Research Infrastructure PlantHealth

	<p>7. A partner in the national research programmes: 8. Reproductive Biotechnologies in Animal Husbandry in Bulgaria, 2018-2020 9. Smart Animal Husbandry, 2021 – 2023.</p> <p>Technical research assignment by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry: Analysis of the impact of agriculture on the environment and climate change as a fundamental element of the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy of the Republic of Bulgaria for the programme period 2021-2027.</p> <p>AU is active in the international education scene through Erasmus+ cooperation with foreign universities for exchange of students and teachers, improvement of curricula and study programmes, double and joint degrees within Europe, and with Central Asia and Africa.</p> <p>Major aspects in international activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral cooperation with foreign universities for exchange of experience, improvement of curricula and study programmes, double and joint degrees; • Participation in international educational and research projects on unmanned and digital technologies in agriculture; • Enlarging Erasmus+ bilateral agreements in geographical coverage; • Providing still larger media publicity for the University. <p>In the frames of Erasmus+ KA 103 and KA 107 the AUP has over 90 Partners offering staff mobility and student mobility for training and internships.</p> <p>Over 50 new Memoranda of Understanding and Framework agreements have been signed in the last year, enlarging partnership with countries from new geographical areas, such as Uzbekistan, China, South Africa, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan.</p>
<p>What are the activities and experience of the organisation in the areas relevant for this application?</p>	<p>The University has previous experience and good practices, infrastructure and human resource potential: expertise for the educational and research activities, as well as the capacity for project administration.</p> <p>At present the academic staff amounts to 185 persons in different scientific areas of agriculture and horticulture, plant protection, ecology and environmental protection, agricultural economics, rural development, agri-tourism, etc.</p> <p>Relevant projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization and Innovation in PhD Study Programs for Plant Health in Sustainable Agriculture (HarISA), 598444-EPP-1-2018-1- HR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP • New curricula in Precision Agriculture using GIS technologies and sensing data (CUPAGIS) 597962-EPP-1-2018-1- EE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP • Training and Orientation for Multifunctional Agriculture Entrepreneurial Opportunities – eTOMATO 600989-EPP-1-2018-1-IT-EPPKA2-KA • New and Innovative Courses for Precision Agriculture, NICOPA, 597985-EPP-1-2018-1- KZ-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP • Train the Trainer for a Sustainable Agriculture, AgriTrain, 2018-1-DE02-KA202-005191 • Stacking of ecosystem services: mechanisms and interactions for optimal crop protection, pollination enhancement, and productivity Sustainable Food Security – Resilient and resource-efficient value chains, EcoStack • Erasmus Mundus Master in Soil Science, emiSS, 610528-EPP-1-2019-1-TR-EPPKA1-JMD-MOB • New Professional Diploma in Plant Clinic and Phytosanitary Technologies, PRO-DPCP 609550-EPP-1-BG-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP • Network for effective knowledge transfer on safe and economic wastewater reuse in agriculture in Europe, SuWaNu Europe, Grant Agreement number 818088, H2020-RUR-2018-2020/H2020-RUR-2018-1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Partnership for Agri-Entrepreneurship and Eco-Innovation for Good Practices, AgriEco, Agreement No. 2019-1-BG01-KA203-062284 • Environmental Management Enhancement by Youth-run SMEs, EnvironmentYou, EL-56121 • Good teaching practices in experiential learning for effective education in embedded food systems, GOODFOOD, № 2020-1-PL01-KA203-082209 • Innovative Training for Sustainable Shepherds, EU4SHEPERDS, 2020-1-ES01-KA202-082722 • Connecting the primary sector through innovative biobased knowledge, COOPID, COOPID-CE-FNR-15-2020 • Agricultural Policy and Sustainability in Vocational Education, AGRIPOL, 2020-1-DE02-KA202-007483 • CIII-RS-1607-01-2122 - Resilient management of bioactive compounds from plants and organic wastes in Middle-Europe • EIT food Hub – Bulgaria
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<p>Would you like to make any comments or add any information to the summary of your organisation's past participation?</p>	<p>The Agricultural University of Plovdiv, renowned for its diverse faculties, brings valuable expertise to the project, particularly through Dr. Romyana Georgieva's specialization in crop science. This aligns seamlessly with the university's overarching commitment to excellence in agricultural education and research. Furthermore, a robust scientific and project collaboration exists between The Agricultural University of Plovdiv and Ondokuz Mayıs University, which serves as the coordinating institution for the project. The two universities have an established Erasmus agreement, fostering personnel mobility and facilitating a close understanding between project team members. This mutual familiarity extends to a comprehensive knowledge of each institution's infrastructure. Moreover, The Agricultural University of Plovdiv is a partner institution in the Erasmus Mundus Master in Soil Science (emiSS) project, coordinated by Ondokuz Mayıs University (Project No: 610528-EPP-1-2019-1-TR-EPPKA1-JMD-MOB). This collaborative initiative involves the annual enrollment of numerous international students, who successfully complete their education, earning a joint Master's degree.</p>
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E. LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

Title	Professor
Gender	Female
First Name	Hristina
Family Name	Yancheva
National ID number of the legal representative	5812079099
Department	Crop Science
Position	Rector
Email	rector@au-plovdiv.bg
Telephone	+359 32 654 300
Address	12, Mendeleev Str., 4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Region	Plovdiv

F. CONTACT PERSON	
Title	Dr
Gender	Female
First Name	Rumyana
Family Name	Georgieva
Department	Department of Crop Science
Position	Chief Assis. Prof.
Email	r_georgieva@au-plovdiv.bg
Telephone	+359 32 654 369
Address	12, Mendeleev Str., 4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Region	Plovdiv