

Agricultural University of Tirana

Consortium "Pema" – VET through
Innovation

MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATION

between

AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA
(AUT)

and

CONSORTIUM "PEMA" – VET THROUGH INNOVATION PROJECT (ITALIAN
COOPERATION AND REGION EMILIA-ROMAGNA, ITALY)

- Whereas the Agricultural University of Tirana is a long-established Institution in tertiary education in Albania for undergraduate and graduate studies, scientific research, training and extension in the area of agriculture and food;
- Whereas the Agricultural University of Tirana welcomes forms of collaboration aimed at increasing the business and research development potential of agriculture and agrifood ecosystem in Albania;
- Whereas the Project "VET Through Innovation" is promoted by the Albanian Ministry of the Economy and Finances and originates from a bilateral Agreement between the Italian and the Albanian Government to support through a soft loan the development of a Multifunctional Center of Vocational education in agriculture in Fier, at the premises of the Rakip Kryeziu secondary VET school that can operate as a pilot initiative for other agriculture VET Multifunctional centers across Albania;

- Whereas the Project “VET through Innovation”, coordinated by a consortium (whose acronym is “Pema” - Project Emilia-Romagna for Albania) led by Emilia Romagna Regional Authority in collaboration with ARTER, VET providers (IFOA, AECA and SERINAR) and upper secondary agriculture schools from Emilia-Romagna, welcomes forms of collaboration with national education institutions in order to: set up the bases to manage and organize efficiently in Fier Region an agricultural multifunctional center (MFC); develop VET and labour market oriented curricula in agriculture, agrifood and other related economic fields; enforce linkages of the future MFC with the private sector;
- Whereas the parties, in the frame of “VET through innovation” project, have expressed their willingness to collaborate in activities aiming at putting in place an efficient and labour market oriented system of VET curricula in the Region of Fier. This will be achieved through: provision of customized services to develop secondary level VET curricula to provide technicians in agro food, support the design and delivery of short term and post-secondary VET curricula, training of teachers/trainers in the agricultural sector, development of workshops, teaching practices and materials and sectoral consultancy.

The parties agree to sign this memorandum of cooperation with the following conditions:

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum is twofold:

- to guarantee that the enhancement of qualification and competence standards in agriculture VET in Albania, of both students and teachers, can benefit from the base and applied knowledge, expertise and competences of the Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT);
- to assure that “VET through Innovation” project could lay the bases for a comprehensive model of cross-border/cross-regional VET cooperation between the involved actors in the teachers’ training, upskilling/reskilling of the labour force and

the employability of the youngsters in a crucial sector of the Albanian economy, as the agriculture and other related economic domains such as agrifood industry, agritourism and blue economy.

Article 2

Object

The Parties agree to collaborate in the following topics:

1. Upgrading the professional and qualification standards in Agriculture VET across all levels of Albanian Qualification Framework (AQF) (from 2 to 5);
2. Upgrading Albanian Framework Curriculum in Agriculture VET across all levels of Albanian Qualification Framework (from 2 to 5);
3. Designing and developing a post-secondary VET path in agriculture in Albania (level 5 of Albanian Qualification Framework);
4. Training (upskilling and reskilling) Albanian Upper secondary teachers in agriculture VET;
5. Designing and developing new formats and contents of teaching materials for Agriculture VET framework curricula specifically at level 2 and 5 of AQF;
6. Support the development of a Multifunctional Agriculture VET Center in Fier, with regard to extension and career services for the prospective school farm;
7. Support the development of "business-to-business" value chain workshops between Albanians agriculture entrepreneurs and Emilia-Romagna High Technology agriculture and agrifood Cluster
8. Other joint activities related on VET qualifications upgrading with the specific approval of both parties and agreed on specific needs.

Article 3

Legal basis

As a public institution the Agricultural University of Tirana states that can sign this memorandum based on the following national legislation:

- a) Law no. 7850, dated 29.07.1994 "Civil Code of the Republic of Albania" (amended);
- b) Law no. 80/2015, "On higher education and scientific research in higher education institutions in the Republic of Albania";
- c) Law no. 9887, dated 10.3.2008 "On the protection of personal data" (amended);

- d) Law no. 80/2015 "On higher education and scientific research in higher education institutions in the Republic of Albania",
- e) Law no. 15/2019 "On promoting employment",
- f) Law no. 15/2017 "On education and vocational training in the Republic of Albania", amended,
- g) The Statute of the Agricultural University of Tirana, as well as the by-laws issued in their implementation.

