

Enhancement of Postgraduate Studies on Sustainable Agriculture and Future Farming Systems

Issue 6, February 2023

3rd project year

On the 14th of January 2023, the SAGRIS project has been finished. This project has made huge contribution to Russian and Kazakhstani Universities development, modernization of educational programmes and enhancement of PhD-studies, Universities' internationalization and involvement of stakeholders into the educational process and University research.

Events and activities conducted in the 3rd project year

- ✓ Block Seminars SAGRIS.
- ✓ Study trips to EU Universities.
- ✓ SAGRIS Toolboxes.
- ✓ Universities' Strategic papers on enhancement of PhD-studies
- ✓ Public conference on postgraduate education in agricultural HEIs of Russia and Kazakhstan
- ✓ Erasmus Days 2022

Contents

Project outcomes: 3 rd year of implementation	1
Study trips SAGRIS	2
Block Seminar SAGRIS	4
Erasmus Days 2022	5
Public Conference	6
SAGRIS partners & contacts.....	7

Project timeline: final stage



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Study trip on Module 2 «Crop and Livestock systems under climate change» to Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague



Between October 23 and November 5, 2022, a study trip on module 2 "Crop and livestock production systems in the context of climate change" took place in Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague.

The trip was attended by developers and doctoral students from partner universities of Kazakhstan, as well as members of the independent accreditation and rating agency and the national Agrarian Scientific and Educational Centre. A total of 11 people took part

During the training trip, the participants attended lectures by university scientists, doctoral seminars, agricultural enterprises such as Agro Podlesí dairy farm, CZU Lány farms and the CZU Amaile Smart Landscape project, CZU Botanical Garden, CZU Food Pavilion, CZU Forestry Enterprise (Kostelets over Black Forests).

The training seminar program covered theoretical and practical aspects of regional problems of sustainable agricultural development.



Reviewed and evaluated scientifically sound sustainable systems of animal husbandry and animal welfare in the face of climate change, in order to preserve the safety of livestock products, taking into account minimal economic risks.

Presented teaching materials on elaborated SAGRIS Module and exchanged the knowledge, experience and expertise



Acquired knowledge of advanced methods of the impact of the effects of climate change on food security: economic and social risks associated with agriculture in the context of climate change.

Received professional knowledge in the field of forecasting and determining the impact of climate change on production activities, productivity and sustainability of crop and livestock systems



Prof. Michal Lostak and teachers from Kazakhstani partner institutions during the study trip to Prague



Kazakhstani participants during the study trip to Prague



Kazakhstani participants during the study trip to Prague

Video and photos of the Block Seminar here:



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Study trip on Module 3 «Advanced methods of scientific working» at Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland



The study trip on Module 3 “Advanced methods of scientific working” was held from November 7 to 18, 2022 at the Warsaw University of Natural Sciences (Szkoła Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego) - the oldest agrarian and natural science university in Poland, founded in 1816. It was attended by teachers and doctoral students of four Kazakhstani universities, accreditation agency IAAR and scientific institution NASEC.

On the first day, the project leader, head of the department, Professor Axel Schwerk acquainted all those present with the program and objectives of the training seminar and conference; participants were also informed about the achievements and material base of the university. The next day there was an excursion with a visit to a sheep farm in Zelaznya. On November 9, 2022, participants visited the scientific research of the Institute of Animal Sciences, to learn about the didactic scope of the Faculty of Breeding, Bioengineering and Animal Protection, and a further visit to the Large Animal Clinic of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine in Wolica took place.

On November 10, 2022, a workshop on scientific publishing conducted by Professor Mateusz Grygoruk, editor of leading peer-reviewed journals was held. In addition a meeting with the Department of International Relations of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences was organized; whose representatives shared information about the possibilities of various programs and projects. A cultural program with excursions to the house-museum of Frederic Chopin and to get acquainted with the sights of Warsaw was organized for teachers and doctoral students of the Kazakhstani universities.

From November 14 to 15, 2022, teachers and doctoral students from Kazakhstani universities took part in the 3rd International Conference on Geoinformatics, Remote Sensing and Engineering in Spatial Planning and Environmental Science. Environment in times of hazard. Representatives of S. Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University Meleshenko N.N. and Murzabekova G.E. made a report on the first day of the conference on the topic "Developing a set of models based on data mining for wheat yield forecasting."

