

NOTICE OF COMPETITION A.Y. 2005/06
FIRST LEVEL UNIVERSITY MASTER IN
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL AREAS
OF THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN BASIN
(VALORISATION OF TYPICAL AGRO-FOOD PRODUCTS)
(MISS)

Notice of competition for candidates coming from:
Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Serbia and Montenegro

ART. 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The University of Bologna wishes to maintain a privileged channel of collaboration and cooperation among students, researchers and professors of the Universities and Research Centres coming from the Adriatic-Ionian Basin, thanks to the experience related to the first triennium of activities of UniAdrion - Virtual University of the Adriatic Ionian Basin, and to the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – General Department of Cooperation for Development.

The importance of this cooperation is reinforced also by the EU enlargement to 25 Member States, which can represent a first step towards the integration of new member countries from Central-Eastern Europe and the Balkans, with particular reference to those facing the Adriatic- Ionic Basin. In this framework there has been promoted the first level University Master in Sustainable Development of Agricultural and Rural Areas of the Adriatic-Ionian Basin (Valorisation of typical agro-food products) – MISS, which avails itself of the experience matured during the training courses in “Specialisation in Sustainable Development of Agricultural, Environmental and Rural Systems” and in “Course of Specialisation in Sustainability in the rural areas of the Adriatic-Ionian basin: multi-criteria analysis of agricultural and coastal systems” during the academic year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04.

1.1 GENERAL AIMS

Promotion of sustainable development and sustainable agriculture through the protection, good planning and management of the environmental and economic resources.

1.2 SPECIFIC AIMS

To offer a post-degree education, from both an academic and a professional point of view, about topics concerning the sustainable development of agricultural, environmental and rural systems. Therefore, an in-depth study of theoretical, normative and operative aspects related to the planning and management of agricultural and environmental systems will be offered. Moreover, methodologies for an active policy of sustainable development for rural and coastal systems of the Adriatic-Ionian Basin will be proposed.

1.3 EXPECTED RESULTS AND PLACEMENT PROSPECTIVES

The University Master - MISS wishes to train 15 experts who plan to cover assignments related to the following subjects:

- planning and management of agricultural, rural, and environmental systems at different levels in local and national authorities, international agencies, non-governmental and governmental bodies, research centres, and Universities;

- valorisation of typical and local products, and promotion of cultures and traditions as tools for development;
- organic farming (promotion of organic products);
- multifunctional agriculture, with particular attention to rural tourism as a tool for promoting the territory and for creating alternative incomes;
- endorsement of the entrepreneurship and micro-entrepreneurship in the agricultural and rural areas.

ART. 2 STRUCTURE OF THE MASTER

2.1 METHODOLOGY

The Master MISS foresees the analyses and the discussion of the main topics related to sustainable development, with particular current reference to the countries of the Adriatic-Ionian Basin, moreover subjects of particular relevance, such as the valorisation of the typical agro-food products, and organic farming. The valorisation of typical products can be considered a vital tool for the development of rural areas, with particular attention to the path that the countries from the Balkan area has just started or are going to start towards the European integration. In this framework the accession of the ten new Member States to the EU on 1st of May 2004 has meant an important step in the enlargement process. This process, the way towards an always more integrated and enlarged Europe now is getting even more important as it is moving towards the Balkan area: Croatia has just started the negotiation process for accession; Romania and Bulgaria are waiting for the conclusion of the negotiations, and the countries formed following the dissolution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are always more and more oriented towards Bruxelles. In the integration process of these countries agriculture will be one of the sectors of particular importance considering especially that the change from subsistence or semi-subsistence agriculture to a market oriented one represents a fundamental challenge for the development of the whole economy. This challenge can be won by promoting and supporting the small and medium enterprises that shall become one of the main driving forces of the economy of these countries.

The Master MISS intends to follow the approach of harmonisation of different scientific subjects, paying particular attention to the analyses of methodologies and operative instruments aiming at the promotion of sustainable development in the areas subject for discussion.

The programme of the Master is articulated in three different but strongly interconnected areas, which treat the topics related to international cooperation and internationalisation with particular reference to the agricultural sector, to rural development, to the valorisation of typical agro-food products, to sustainable development in its different aspects, such as for example that of organic farming.

