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UniClaD Newsletter n°6, February 2024 - October 2024

Project “Enhancing capacity of universities to initiate and to participate in clusters development on innovation and sustainability principles” (UniClaD)

Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education (CBHE)

EU Program Erasmus +, Project KA2 n° 609944-EPP-1-2019-1-LT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Editorial: Focus: UNICLAD STUDENT MOBILITY IMPLEMENTATION

UniClaD Student Mobility in European partner countries

From **May 2024 to October 2024** height **28-day student mobility traineeship period** have been implemented, one max two in each of the European Partner Countries. In line with the actions set out in the UniClaD project proposal, approximately **60 Bachelors, MSc and PhD students** from the partner countries **Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine** are being involved and mobilized in a **28-day** mobility period between April and July 2024, spent in other partner countries, i.e. **Austria, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and Spain**.

The student mobility learning programme employed the methodology of **action learning**, which is an experiential learning approach based on observation, dialogue, reflection, participation, and visioning.

The student mobility aimed to assist consortium partners in developing Agrofood clusters in Moldova, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan. Each Traineeship period brought together students from these countries to learn about successful agri-food clusters in European Commission (EC) contexts and understand the challenges involved in their establishment and management. The student's mobility included classroom lectures, seminars, workshop, individual mentorship, Lab activities and field visits to key EU clusters.

By the end of the traineeship period, students working on their Master or PhD thesis had benefit from the following learning outcomes:

- **participate** in lectures and training, field trips and practical work (labs)
- **get** in contact with stakeholders from their host countries
- **conduct** interviews with experts and researchers
- **experience** intercultural exchange
- **improve** their English skills or the official language of their host country
- **participate** in seminars / workshops or existing research projects
- **develop** research work or publish research articles

Furthermore, they acquired an understanding of cluster setup, governance and financing models, as well as the ways in which universities and research institutions can support cluster development.

UniClaD Students' Mobility: Planned Calendar

Sending Partners	Destination	Number of students
Kropyvnytskyi, UA →	Bari, Italy	8
Poltava, UA →	Kaunas, Lithuania	7
Lviv, UA →	Vienna, Austria	7
Bila Tzerkva, UA →	Debrecen, Hungary	8
Comrat, MD →	Kaunas, Lithuania	7
Chisinau, MD →	Valladolid, Spain	8
Ganja, AZ →	Poznań, Poland	8
Baku, AZ →	Vienna, Austria	7

In this UniClaD Newsletter letter 6th issue you will read students mobility news from:

1. Poznań University of Life Sciences (PULS). Poland hosting students from Ganja, AZ: **May 16th – June 14th 2024**
2. UCAEP, Vienna, Austria hosting students from Baku, AZ: **May 21st – June 17th 2024**
3. CIHEAM Bari (International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), Italy hosting student from Kropyvnytskyi, UA: **June 23rd – July 19th 2024**
4. Kauno kolegija, Kaunas, Lithuania hosting students from Poltava, UA: **August 26th – 22nd September 2024**
5. Kauno kolegija, Kaunas, Lithuania hosting students from Comrat, MD: **August 26th – 22nd September 2024:**
6. University of Valladolid, Spain hosting students from Chisinau, MD: **September 3rd – September 30th 2024**
7. University of Debrecen, Hungary hosting students from Bila Tzerkva, UA: **September 4th – October 2nd 2024**
8. UCAEP, Vienna, Austria hosting students from Lviv, UA: **September 13th – October 10th 2024:**

Furthermore, a special news about the UniClaD project events, Workshop, final conference and steering committee meeting are also covered.

Have a nice reading

On behalf UniClaD Consortium partners

Noureddin Driouech, CIHEAM Bari (Partner 6)

Leader of WP4: Dissemination and Results Exploitation

Leader of Task 2.2. Study Tour Planning (WP2 Development)

[UniClaD Website](#)

Poznań University Of Life Sciences (Poland) Student Mobility

The Polish Study Mobility was held in Poznań in Wielkopolska Region from **16th May to 14th June 2024**. it was organized by **Poznań University of Life Sciences (PULS)** at the main campus, as part of the UniClad Erasmus+ program (Capacity Building in Higher Education, KA2). A group of students from the Azerbaijan State Agrarian University (ADAU) participated in a 30-day mobility organized by PULS. The objective of the Student Mobility was to enhance their academic experience and learn more about the possible cooperation between the University and its external partners. The program involved a series of seminars, field trips, laboratory practical's (eg. at the Agri-Food Economics Experimental Laboratory, the Laboratory of Animal Histology and Embriology), and meetings with University staff and research collaborators. Students visited the Przybroda PULS Experimental Farm, where they became acquainted with modern methods of cultivation and protection of fruit plants, including biological methods of disease and pest control. The mobility program was also a chance for the students to present their research plans and discuss them with PULS researchers to improve their academic skills and practice their entrepreneurial behavior.