The workshop “Teledetection” and the field trip with presentations on various types drone were interesting and informative. According to the program of the block seminar, the reports of the module developers on the preparation of presentations aimed at target groups and on the R software for statistical analysis were heard

At the end of the block seminar, Axel Schwerk summed up the results; feedback from doctoral students and seminar participants was also received. All participants of the block seminar were awarded certificates of participation and memorable souvenirs. The seminar participants shared their impressions of the block seminar, the high appreciation of which will undoubtedly contribute to the enhancement of postgraduate studies on sustainable agriculture and future farming systems.



From left to right: Dr. Agata Joiczky, Dr. Nadezhda Meleshenko, Prof. Axel Schwerk at WULS



Dr. Nadezhda Meleshenko on the professional excursion in Warsaw



Partners from Kazakhstani institutions and WULS during the study trip to Warsaw

Video and photos of the Block Seminar



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Block Seminar on Module 3 “Advanced methods of scientific working”



From December 5 to 8, 2022, the Kazakh National Agrarian Research University held the second block seminar on Module 3, "Advanced methods of scientific working", of the international project SAGRIS. It was attended by lectures and doctoral students of four Kazakhstani universities.

The Block Seminar started with the key note lecture Prof. Axel Schwerk (WULS) who shared the experience of a long-term project: 34 years of forest ecology research in Poland. The programme included

Lectures of European scientists

Group project of PhD-students

Excursions to research centers and laboratories

Trainings and workshops



Feedback of PhD-students on Block Seminar on Module 3



Tlekbol Sharapatov (KATU): “SAGRIS project is a strategic instrument in University development and modernization, because all SAGRIS modules were designed in collaboration of several countries. It allowed us to get familiar with the international experience and knowledge. The ones I received on Block Seminar on Module 3 I used in my doctoral thesis for methodology and theoretical part. We need professional knowledge to apply innovative technologies therefore we conduct research to get new knowledge. This “education-research-innovations” triangle will enhance the role of research Universities in our country.