Creating a platform for discussion among the scientific community of the member states of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, the MISS proposes to deal with the sustainable development of the agricultural and rural areas of the Adriatic-Ionian Basin through an interdisciplinary approach, which would make possible to connect different problematic related to the sustainability of development, (e.g. demographic dynamics, environmental degradation, the increase of income and production, the rule of the institutions at local, national and international level, etc.).

2.2 DIDACTIC PLAN

The Master, entirely in English (*English will be the official working language of the Master, therefore all the courses, seminars and communications will be in English*), is finalised to analyse

and discuss the principal dimensions of sustainable development (ecological, social, economical and international). The Didactic Plan, featured by a strong interdisciplinary approach, will be articulated in three different but strongly interconnected areas as it was indicated before. The interdisciplinary approach can be considered as an essential requisite for the education of experts in planning and management of agricultural, rural and environmental systems. The three main areas are the following:

- **International cooperation (Area A):** it includes the principal thematic connected to international cooperation and internationalisation, with particular reference to the agricultural sector.
- **Rural development (Area B):** it includes the analyses of the agricultural and rural systems, with particular attention to the valorisation of typical agro-food products.
- **Sustainable development (Area C):** it includes the analyses of some of the multiple problematic of sustainable development, with particular importance dedicated to organic farming, inasmuch as a model for development and sustainable production.

The Didactic Plan foresees different intervention methods, which in their totality constitute a didactic offer as complete as possible:

- seminars and conferences,
- an on-line module, which foresees 190 hours of alternative study and 285 hours of individual study (the on-line module is composed of several courses);
- a face-to-face module, which foresees a total of 125 hours of face-to-face lessons, 125 hours of alternative study and 375 hours of individual study (the face-to-face module is composed of several courses);
- internship of 200 hours;
- realisation of the master thesis relevant to the arguments discussed in the framework of the Master.

The choice to offer a blended Course intends to overcome some possible difficulties related to an exclusively distance education: the discussion of topics which are not very much suitable to be debated at distance, the lack of some fundamental components of the face-to-face education, such as social integration, the possibility to understand signs of the paralinguistic and non-verbal communication (this is going to be in part solved by utilising of video-lectures).

Blended education is understood as a teaching method to utilise the peculiarities of both the face to face education (direct interactions, and social aspects) and distance education (discussions, exercises by distance learning, access to materials, flexible schedule).

2.3 ATTENDANCE, MID-TERM EXAMS AND FINAL EVALUATION

On-line module

The first fifteen days of the introductory *-propaedeutical-* on-line module will be a tool for the Scientific Committee to evaluate the competencies (through tests and exams) and the level of participation of the 15 selected students.

In case some participants will not succeed in passing the tests, the Scientific Committee will substitute him/her with waiting-list candidates individuated beforehand.

At the end of the on-line module, the students will have to do a final exam related to the topics discussed in the framework of the module. Those participants who do not pass the final exam will

not be allowed to follow the face-to-face module, to perform the internship, and therefore to obtain the Master degree.

Attendance at the courses (both the on-line and face-to-face modules) is obligatory. The Scientific Committee reserves the right to expel from the Master as well as to cut off scholarship of those students whose attendance does not reach at least 75% of the whole Master Course.

The final exam, to be conducted by the Scientific Committee, will take into consideration the Master Thesis and could have different results according to the performance of each student.

2.4 DURATION AND LOCATION OF THE MASTER

The Master will last from January 2006 till November 2006.

The on-line module which is going to take place approximately between January-March 2006, will not be of residential type, but each student will have to access the Master from his/her own country of residence.

The face-to-face module, which will start in April 2006, will be of residential type and the courses will take place at the Faculty of Agriculture - University of Bologna. The last week of the face-to-face module will be held following the end of the internship.

The internship besides specific cases agreed upon with the Scientific Committee, will have to be performed in Italy.

The final exam will be held at the Faculty of Agriculture - University of Bologna.

The selected candidates will therefore start to carry out the residential part of the Master (face-to-face module, internship, final exam) from April 2006 and will terminate it approximately between the last week of October 2006 and November 2006.

The definitive didactic calendar of the Master will be available at the beginning of January 2006.

2.5 ECTS CREDITS

At the termination of the Master, students who succeed in passing the final exam will receive 60 ECTS credits.

2.6 SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION

Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Andrea Segrè (Chairman of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Engineering, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna).

