



Ecologica - online learning in organic farming

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● ● ● | Introduction

Although organic farming is based on traditional farming practices, after a long period of intensification in agriculture, there is lack in knowledge concerning organic farming in developed countries and especially in underdeveloped countries where people still have possibility to overcome at least some negative influences of industrial agriculture.

Case of burning plastic after use in intensive horticulture production, Antalya Turkey in April 2008



● ● ● | Introduction

Development of organic farming (OF) depends not only on:

- agriculture policy and
- direct payments or
- access to the market, but also to all other supports for farmers – f.i.:
 - Knowledge - Education possibilities for farmers
 - Information's - Advisory services
 - New ideas – New solutions – New concepts



<http://www.channel.uni-corvinus.hu>



Based on results of the 6th FW project named CHANNEL “*Opening Channels of Communication Between the Associated Candidate Countries and the EU in Ecological Farming*” we found out that:

- also in EU there is lack of knowledge about organic farming in many countries;
- lack of specialized advisors for OF



Need for organic farming advisory services - reasons

- lack of knowledge in organic production methods,
- solving problems in conversion period,
- delivering quality and safe organic products with all hygienic standards,
- new marketing strategies for organic products,
- organic farming is relative new farming system,



Need for organic farming advisory services - reasons

- changing opinion about organic farming as in some countries it is still considered as “step back” and not as improvement in nature friendly agriculture practice oriented to the future,
- establishing new (also domestic) markets for organic products (not only export oriented),
- covering niches in organic farming (organic seeds,...),
- protection organic farming and organic products against GMO contamination,...



Some conclusions of the Channel project

- Lack of specialized advisors for OF;
- **Advisory methods used in agriculture should be adopted for OF and improved with new innovative methods and tools (like e-learning,...);**
- “Good advisory practices” adopted in organic farming in different countries (like regional or specialized “working groups”, farmers are advisors,...) should be spread and used specially in new EU members.

Base for new project Ecologica!



ECO-LOGICA

<http://www.ecologica.net/website/>



Education and Culture

Leonardo da Vinci

Goal of the project

- The development of coordinated operation of Knowledge and Education Centres at the Partner Institutions and connection of them by Internet. Collection of a basis of OF knowledge on a joint server called Ecolibrary.
- The Knowledge Centres perform the dissemination of collected database for the possible advisers in the frame of e-learning training courses based on the mutually developed education material that would be adapted to the given ecological, technological, social, national and economical circumstances of the partners.

Co-ordinator: Prof. Dr. **László Radics**

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8 partners

7 countries

Finished

Dec. 2007



ECO-LOGICA project partners

Hungary	Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem Ökológiai és Fenntartható Gazdálkodási Rendszerek Tanszék
Estonia	Faculty of Agriculture
Hungary	Association for Hungarian Organic Framing
Czech Republic	University of South Bohemia Cesce Budejovice
Latvia	Faculty of Agriculture
Slovakia	Slovenska Polnohospodarska Univerista v Nitre
Slovenia	University of Maribor Faculty of Agriculture
Italy	Biocert Srl

What was done during **Leonardo da Vinci** pilot project “**Development of central data bank on European level for the education of ecological farming adviser’s**”?

- e-learning platform was prepared (<http://www.ecologica.net/website/>);
- knowledge and education centres at eight partner institutions were developed,
- collecting a basis of organic (ecological) farming knowledge is on a joint server called Ecolibrary,
- the Knowledge centres perform the dissemination of collected database to advisers and other interested groups within the frame of e-learning training courses,
- education material was adapted to the given ecological, technological, social, national and economical conditions of each country of the partners.

Topics in educational material

1. Ecological farming - basics
2. EU and national cultural knowledge.
3. Marketing, Quality control, Communication abilities
4. Advising knowledge
5. Plant growing
6. Animal husbandry
7. Plant protection
8. Post harvest, and storage, and processing
9. Horticulture
10. Agricultural regulations and programs.
11. Conversion to ecological farming:
12. Management and planning of organic farm.
13. Controlling and certification of ecological farms
14. Soil fertility, manuring, green manuring. Composting.





