



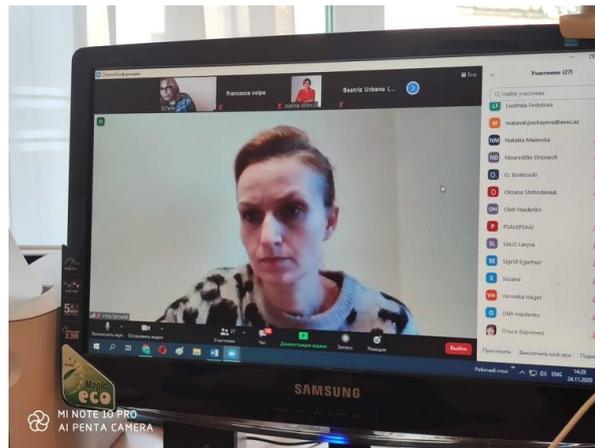
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The on-line workshop devoted to legal and economic aspects of cluster creation and functioning was held on the 24th of November 2020

48 experts from 9 countries and 24 partner institutions participated in the meeting.

The participants were greeted by **Irma Servaite**, project coordinator, *Kaunas University of Applied Sciences, Lithuania*

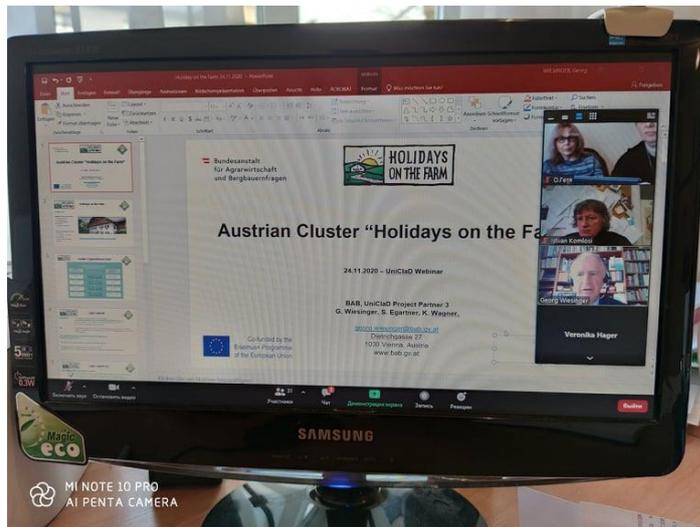


The introductory word was made by **Olga Getya**, *HPHE*

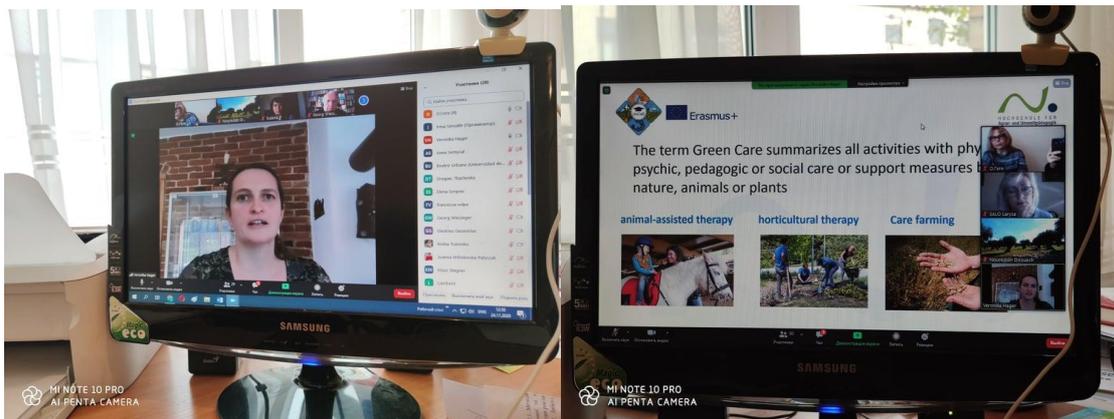
She explained that the purpose of this workshop is to study the European experience in developing the legal base and economic relations for clusters functioning. The focus should be done on the defining of necessary conditions for the participation of universities in clusters.

Mr. Istvan Komlosi, *UD* presented the **Cluster legal environment in Hungary**. He explained three types of clusters (horizontal, vertical and) and necessary conditions for the creation of clusters, such as common working experience, mutual trust, intrinsic and voluntary interest, common objectives. He indicated that no legal contract is foreseen for cluster work but cooperative agreement can be envisaged. The form of organization can be cooperative, association, business association, foundation, civic association etc. He presented also principles of cluster management and necessary conditions for their accreditation.

Mr. Georg Weisinger, *BAB* presented presentation developed together with his colleagues, devoted to legal and economic aspects under the experience of the cluster "Holidays on the farm" consisting of 2.200 member farms, 8 provincial associations and 1 umbrella organization. Besides, the cluster has a large network of partner organizations: National tourist board, tourist associations, Agricultural chambers, other farms. He mentioned EU and national regulation related to clusters creation and activities, insurance, taxation rules. Mr. Weisinger explained budgeting and finances distribution within clusters.