Article 4

Commitments of the parties

The parties agree to cooperate based on the spirit of mutual understanding and positive willingness to ensure the necessary conditions for the realization of the commitment and initiatives undertaken by the parties;

- Pema Consortium undertakes to share all knowledge and information on the process of skill upgrading and reform of Agriculture VET stemming from expertise of its members and from expertise of Emilia-Romagna agrifood ecosystem;
- Agricultural University of Tirana undertakes to contribute with expertise and knowledge of its teaching and research staff to:
 - a. Training of upper secondary teachers on advancements and new managerial and technology frontiers in animal farming, food technology, veterinary, crop production, fruit and vegetables value chains, local products, agritourism, blue economy;
 - b. Designing new formats and models of teaching materials for Agriculture VET;
 - c. Support Pema consortium in establishing a viable Multifunctional VET center in Fier, in terms of training and consultancy sessions to Development Unit Staff, Director and VET teachers;
 - d. Agricultural University of Tirana further undertakes to support the career development of VET students from the Multifunctional center of Fier through career counselling and available infrastructure with the aim of facilitating the realization of professional practices and employment of young people;
 - e. Moreover, Agricultural University of Tirana will undertake technical assistance activities aimed at supporting the development of agrifood value chains events in a cross-border international format;

In relation to the collection, processing or transfer of personal data during the implementation of the commitments provided for in this memorandum, the parties undertake to fulfill all obligations stemming from the legal framework in force for the protection of personal data.

Article 5

Contact person

1. The contact persons will be responsible for the implementation of this memorandum, in order to achieve the objectives by communicating and exchanging data in the most correct and effective way.
2. The contact persons for each party, within the framework of the implementation of this memorandum, are:

For UBT:

Mr. Shpresim Domi, Directorate of Learning and Career Services, AUT
Email: shdomi@ubt.edu.al

For Pema Consortium

Mr Lorenzo Ciapetti, Team Leader of the project "vet though Innovation"
Email: lorenzo.ciapetti@unibo.it

3. In case of a change of one of these persons, the party represented by this person must notify the other signing party in writing within one calendar week of the new contact person's data.

Article 6

Deadline

1. This memorandum is concluded for a term of 1 year.
2. The deadline starts from the date of signing of this Memorandum by both parties.
3. Each of the parties may request to terminate the memorandum by notifying the other party in writing at least one month before the termination date.

Article 7

Disputes

Any dispute, misunderstanding or misinterpretation in the implementation of this memorandum will be resolved with understanding between the parties, in the spirit of cooperation, tolerance and the framework of moral ethics.

