
GIZ Project Title:

Professional Education for Economic Growth Sectors in Central Asia

Countries involved in partnership / cooperation:

Kazakhstan, Germany, Lithuania

Higher Education Institutions involved (HEIs):

Kazakh National Agrarian Research University (KazNARU), Freie Universität Berlin, Dept. of Veterinary Medicine (FUB), Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Veterinary academy (LSMU)

Proposed partnership / cooperation:

Responding the Demands of Food Sector in Central Asia with Second Cycle (MSc) Study Programme in Food Safety

The HEIs as a grant holder:

Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU)

Expression of Interest (Eoi)

0. Description of the partnership / cooperation

Three partner institutions (Kazakh National Agrarian Research University (KazNARU), Freie Universität Berlin, Dept. of Veterinary Medicine (FUB), Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU) will cooperate in establishment of joint (KazNARU and LSMU) master degree programme in Food Safety Assurance (preliminary title). The programme will be implemented in KazNARU and will reflect the context of Kazakhstan programme and will include a joint part of curricula of "Veterinary Food Safety" master study programme of LSMU. FUB will contribute with expertise in food microbiology, food law and global food systems to the project. FUB's contribution will be based on the content of the implemented joint master course on Food safety and Veterinary Public Health between FUB and Chaing Mai University, Thailand. Partnership will include mobility of the teaching staff and students as a pilot phase of the implementation of the programme. KazNARU and LSMU are in the process of signing of MoU for long-term cooperation that covers the activity described in this project, including start of Erasmus+ mobility project (in the next application in 2022) and a common wish to strive for other projects in education and science.

1. Goal of the partnership

The long-term goal on the institutional level is to develop long lasting cooperation between three partner institutions (1 CA and 2 EU) in education of food safety specialists. At this stage, implementation of this goal, refer on joint master degree programme in Food Safety Assurance which will naturally facilitate the cooperation between institutions and academic staff providing appropriate incentives. The mutual agreement of professional partners indicates that planned master programme shall be a logical continuation of professional growth primarily for graduates from the first cycle educational programme 6B09103 Veterinary Food Safety and Technology, enabling them to continue for advanced competences in food safety assurance. LSMU second cycle study programme "Veterinary Food Safety" can contribute well to this objective according to competences as this study programme refers to a very similar background in both in terms of prerequisites and the institutional context in KazNARU and LSMU. The goal for LSMU is to extend the international scope of the programme raising it to the level of the joint programme with implemented COIL

(Collaborative Online International Learning) courses model. Proposed joint programme it does not mean formalisation of joint degree and/or qualification between countries, however presence of good amount of the overlapping teaching shared between three project partners shall facilitate their cooperation in education and contribute to personal networks of students. This project shall facilitate beginning of a tight collaboration in joint education of senior staff for a food production sector.

Overall, project contributes to the development of collaboration in food sector between Kazakhstan and Europe. Moreover, joint master degree programme in food safety will assist KazNARU in development of their capacities in this sector and will provide LSMU and FUB staff opportunity to develop international connections. The food sector in CA has a potential both with plant and animal origin products, however, the food safety standards are usually based on "old approach" which both increase the health risks for local population and prevents the trade (export) of raw food and food products to global markets. Long term experience is available in Lithuania and Germany and especially at LSMU and FUB in responding with education of new high-quality specialist in parallel to transformation of food sector to meet common requirements of food safety for the purpose to integrate into the global markets and further to satisfy increasing demand on the job market.

2. Description of foreseen activities

The project plans 8 basic activities which shall result to joint master degree program in food safety assurance running between KazNARU and LSMU and with participation of FUB:

1. **Analysis of prerequisites and available infrastructure.** Includes project experts (LSMU, FUB) visit to KazNARU, meeting with departments and teams of preselected local teachers, meeting with a social partners (representatives of potential employers) interested to specialists of food safety assurance.

Result: preliminary map of learning outcomes (competences) for the curricula and formed team for curricula development.

2. **Master class given by LSMU.** One day master class on good practices in development of curricula (identification of learning outcomes, building the curricula, matching results of the subject to program outcomes, drafting programme for subject of module, selecting evaluation methods, etc.) and COIL courses.

Result: KazNARU teaching staff enabled for a productive cooperation with staff from LSMU and FUB in the next activities.

3. **Training visit of selected group of KazNARU representatives to LSMU.** Follows and contributes to the activity #2 presenting live cases of implementation, facilitates local KazNARU-LSMU teams for subjects which will represent a joint part of the program and COIL courses.

Result: preliminary list of the subjects and agreed subjects for the COIL courses, creating KazNARU-LSMU teacher teams.