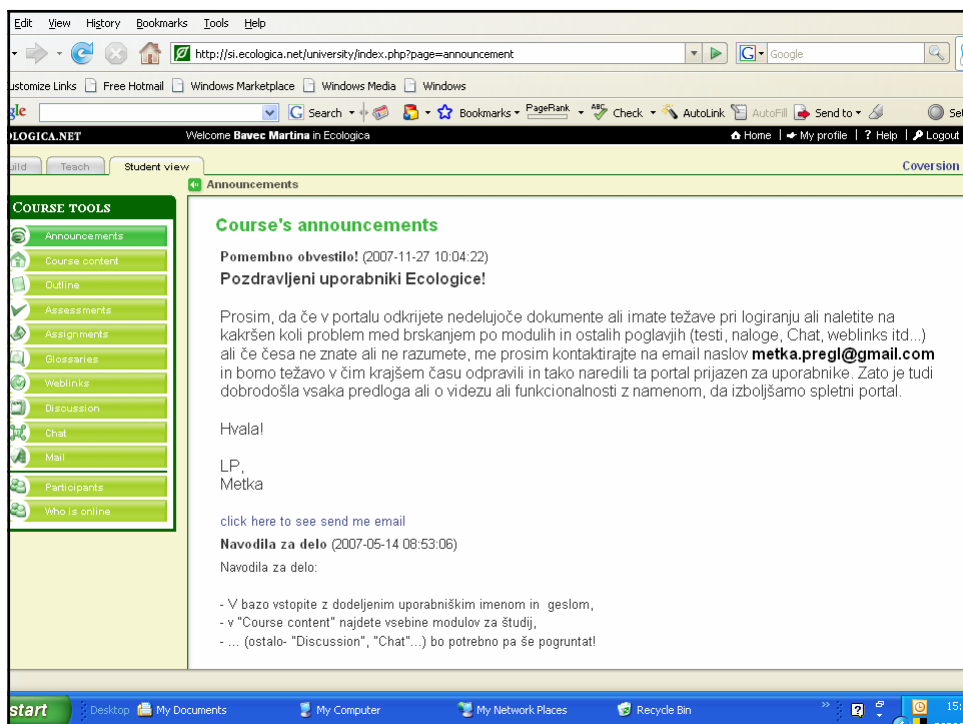
<http://www.ecologica.net/website/>





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ECOLOGICA.NET Welcome **Bavec Martina** in Ecologica Home | My profile | ? Help | Logout

Student view Coverage

COURSE TOOLS

- Announcements
- Course content
- Outline
- Assessments
- Assignments
- Glossaries
- Weblinks
- Discussion
- Chat
- Mail
- Participants
- Who is online

Announcements

Course's announcements

Pomembno obvestilo! (2007-11-27 10:04:22)
Pozdravljeni uporabniki Ecologice!

Prosim, da če v portalu odkrijete nedelujoče dokumente ali imate težave pri logiranju ali naletite na kakršen koli problem med brskanjem po modulih in ostalih poglavjih (testi, naloge, Chat, weblinks itd...) ali če česa ne znate ali ne razumete, me prosim kontaktirajte na email naslov **metka.pregl@gmail.com** in bomo težavo v čim krajšem času odpravili in tako naredili ta portal prijazen za uporabnike. Zato je tudi dobrodošla vsaka predloga ali o videzu ali funkcionalnosti z namenom, da izboljšamo spletni portal.