ART. 3 APPLICATION FORM, REQUISITS, MODALITY OF ADMISSION

Fifteen graduated students, coming from Albania, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, will be admitted with scholarship (*Art. 6 Scholarship*) to the Master.

The candidates have to be graduated from one of the following scientific areas: Agricultural Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Forestry Sciences, Economics, or equivalent Sciences.

3.1 TARGET GROUP

The Master is essentially addressed to two types of candidate:

- young graduated students from Member Countries of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, who are planned to hold assignments in the future related to the planning and management of the agricultural, rural and environmental systems at different levels: at local or national entities, public administration, international agencies, governmental and non-governmental organisations, research centres, and universities.
- employees of public administration, research institutes, consulting agencies both private and governmental, who wish to up-date their knowledge in subjects connected to the planning and management of the agricultural, rural and environmental systems.

3.2 REQUISITS FOR ADMISSION

Selection will be carried out on the basis of the documentation presented by the candidate (please, read point 3.3).

Nominations have to be presented to the University of Bologna **through** the local Italian Embassies and have to be accompanied by:

- curriculum vitae
- appropriate documentation, which certifies the graduation grade, the degree title, and the exam votes received during university studies.
- a certification which attests a good knowledge of the English language.

Furthermore the candidate should present an auto-certification to confirm his/her basic knowledge of the use of internet and some auxiliary computer programmes necessary for the accomplishment of the on-line module.

3.3 APPLICATION PROCESS

To participate in the selection process (read point 3.4) the following documentation has to be sent:

- Application form (available on the Embassies' website).
- Copy of the university degree together with the list of the exams passed and the related votes issued by the attended University. These documents have to be accompanied by a declaration which states that the copies are in conformity with the original ones. The declaration can be written by the candidate.
 - In case these documents are written in a language different from English or Italian, they have to be translated into English in a simple paper. The translation can be done directly by the candidate.
 - Students who declare to obtain their bachelor degree, or equivalent qualification, by the end of the academic year 2004/2005 can be admitted to the selection process.
In case of lack of the necessary qualifications by the deadline for presenting the required documents, the nomination and registration of the candidate will be nullified *ipso iure*.
- Copy of the identity document (*preferably passport*).
- Detailed curriculum vitae ac studiorum in English language.
 - In the CV eventual titles have to be specified. The followings are considered titles: publications (articles, essays, research papers, books, etc.), academic honours, scholarships, grants, certifications of professional experience acquired at institutions, organisations, agencies involved in international relations.
 - N.B. In case of eventual publications, it is necessary to send a copy of the most relevant ones.
- The Questionnaire of entrance duly filled in. The Questionnaire is available on the web-site of UniAdrion.
- Letter of motivation in English language (at least one page).
- Certificate of the sufficient knowledge of the English language. TOEFL, IELTS and CPE certificates will be taken into consideration, but they are not obligatory requirements.

Language certificate is not necessary for those candidates who obtained their BA degree in an Anglo-Saxon University.

- At least one letter of reference in English language prepared by a university professor or by managers of the entity the candidate belongs to.
- A declaration for the candidate about his/her intention to return to his/her country after termination of the Master.

Nominations will not be taken into consideration for evaluation, in case they do not meet the requirements indicated above, or/and in case of delayed submission.

The Administration does not assume any responsibility:

- for the loss of the nominations due to the mistaken indication of the recipient's address by the candidate, or/and due to the delayed communication regarding changes in the candidate's postal address.
- for eventual technical inconveniences (regarding for example the means of transmission) attributable to third persons, to fortuitous events, to reasons beyond somebody's control.

3.4 APPLICATION FORMALITIES

Nominations must be sent to the Italian Embassy located in the candidate's country of origin before **2nd of December 2005**. The Embassies will provide to send the original nominations to the Executive Body, the Executive Secretariat of UniAdrion (Vicolo degli Ariani 1, 48100 Ravenna, Italy) and a copy of the nominations to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE) General Direction (DGCS) Ufficio IX.

Applications must be completed in the specific form of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE) and have to be accompanied by the documents indicated in point 3.3.

Due to restricted time conditions the coordinator of the Master kindly requests the Italian Diplomatic Representatives to anticipate by fax the most important parts of the documentations concerning the candidates, that is to say: the specific form of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the CV and the motivation letter.