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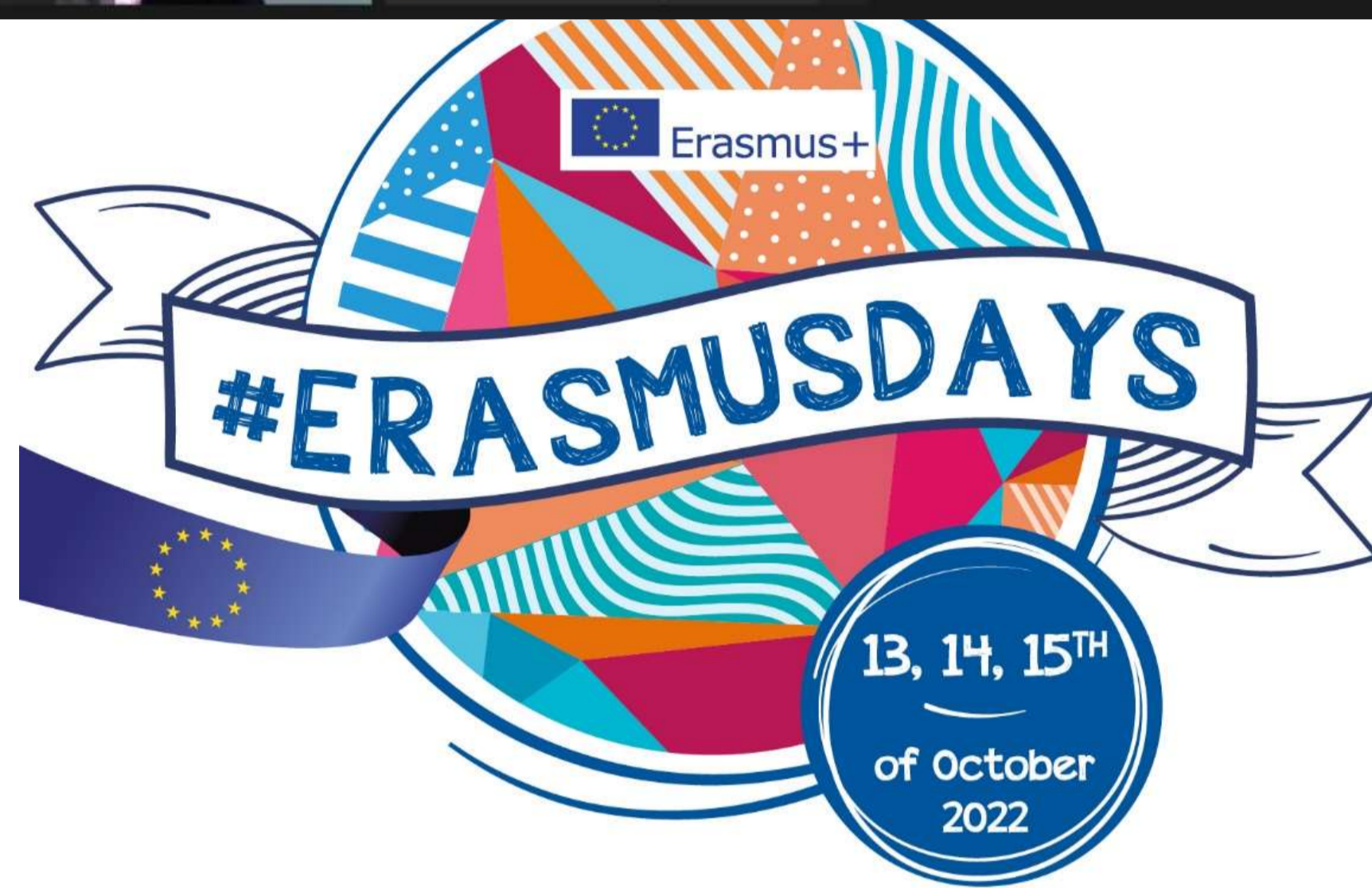
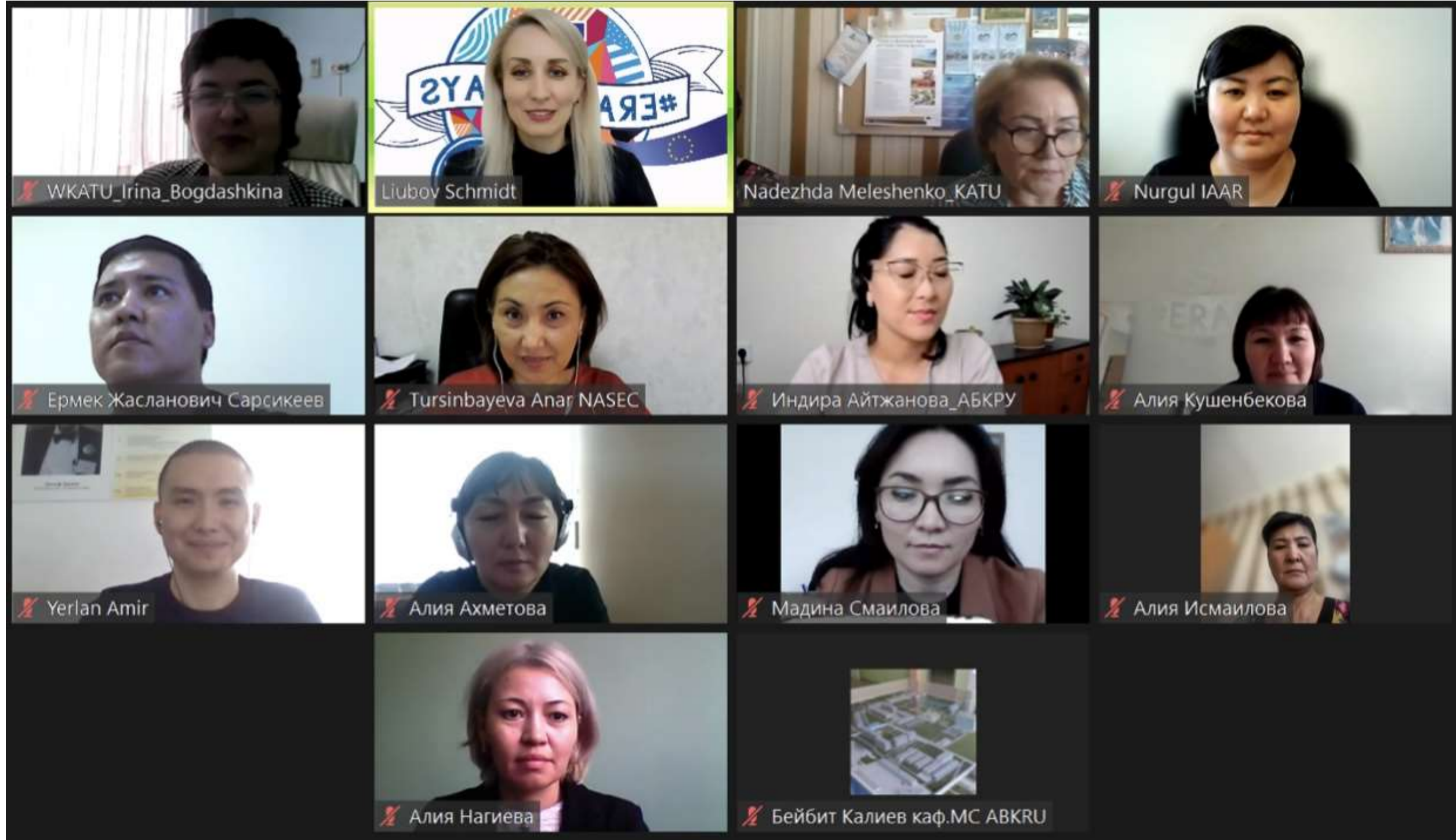