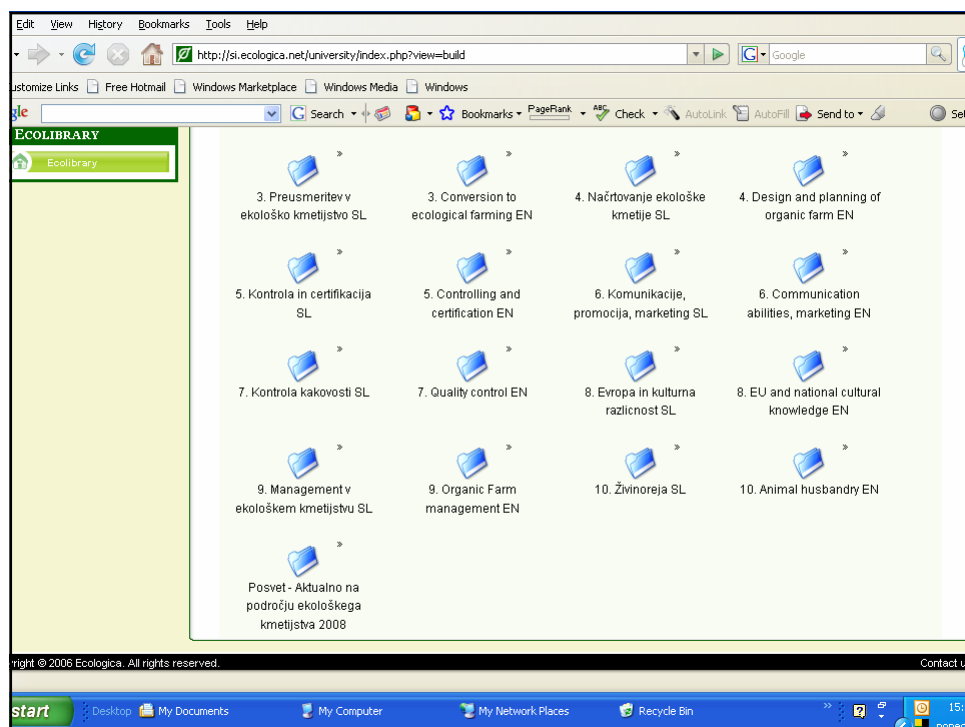
Hvala!

LP,
 Metka

[click here to see send me email](#)


Navodila za delo (2007-05-14 08:53:06)
 Navodila za delo:


- V bazo vstopite z dodeljenim uporabniškim imenom in geslom,
- v "Course content" najdete vsebine modulov za študij,
- ... (ostalo- "Discussion", "Chat"...) bo potrebno pa še pogruntati!



Dissemination

- BioFach February 2007 and 2008
- Fairs
- Semianrs and conferences
(Presentation in Opatija, Croatia, 3rd International Symposium of Agriculture, February 2008 and Organic farming Mediterranean conference, Dubrovnik, April 2008)
- Articles in professional papers
- Info on the web of Faculty of Agriculture and Biodar – Association of Slovene organic farmers
-
- On CSD-17 side event NY







Perspectives

- Using Ecologica in Slovene Chamber for Agriculture and Silviculture for Slovene Advisory Service as a part (theoretical) of education for getting a licence for advising in organic agriculture
- Using Ecologica for getting knowledge about framing for young farmers who need agriculture education for taking over farms
- Presenting Ecologica to the other potential users in Slovenia and abroad
- Making new Leonardo da Vinci Innovation transfer projects
- Collaboration of the partners in Ecologica International Association, Napoli



For using Ecologica in new countries some adaptations and improvements are needed

- Adaptation for national condition
- Review of the study material about OF on the national level

Prerequisites for using Ecologica e-learning tool:

- IT equipments and internet access,
- Knowledge how to use it
- more friendly to users



Bright future ...

As organic farming is the only on long term and really sustainable oriented farming method



Ecologica e-learning tool is a good possibility to get knowledge about OF for different groups of people for long-life learning needs, if it will be:

- up to dated (f.i. new EU OF regulation),
- adapted with new topics,..
- Adapted to specifics of different regions and countries



? New EU logo



Bright future ...

Collaboration among partners and dissemination of ECOLOGICA e-learning tool is needed in the future.



Thank you for your attention!

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