Visit to the Laboratory of Animal Histology and Embryology



Visit to Przybroda Experimental PULS Farm

1st UCAEP-Vienna (Austria) Student Mobility



From **21st May to 17th June 2024** seven Master's and PhD students from Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) in Baku joined us at the University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education as part of the ERASMUS+ UniClaD exchange program.

Throughout their stay, the students engaged in a diverse program, gaining valuable insights into Green Pedagogy and Horticultural Therapy, and experiencing campus life by participating in lectures and meeting Austrian students.

The exchange program also included unique opportunities to explore Austrian culture and heritage. The students participated in excursions to museums and cultural landmarks, with guided tours around Vienna that included a visit to the Parliament, offering them insights into Austrian and EU history, culture, art, and politics. As part of their academic exposure, they explored key topics such as environmental and flood protection in Vienna, and visited the Federal Institute for Agricultural Economics and Mountain Farming Research (BAB) to learn about an ongoing project on "Drought Monitoring of Agricultural Areas." One of the most rewarding aspects of their visit was the chance to connect with lecturers at UCAEP and experts from other relevant organizations. These interactions were instrumental in supporting the students' research, providing guidance on article publication, and helping them advance their theses.

Our sincere thanks go out to all the colleagues who dedicated their time and expertise to making this exchange so impactful. Reflecting on that month, we can confidently say that hosting the Azerbaijani students was a wonderful success, and we hope to continue fostering such meaningful exchanges in the future.

Links to videos:

https://www.instagram.com/p/C87YzC3vq_a/

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/377064791508269>

Link to internal newsletter:

https://www.haup.ac.at/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Zentrumsinfo_Juni-2024.pdf (page 9)



Kaunas Community Welcoming AzTU-Azerbaijan students



Closing ceremony and Certificate award June 2024

CIHEAM BARI (Italy) Student Mobility



The Italian Study Mobility was held in Bari in Apulian Region from **23rd June to 19th July 2024**. It was organized by **CIHEAM Bari** at the Cosimo Lacirignola Campus, as part of the UniClaD Erasmus+ program (Capacity Building in Higher Education, KA2). A group of students from the Central Ukraine National Technical University (CUNTU) participated in a 28-day mobility organized by CIHEAM Bari. The program provided in-depth training through a series of lectures, field trips, laboratory practicals, and interactions with both local stakeholders and international experts. The mobility also allowed to explore Italian and Apulian agrifood districts, offering participants valuable insights into the sector. A notable highlight was the visit to GAL Salento, where the group learned about the organization's structure, governance, and operations, as well as its role within the EU LEADER scheme funding program. The mobility program concluded with a graduation ceremony and feedback from the students on how the knowledge and experiences gained could be applied to their future research and professional activities...[Read more LINK](#)

See Photostreaming [LINK](#)

Watch video testimonials

CIHEAM Bari Project manager Speech Video [LINK](#)

CUTNTU Students Testimonial video [LINK](#)



CIHEAM Bari Community Welcoming CUNTU-Ukraine students



Closing ceremony and Certificate award July 2024

Kaunas (Lithuania) Student Mobility



From **26 August to 22 September**, Kauno kolegija Higher Education Institution hosted 13 bachelor's, master's and doctoral students from Poltava State Agrarian University, Ukraine and Comrat State University, Moldova in the field of food technology and agribusiness.

During the almost month-long internships, the students worked on their final theses, carried out research in microbiology, chemistry, and food laboratories, consulted with lecturers, and delved into the latest scientific literature by taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the library. The foreign students, together with Kauno kolegija Higher Education Institution lecturers-mentors, also visited Kauno kolegija HEI social partners: farms, food industry companies, thus getting acquainted with the peculiarities of work, applied quality standards.