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SAGRIS project at the international Erasmus Days 2022



Annually, SAGRIS project takes part in Erasmus Days worldwide event. In October 2022 SAGRIS team presented the results of modernization of educational programmes, SAGRIS modules, study trips to European Universities and Block Seminars. Around 70 participants from universities of Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, and Kazakhstan joined the meeting. Project administrator Mrs. Sara Pfaff opened the meeting with the brief project report, SAGRIS background and relevance; the participants watched SAGRIS project trailer and listened to the reports of module leads about SAGRIS modules, feedback from doctoral students on the results of their participation in SAGRIS Block Seminars and a study trip in European Universities. The discussion appeared to be vivid, productive and efficient. In the end, Mrs. Meleshenko and Mrs. Rysbekova announced the last Block Seminar on Module 3 and 2nd public conference that were seen as the final and closing project events that took place in KazNARU in December 2022.

Final Steering Committee Meeting

The Steering Committee of SAGRIS project is a group of high-level advisors who governed the organizational segment of the project and provided it with direction. The Steering Committee includes members from all consortium partners and us supervised by SAGRIS project manager Prof. Dr. Heinrich Schuele from Nuertingen-Geislingen University (HFWU).

In total, Steering Committee had 15 Meetings where successfully ran the project and directed its activities in all work packages. On the 10th of December the final Steering Committee meeting took place. Project administrator Sara Pfaff presented the overview of project activities; module leads reported about SAGRIS modules introducing into HEIs' curricular, study trips that took place in October-November 2022 and 2nd Block Seminar on Module 3. Dr. Irina Bogdashkina presented the outcomes of strategic papers elaboration; Dr. Rysbekova finalized all the activities on project dissemination. Prof. Rossie Betcheva presented the results on external evaluation of project activities. They demonstrated the success of the project and its contribution to HEIs development. Prof. Heinrich Schuele made a summary of the meeting and closed the event.

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Prof. Heinrich Schuele, Msc. Sara Pfaff, HFWU

Kazakhstan partners

Dr. Angelika Thomas, HFWU

Public conference “Actual and future development of postgraduate studies in Kazakhstan within the international frame”

The 2nd public conference united partners from European Universities – HFWU (Germany), CULS (Czech Republic), WULS (Poland) - who arrived at KazNARU (Almaty, Kazakhstan) and met their colleagues from Kazakhstani HEIs as well as accreditation agency IAAR and scientific institution NASEC. The Conference was opened by the Plenary session "Academia and Industrial Perspectives of PhD Education: the Key Components for meeting the high standards". Dr. Ramazanova from Kazakhstani Research Institute became a keynote and reported about “Assumptions of Industry and Science in the Republic of Kazakhstan from Young Researchers in the field of agriculture” followed by Prof. Michal Lostak (CULS, Prague) with the report “PhD Education: soft-skills and specific advanced knowledge in the field of sustainable agriculture”. Module leader presented key notes of SAGRIS project: Impact of SAGRIS modules on University development” .



Participants of the Final Conference



From left to right: Professor Axel Schwerk (WULS), Prof. Michal Lostak (CULS)



Dr. Angelika Thomas, HFWU

Accreditation agency expert Dr. Yanovskaya presented professional view to “Ensuring quality of educational programmes when training postgraduate students in the sphere of sustainable agriculture”. Dr. Tursinbayeva from NASEC demonstrated her expert estimation on “SAGRIS project: success story for scientific novelty” and Dr. Bogdashkina (WKATU) reported about “SAGRIS as a driving force of University strategies on postgraduate studies”.



Prof. Heinrich Schuele and participants from Kazakhstani institutions



Doctoral students from Kazakhstani institutions

There was a round table with doctoral students who participated in the events and activities of SAGRIS project. They had opportunity to share their experience and impressions from what they have studied and explored and, of course, to communicate with “older” scientists and teachers, establish professional contacts and integrate into scientific community.

SAGRIS partners and contact details

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