Candidates are kindly requested to answer to the "questionnaire" available on the UniAdrion web-site www.uniadrion.net.

ART.4 APPROVAL OF THE FINAL RANKING LIST

The selection will be done by a Commission composed of professors from the University of Bologna and representatives from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ranking list will be published on the web-site of UniAdrion at the beginning of December 2005 (www.uniadrion.net).

ART. 5 CONDITIONS FOR REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT

Students, selected for scholarship, will be automatically enrolled to the Master MISS, **provided** that they meet all the requirements of the first 15 days of the on-line activities.

According to art 142 T.u. 1592/33 students are not allowed to enrol to more than one Master Course or to Specialisation School, PhD course or course of specialisation at the same time.

Selected candidates must present a copy of their University degree legalized by the Italian Diplomatic Representatives located in the candidate's country of origin (as far as this topic is concerned the Executive Secretariat will provide more information after the publication of the ranking list).

More information concerning the enrolment procedure to the Master will be given by the Executive Secretariat after the publication of the ranking list.

Students who decide to renounce to the Master will have to communicate it in written form to the Executive Secretariat of UniAdrion, anticipating it by fax and/or e-mail (enclosing a copy of their passport) and sending the original copy by ordinary mail

ART.6 SCHOLARSHIP

Thanks to the funding by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Master offers 15 scholarships which include:

6.1 REGISTRATION FEE

Students selected for scholarship will be given a regular administrative position at the University of Bologna, as far as the enrolment to the Master is concerned.

6.2 TRAVEL FROM AND TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Each student will receive **550 Euro** *una tantum* to cover travel costs including:

- Single travel from and to the country of origin, whatever the means of transport is (ferry boat, airplane, bus, private car).
- Travel to reach the offices of the administrations or local authorities which will be available to host students during the internship period. These offices should be located within the Region of Emilia Romagna; therefore daily travel expenses to reach the offices will be limited.

The amount of **550 Euro** will be supplied after the declaration of each student to have borne expenses for the same amount or superior to this.

6.3 EXPENSES FOR ACCOMODATION OF STUDENTS

Students will receive a monthly contribute of **400 Euro** for the 6 months they will stay in Bologna in order to cover accommodation expenses. This amount covers also the costs for the first accommodation, that is to say the costs the student has to sustain during the research for permanent accommodation.

The amount of 400 Euro monthly has been evaluated as a proper sum taking into consideration the "average cost" for the rent of a single room in Bologna.

For the research of an accommodation solution students will receive indications from the Executive Secretariat of UniAdrion.

6.4. POCKET MONEY

Pocket Money is of 380 Euro per month, it covers -meals and all other personal expenditures.

6.5 COSTS CONCERNING INFORMATICS/ON-LINE ACTIVITIES

An amount of 400 euro *una tantum* will be given to students to cover the costs concerning the participation at the on-line activities.

6.6 INSURANCE FOR STUDENTS

Students with scholarship will be covered by/ a personal insurance for accident, illness and death.

ART. 7 CRITERIA FOR EXPULSION

Students can be expelled from the Master and consequently can be cut off from the scholarship in case of:

- they do not pass the “*propaedeutical* part” foreseen for the first 15 days of the on-line module (please read point 2.3);
- they do not pass the final exam of the on-line module, in that case students will not be allowed to attend the face to face module, the stage and to get the master degree;
- they do not pass the intermediate tests (written and/or oral tests) foreseen at the end of each course (each module is composed of different courses);
- they do not attend at least 75% of the whole Master activities (on-line module, face to face module, seminars, workshop and internship).

ART.8 FINAL EXAMINATION AND MASTER DEGREE

Students who have attended at least 75% of the total Master Course (lectures, seminars, workshops), and have passed the interim exams will be admitted to the final examination.

Students who pass the final examination will receive the first level university master degree.

CONTACT DETAILS

For on-line information visit:

<http://www.uniadrion.net>

For general information:

Dott.ssa Francesca Regoli

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According to the art. 10 and 12 of the Italian law nr. 675, 31/12/96, personal data of the candidates, sent together with the nominations for selection, will be used exclusively for the purpose of the selection procedure and for prospective registration procedure.

Bologna, 10th October 2005

The Scientific Coordinator
Prof. Andrea Segrè