4. **Development of curricula:** drafting list of subjects, creating lectures for each subject (each teacher team includes appointed instructor-coaches from LSMU or FUB).

Result: KazNARU approved study plan (subjects, credits/hours, teams) following their internal procedures.

5. **Development of contents of single subjects** following approved study plan.

Result: Implementation of COIL model in selected courses.

6. **Pilot implementation of the curricula** in KazNARU and LSMU.

Results: study periods coached by LSMU (1st year) including courses with COIL elements.

7. **Student mobility** application and mobility period.

Results: students (KazNARU-LSMU) mobility for master research projects.

8. **Erasmus + mobility application.** Aimed to assure basic funding for mobility of academic staff and students in the joint master programme.

Result: KazNARU included to application 2023 for E+ mobility (KA1) funding.

Implementation of activities and division of tasks between partners follows in the next section.

3. Tasks to be performed by the involved partner institutions

Activity 1. **Analysis of prerequisites** (overall responsibility: LSMU):

1.1. LSMU and FUB prepare and provide KazNARU a framework based on SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis for examination of potential of study programme.

1.2. KazNARU, based on provided framework, will perform analysis of corresponding national and regional impact on required results and competences to be generated by the study programme. In parallel, availability of human resources (teaching competence) and infrastructure will be mapped.

1.3. LSMU and FUB will familiarize themselves with local context (actual procedures and standards for study programme and curriculum development and implementation) during the screening visit in KazNARU and will lead the development of study results (competences) complying with identified context. EU partners will assist mapping the best set of teaching staff competences by merging efforts of partners and considering opportunities provided by distance education technology and potential obtained during the pandemics period.

Success indicators: mapped learning outcomes (competences) for the joint curricula, motivated and supportive academic staff in KazNARU.

Activity 2. **Master class on curriculum development** (overall responsibility: LSMU)

2.1. LSMU will develop and organise one day master class on good practices in Curriculum building to develop competences of CA partner contributing to tasks foreseen in Activity 1. Master class will include the topics on i) identification of learning outcomes based on the context of the needs of job market; ii) organisation of the process of construction of curricula.

Success indicators: motivated and supportive academic staff in KazNARU ready for productive work with academic staff in LSMU and FUB.

Activity 3. **Training visit of selected group of CA representatives to LSMU** (overall responsibility: LSMU)

3.1. KazNARU academic staff (preliminary 12 persons, including those from foreseen topics for joint education) will be invited to one week (4-5 working days) traineeship to LSMU. Traineeship will happen right after the master class and KazNARU academic staff will be introduced with the implementation of food safety curricula at LSMU (study process organisation, curricula development specifics and quality assurance).

3.2. Workshops (at least one day duration) will be organised for teams (KazNARU-LSMU) of topics/subjects which are foreseen as a joint part of study programme.

Success indicators: preliminary list of the subjects, agreed subjects and formed teams for the COIL courses.

Activity 4. **Development of curricula** (overall responsibility: KazNARU, counselling: LSMU and FUB)

4.1 KazNARU will finish with a final list of competence map for Master study program. It is expected that outcomes of master course and experiences gained during the traineeship week (Activity 3) will provide a good background. LSMU and FUB will coach the process and secure as much efficient outcome as possible by reviewing of intermediate and final results.

4.2. Joint 2 days seminar will be organised by KazNARU involving LSMU and FUB partners for elaboration of study plans and joint part of the curricula. This seminar shall result in a list of subjects to be developed and taught: i) separately by KazNARU and LSMU, ii) list of subjects that will overlap and different combinations of KazNARU and LSMU/FUB teachers will be involved.

Success indicators: approved and registered curricula.

Activity 5. **Development of teaching contents of single subjects** (responsibility: shared according to subject)

5.1 Teaching contents of a single subjects will be developed by academic staff teams. KazNARU will assure that subjects taught only at KazNARU will be ready for delivery for agreed period.

5.2 LSMU and FUB will allocate mentors to each subject, following approved Master programme study plan.

5.3 LSMU will take the leadership to develop overlapping part of joint programme which mostly will be implemented by COIL courses.

Success indicators: subjects ready for delivery; ready subjects using COIL course model.

Activity 6. Pilot implementation of the curricula (overall responsibility: KazNARU, supporting and counselling LSMU and FUB)

6.1. Enrolment of students and pilot implementation of the approved curricula in KazNARU.

6.2. Pilot implementation of COIL courses in previously agreed subjects, jointly KazNARU-LSMU-FUB.

6.3. Student and academic staff mobility (Activity 7).

Success indicators: enrolled students, running curricula, running COIL courses.