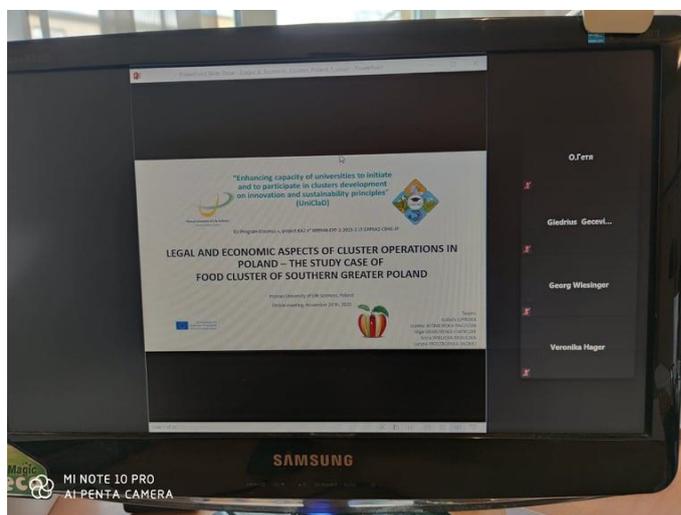
Ms. Veronika Hager, UCAEP presented legal and economic issues on the example of the cluster “Green care” summarizing all activities with physical, psychic, pedagogic or social care or support measures by using nature, animals or plants and explain some general rules related to clusters. The cluster “Green care” consists of two units: Working community Green Care and Association Green Care. The Association is financed by Membership fees, Funding, Donations and collections, Sponsoring and EU projects. A long-term co-operative model exists between farmers and social services/institutions, i.e. day center for people with disabilities. As the example of legal entity model she gave old people’s home or kindergarten on the farm.



Mr. Giedrius Gecevicius, KK presented the Lithuanian experience of Food and agriculture cluster. After having explained the nature of cluster he noted out the advantages of clusters as unit of different actors. He mentioned four main cluster active in agri-food sector in Lithuania. Common features and experience of clusters are: Research, business and public stakeholders, Status, Structure (Public Institutions, Associations, Private Companies), same main goal - applied research, market chain, new markets, Same members in different clusters, Companies of all sizes, Finance – annual fee, support from government. In the end he made SWOT analysis of clusters: S: Consolidated resources, Concentrated competences, Higher added value; W: Lack of human resources, Lack of finance, Demand of external coordinator; O: Public private cooperation, New markets, New services; T: Ineffective management, Unclear benefit for stakeholders, Unclear long-term strategy.



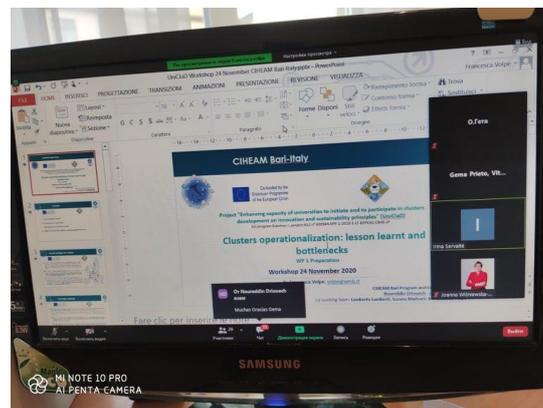
Mr. Joanna Wisniewska, PULSpoke about Legal and economic aspects of cluster operations in Poland on the example of food cluster of Southern Greater Poland. The best cluster practice means freedom to contract, cluster agreement should contain provisions that would enable effective implementation of the objectives of the cluster, appointment of a cluster coordinator, indication of cluster „bodies”. She presented advantages of contracting and indicated main parts of contracts. Clusters can have different forms: consortium, association, foundation, Company (Ltd, joint stock, other), organization of entrepreneurs (professional self-governments, commerce chambers). Also, she presented main tasks of cluster coordinator, association statute components. A special focus was done on university – cluster cooperation.



Ms. Gema Prieto, representative of the cluster Vitartis (UVA) explained the legal and economic aspects on the example of her cluster. The purpose of the cluster is to increase the competitiveness of the food industry in Castilla y León, promoting innovation in all fields and representing the interests of the sector before public institutions, and economic and social organizations. She presented the structure and organization of the cluster. The funding resources of the cluster are: Membership fees, Regional, National and European funding programs, Agreements and contracts, Sponsorships from collaborative entities, Services. The legal status of the cluster is non-profit association. Documents needed for inscription are Founding Act and Articles of association. Commitments: Update information about its members, Proper accounts, Minutes book. Cluster should be registered at national and regional levels.



Ms. Francesca Volpe, CINEAM-Bari made the presentation prepared together with her colleagues and devoted to Clusters operationalization. She spoke about lesson learnt and bottlenecks. In the beginning she presented EU strategy and Italian policy related to clusters. On the experience of Apulian technical district she explained the governance and business model of the cluster, presented its history, revising of strategy that was necessary, future perspectives.



In the end of the workshop **Ms. Olga Getya, HPHE** explained further steps for the realization WP1 that consists in the development of the "road map" for the creation of the expertise centers at the universities. The "road map" should presents necessary steps such as development of necessary documents package, adopting these documents by universities, defining infrastructure for the expertise center, human and other resources for their functioning and activities plan.