In addition, the programme aimed to improve students' knowledge of English, digital skills, the official language of the host institution and the culture of the host country, thus promoting intercultural and professional exchanges and strengthening universities' capacity to create innovative and sustainable clusters.. ...**Read more:** [LINK](#)



Kaunas Community Welcoming Poltava-Ukraine students



Closing ceremony and Certificate award September 2024

University of Valladolid UVa (Spain) Student Mobility



Students from the Technical University of Moldova (TUM) were hosted by the University of Valladolid and officially welcomed by the Vice Rector of the Palencia Campus, Julio Díez Casero, during a formal ceremony to mark the beginning of their 28-day mobility period, **from September 3 to 30, 2024** which was organized by the Department of Agricultural and Forestry Engineering of the Palencia Campus, as part of the UniClaD Erasmus+ initiative. Participants attended lectures, workshops and hands-on sessions focused on critical areas such as life cycle analysis, evidence synthesis, systematic reviews, precision and urban agriculture, and food governance. The program included field trips to farms and agribusiness sites such as the Comunidad de Regantes de Los Payuelos, pioneering developments in irrigation technology and sustainable water management. Agrisan Sociedad Cooperativa, showcasing modern agricultural techniques in crop management. Mercofran Agricultural Machinery Company, where they examined different types of agricultural machinery used in agriculture in the region. They also visited Aviferso TC, a leading poultry company in chicken farming and a small traditional livestock farm. The Dairy Technology Station and the Dairy R & D Center of the Institute of Agricultural Technology of Castile-Leon (ITACyL) and the Integrated Vocational Training Center "CIFP VIÑALTA", During these field visits, the students interacted closely with local stakeholders and agribusiness professionals gaining valuable industry perspectives.

The immersion experience provided an exploration of Spanish history and culture, which expanded participants' global perspectives. Students also gained insight into the European higher education system, particularly in the areas of agribusiness and technology. The program fostered cultural exchange and professional networking opportunities. At the end of the program, a certificate ceremony recognized the students' internship training achievements. Participants provided feedback on how to apply their new knowledge to future academic research and professional activities.....**Read more** [LINK](#)

Moldovan student mobility welcomed at Valladolid University [LINK](#)
Certificate awards and closing event of Student Mobility in Palencia [LINK](#)



University of Valladolid Community Welcoming Moldova (TUM) students Closing ceremony and Certificate award September 2024

University of Debrecen (Hungary) Student Mobility



Within the framework of the ERASMUS+ project 'Enhancing capacity of universities to initiate and participate in clusters development on innovation and sustainability principles' (UniClad) (No. 609944-EPP-1-2019-1-LT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP), 8 students from Bila Tserkva National Agrarian University, spent one month (05.09.2024-03.10.2024.) at the University of Debrecen, presented their activities as part of the closing program. The hosting faculty members from the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences and Environmental Management (MÉK) and the Faculty of Economics and Business (GTK) made efforts to organize the same environment and intensive program for them that an international student might experience during a semester.

During the first meeting with their supervisors, they selected the subjects they would attend and refined their research topics. University of Debrecen offers several courses in English and hosts more than 4000 international students. The Ukrainian students attended at least two different lectures with seminars. They met at least twice a week to discuss their progress and submitted weekly reports. During professional field trips, they visited the African catfish farm in Füzesgyarmat and Nagisz's new cattle farm, as well as its milk and meat processing plant. They also enjoyed the reception organized for Erasmus students, the Zamat Festival, and especially the atmosphere of YouDay. They had the opportunity to take trips to Hortobágy, the Tisza Lake Ecocenter, Hajdúszoboszló, Eger, and Budapest. In their final report, they highlighted the practical education in Debrecen and the helpfulness of the supervisors, the Erasmus Office, and the Academic Departments. They would return, and we would gladly welcome them back.

Additionally, the program aimed to enhance the students' proficiency in English, digital skills, and the official language of the host institution, thereby fostering intercultural and professional exchanges and strengthening the capacities of universities in developing innovative and sustainable clusters...**Read more** [LINK](#)



University of Debrecen Community Bila -Ukraine students



Closing ceremony and Certificate award October 2024

2nd UCAEP (Austria) Student Mobility

UniclaD Student Mobility – Erasmus+ Visit:

Ukrainian Students from Lviv National Environmental University at the University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education in Vienna



From September 13 to October 10, 2024, we had the pleasure of hosting seven dedicated students from the Lviv National Environmental University at the University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education. Despite extreme weather conditions at their arrival – with continuous rain and many parts of Austria facing floods – the students embarked on a one-week-tour across Austria on Sunday, September 15.