Article 8

Transitional provisions

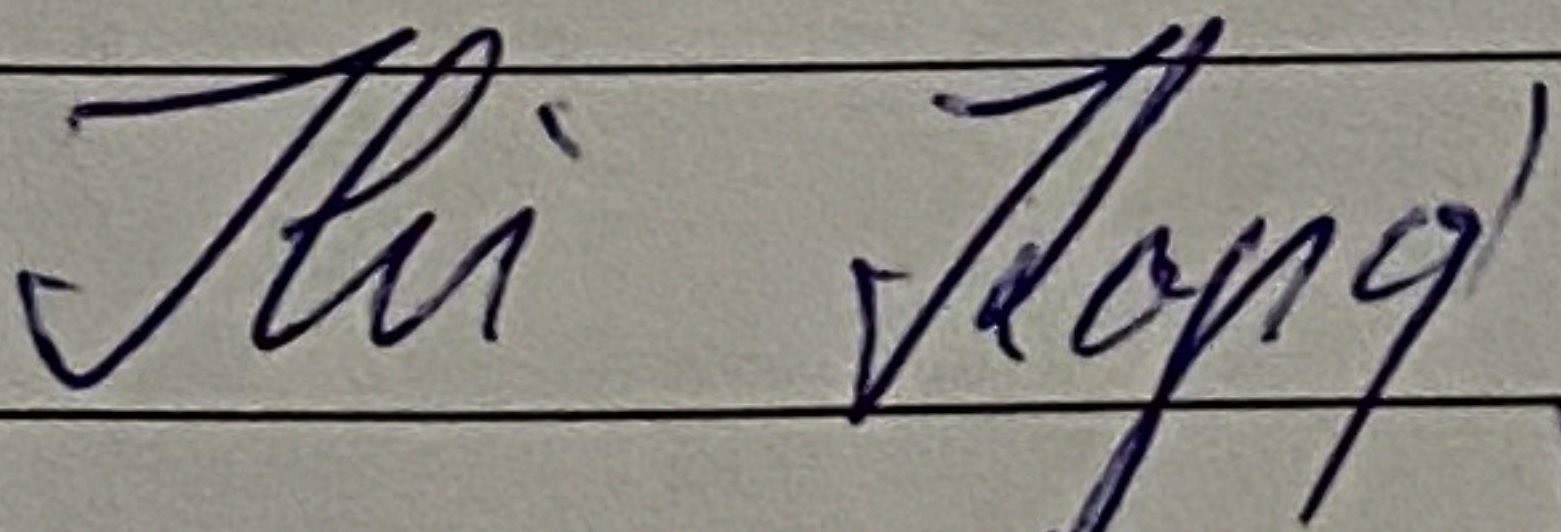
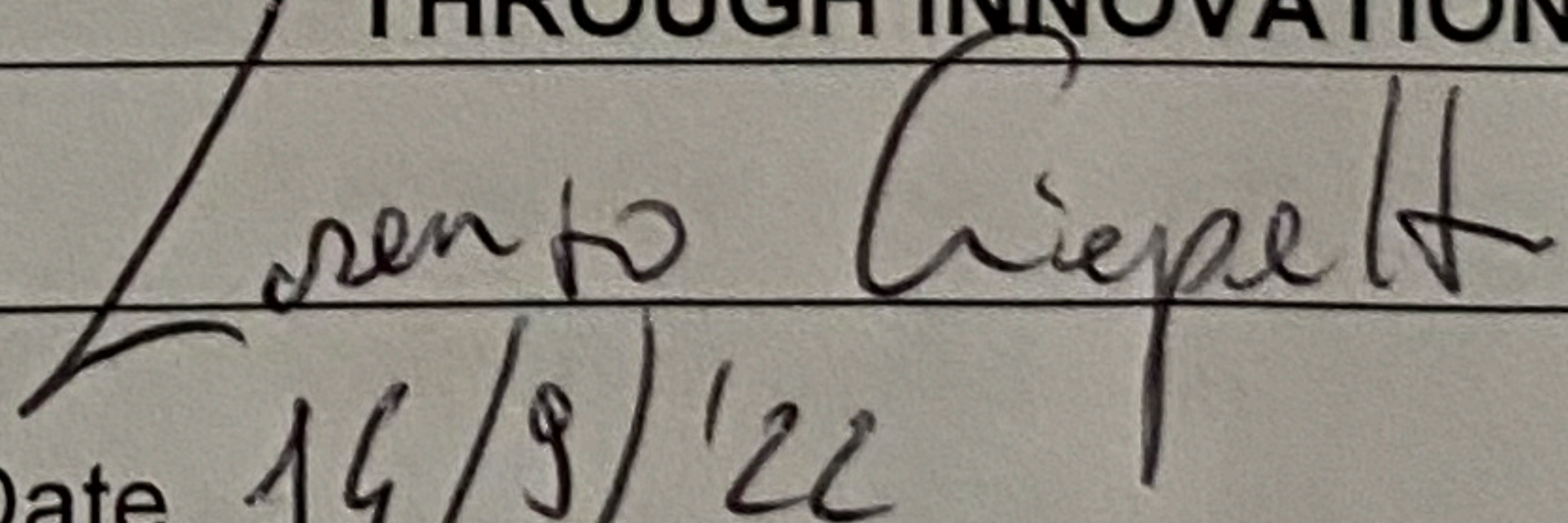
1. The parties are obliged to respect this memorandum of cooperation for the entire duration provided for in Article 6.
2. The Memorandum may be amended only through a written agreement signed by both parties.
3. The terms of this Memorandum of Cooperation are accepted and signed by both parties.

Article 9

confidentiality

Both parties agree to respect the terms of confidentiality.

This memorandum will be submitted in 4 (four) copies, of which 2 (two) are kept by the Consortium and 2 (two) are kept by UBT as well as 2 (two) copies in English for each institution.

Agricultural University of Tirana	CONSORTIUM PEMA – PROJECT VET THROUGH INNOVATION
 Date <u>14/09/2022</u>	 Date <u>14/9/22</u>