Activity 7. Student mobility (overall responsibility: LSMU)

7.1 LSMU will assure the framework for KazNARU student mobility by joining research projects or separate subjects in LSMU fitting the contents of joint master programme.

7.2 KazNARU will select master level students (preliminary 10 students) to visit LSMU for master research projects and join ongoing research activity.

Success indicators: students (KazNARU-LSMU) mobility for master research projects.

Activity 8. Erasmus + mobility application for continuation activity (overall responsibility: LSMU)

8.1 LSMU will include KazNARU to the next (2023) Erasmus+ (KA1) application for student and academic staff mobility projects to secure those financial dispositions for running the joint master program after this project will end.

8.2 KazNARU will assure full support providing required information and contribute to the application process.

Success indicators: submitted application; received funding to continue mobility in the programme.

4. Foreseen time schedule

All project activities are planned in a period from 10-2022 to 08-2024. Each project partner is involved in all activities and leaders are assigned to each activity. Details on time line for project and its activities is presented in Figure 1.

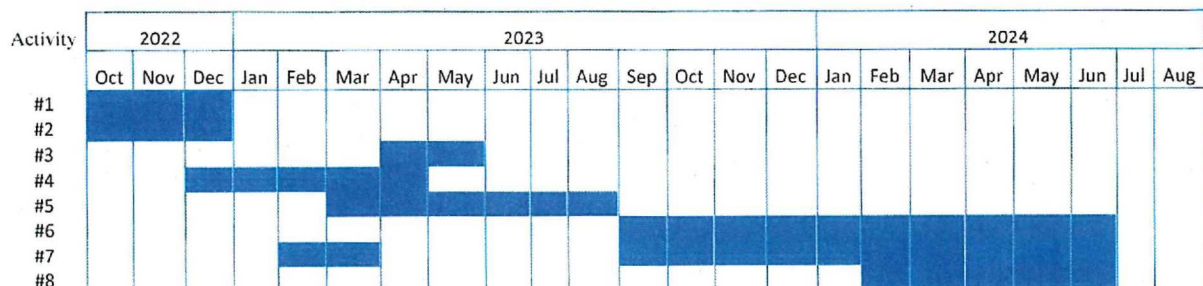


Figure 1. Proposed time line for project and its activities represented by milestones

5. Resources

Preliminary project cost analysis revealed that project activities can be carried out by 16 staff members (all partner institutions) directly involved to the project activities. Details on travel costs

for teachers and students among partner institutions and consumables for student master research work are described in Table 1.

Table 1. Preliminary project cost

Item	Number of staff/students directly involved to the project activity as beneficiaries	Estimated staff days/student months of direct involvement in the activity	Total costs (EUR) *
Staff costs	16	1330 (days)	93 340,00 €
Traveling: EU partners to CA	21	93 (days)	20 310,00 €
Traveling: CA partners to EU	12	84 (days)	16 440,00 €
Travelling: CA students to EU	10	50 (months)	45 300,00 €
Contribution to lab consumables for student projects	10	-	8 000,00 €
Institutional overhead by LSMU**	-	-	15 906,00 €
Total:			199 296,00 €

* Calculation based on rates used in EU Erasmus+ collaboration projects

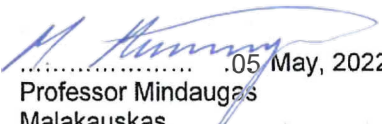
6. Sustainability concept

KazNARU and LSMU joint master degree program in food safety assurance is aimed to long-term cooperation and will become one of the bridges connecting both institutions. FUB will continue supporting that collaboration by providing lectures/courses and expertise and will be involved in all future activities. LSMU is orientated for cooperation with HEI in Kazakhstan and this project gets a full support from the university's top management. LSMU, FUB and KazNARU are committed to continue running this programme after completing the project and look for possibilities for development of increasing number of joint provided courses and generating new value for both institutions students. Erasmus+ mobility, COIL courses are the tools to assure student and teacher mobility between institutions at joint teaching and learning process in this project. Additionally, master research projects (mandatory by curricula) will contribute to cooperation between LSMU, FUB and KazNARU research staff.

On behalf of the Veterinary
Academy of the Lithuanian
University of Health Sciences


On behalf of the Dept. of
Veterinary Medicine, Freie
Universität Berlin

On behalf of the Kazakh National
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Chancellor of the Veterinary
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Dean

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Note: Expression of Interest is to be seen as DRAFT project proposal (max. 5 pages) and has to be signed by all involved partners (at least at dean's level).