Together with a group of exchange students from Tanzania, they visited various agricultural schools, where they had a chance to meet local students and to discuss current issues as well as global challenges. They also had the opportunity to experience Austria's rich culture and natural beauty, exploring the historic city of Salzburg and visiting Bruck an der Glocknerstraße, a town nestled near Austria's highest peak, the Großglockner.

Back in Vienna, we arranged an exciting program for them at the University College. They took part in workshops on social media and content creation, Green Care, public relations, and sustainable tourism. They were able to talk to lecturers and interview experts on relevant topics. Another highlight was their visit to the Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research (BAB) on October 3. The meeting provided the students with valuable insights into the research areas and projects of the BAB. Together, they discussed various methods and approaches for data collection and analysis.

Overall, the time spent together was enriching for everyone involved. The students demonstrated great interest and commitment, and we were delighted to have the opportunity to host them. We hope the experiences they gained here will support them in their further studies and future careers.

Links to videos:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DBowmRytsjK/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DBJpWN2trfW/>



UniClaD Final events

Workshop, final conference and steering committee meeting

Date: September 30 – October 4, 2024

Location: Azerbaijan Technical University, Baku

The Final events UniClaD project **“Enhancing Capacity Of Universities To Initiate And To Participate In Clusters Development On Innovation And Sustainability Principles” (UniClaD)** (Nr. 609944-EPP-1-2019-1-LT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP)-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP) took place from September 30 to October 4, 2024, at Azerbaijan Technical University in Baku. Those event marked a crucial stage for cluster development in partner countries, bringing not only consortium partners from Spain, Italy, Austria, Poland, Lithuania, Hungary, Moldova, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, but also the heads of Erasmus+ National Offices, National Innovation Centres, Science and Research centres from different countries, representatives of the agricultural and agribusiness sector, higher education institutions’ communities and other project stakeholders.



September 30 - October 1:

Presentations and workshops will be led by Nouredin Driouech (CIHEAM Bari-Italy) and Klaus (BAP-Austria) and reported by Viktorija (Kaunas-Lithuania), Istvan Komlosi (UD, Hungary) and Leticia Chico-Santamarta (UVa, Spain). The sessions explored Expertise Centers' activities, challenges, and future strategies for cluster growth with guidance from EU partners.





October 2 - October 3:

The final conference, moderated Nouredin Driouech (CIHEAM Bari-Italy) and Leticia Chico-Santamarta (UVa-Spain), and reported by reported by Viktorija (Kaunas-Lithuania), Olimpia Antonelli (CIHEAM Bari-Italy) and Izabela Lipinski (PULS-Poland), had showcase the UniClaD project's results, discussing successes, remaining challenges, and future opportunities. Key topics included cluster development and innovative management, with practical examples from Europe and partner countries.

The final conference focused not only on the results of the project, but also on the challenges and their solutions. During the almost four-year period, project encountered plenty of challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the withdrawal of a partner, 23 partners from 9 countries with different working styles and cultural differences, the change of project coordinator, 7 times change of the officer at the European Commission who supervises the project, the war in Ukraine which significantly restricted the mobility of 9 partners from Ukraine and made it complicated to continue the project, the suspension and then the extension of the project period, etc.

October 4:

The Steering Committee had reviewed the project's financial status, final report, external audit, and strategies for long-term sustainability, led by Vytaute Giedraitiene (KK HEI, Lithuania).

Those events offered insights into cluster structuring and strengthened cooperation among partner countries, setting the stage for future progress.

This edition provided valuable insights into cluster structuring and strengthened cooperation among partner countries, laying a strong foundation for future developments.

FINAL AGENDA LINK

Read more:

AzU: [LINK 1](#)

CIHEAM Bari [LINK 2](#)

Kaunas [LINK 3](#)



About UniClaD Project “Enhancing capacity of universities to initiate and to participate in clusters development on innovation and sustainability principles” (#UniClaD)

UniClaD is aiming to Development of the potential of universities as an integral part of agro-industrial clusters and the Creation of the innovative centers as pre-conditions for the development and successful functioning of agro-industrial clusters.

This project, [EU Program Erasmus +](#), Project KA2 n° 609944-EPP-1-2019-1-LT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP, has been funded with support from the European Commission..

[Get to Learn about UniClaD Partners](#)

[CONTACT](#)

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