

NOTICE OF COMPETITION A.Y. 2008/09
SECOND LEVEL UNIVERSITY MASTER'S DEGREE IN
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL AREAS
OF THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN BASIN (MISS)

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

ART. 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Context of the Initiative

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 reached through the project 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 also reinforced by the perspective of the European Union enlargement towards the Western Balkan countries.

In this framework it has been established the second level University Master in Sustainable Development of Agricultural and Rural Areas of the Adriatic-Ionian Basin MISS.

This Master avails itself of the experience achieved since the academic year 2001-02 until nowadays through the Training Course in *Sustainable Development of Agricultural, Environmental and Rural Systems* and the Course of Specialisation in *Sustainability in the rural areas of the Adriatic-Ionian basin: multi-criteria analysis of agricultural and coastal systems*. Other activities have been carried on such as: Master in *Sustainable Development of Agricultural and Rural Areas of the Adriatic Ionian Basin – MISS*; The Course of Specialisation in *Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Analysis in the Western Balkans*, which has come to the end in 2008.

1.2 GENERAL AIMS

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

1.3 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 agricultural and rural development of the Adriatic-Ionian Basin will be proposed and provided.

1.4 EXPECTED RESULTS

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

- agricultural and rural development policy making at local, national, regional and international level;
- 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;

- use of alternative energy sources with particular regards to the biomass;
- 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

Out of historical, geographical and economical reasons, land represents a crucial resource for the Western Balkans. Agriculture and rural development play a key role and are necessary basis in the promotion of economic development and social stability. Moreover they represent key challenges on the way of the integration process of the region in the European Community (EC).

Western Balkan Countries are taking significant steps towards the European Integration process. EC has recognized the progress made in the past few years in reforms, in meeting established criteria and conditions, and in enhancing regional cooperation. Moreover in December 2007, the European Council reaffirmed that "the future of the Western Balkans lies within the European Union".

At present, Western Balkan Countries are divided into candidate countries and potential candidate countries.

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. Particular attention will be given to specific elements of the agro-food system and to its implications for the European Integration Process, for local, social and economic development, and for environmental and energetic issues.

At the end of the course the participant will be capable to comprehend and analyze agricultural and rural development policy at the European and international level.

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 interdisciplinary areas, which deal with topics related to international cooperation and internationalisation with particular reference to the agricultural and rural development, valorisation of typical agro-food products, sustainable development in its diverse aspects, such as organic farming and bioenergy issues.

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 oriented to analyse and discuss the main dimensions of sustainable development (ecological, social, economical and international). The Didactic Plan will be articulated in three different but strongly interconnected areas as indicated before. The interdisciplinary approach can be considered 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)**
- **Sustainable Agricultural Development Policies (Area B)**

- Sustainable Rural Development (Area C)

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

- an on-line module composed of several courses;
- a face-to-face module, which includes classes, workshops, round tables, field visits;
- seminars and conferences;
- an internship;
- a final Master thesis.

The choice to offer a blended Master Programme 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 will consist in an introductory *-propaedeutical-* on-line activity which will be a tool for the Scientific Committee to evaluate the competencies (through tests and exams) and the level of participation of the 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 whole on-line module, the students will have to attend 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 have access to 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 80% of the whole Master Programme.

The final exam consists in the defence of the Master thesis.

2.4 DURATION AND LOCATION OF THE MASTER

The Master will have an annual duration, from January 2009 until the end of November 2009.

The on-line module which is going to take place approximately between the end of January-April 2009, will not be of residential type; each student will access the Master from his/her own country of residence.

The face-to-face module, which will start in the beginning of May 2009, 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 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 May 2009 and will terminate it approximately the last week November 2009.

The didactic calendar of the Master will be available during January 2009.

2.5 ECTS CREDITS

At the end of the Master, students who succeed in passing the final exam will receive 64 ECTS credits.

2.6 SCIENTIFIC DIRECTION

Scientific Director: Prof. Andrea Segrè (Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna).

ART. 3 APPLICATION FORM, REQUISITES, MODALITY OF ADMISSION

The Master can be joined by a maximum of 20 students. For the candidates coming from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Montenegro and Serbia are reserved 10 scholarships (*Art. 6 Scholarship*) given to students selected on a competitive basis.

3.1 REQUISITS FOR ADMISSION

The candidates have to be graduated (4/5 year's degree) from one of the following scientific areas: Agricultural Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Forestry Sciences, Economics, or related Sciences. Among the requisites for the participation at the Master Programme are foreseen both, the knowledge of the English language which will be the working language of the course and a basic knowledge of informatics, necessary for the participation to the distance activities.

3.2 TARGET GROUP

The Master is essentially addressed to two types of candidates:

- graduated students, 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.

For any further information related to the requisites for the admission please don't hesitate to write to this mail address: wg2@uniadriion.net

3.3 APPLICATION PROCESS

To participate to 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 marks 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.
 - Only students who declare to obtain their bachelor degree, or equivalent qualification within 30th November 2008 can be admitted to the selection.
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*.
- Detailed curriculum vitae ac studiorum and professional or/and research activities coherently with the contents of the Master (It is preferable the use of the EU format of the CV: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass>);
- Proposal of a research project (short presentation – in English- of the research project that the candidate intends to develop during the master which will either constitute the basis of the final paper. Nevertheless the presented proposal will not be binding and it can change during the period of the Master);
- Two letters of reference in English language prepared by a university professor or by managers of the entity the candidate belongs to.
- Self certification 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.
- A declaration for the candidate about his/her intention to return to his/her country after termination of the Master.

University online pre-enrollment procedure:

- Visit the website www.almawelcome.unibo.it
- Select the section for the international students in order to create a provisional fiscal code
- Follow the online procedure step by step and complete it.

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 (WHERE TO SEND THE DOCUMENTATION)

Nominations must be sent to the Italian Embassy located in the candidate's country of origin within **24th of November 2008**. 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.

An electronic copy of CV, the research project and a scanned copy of the passport have also to be sent to the didactic secretariat of the Master to this email address: wg2@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 during the month of December 2008 (www.uniadrion.net).

After the publication of the selected candidates, a confirmation mail is requested within a deadline that will be published in the website, in order to be admitted as participants.

ART. 5 CONDITIONS FOR REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT

Students, selected for scholarship, will be 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 enroll to more than one Master Programme or to Specialisation School, PhD Programme or Course of Specialisation at the same time.

Selected candidates must present:

- The certification of the University degree with the list of exams in English language;
- The original of the academic foreign title, completed with the official translation in Italian language, legalization and “dichiarazione di valore in loco”. The “dichiarazione di valore in loco” must be done by the Italian Diplomatic Representatives located in the candidate’s country of degree. From this declaration must result that the academic title of the candidate is valid in the Country where the Master will be held.

More information concerning the enrollment procedure to the Master will be given by the **Didactic 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 Didactic Secretariat of the Master, anticipating it by fax and/or e-mail (+39-051-2096162 enclosing a copy of their passport) and sending the original copy by ordinary mail.

ART. 6 SCHOLARSHIP

Thanks to the funding of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Master offers 10 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 enrollment to the Master is concerned.

6.2 TRAVEL FROM AND TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Each student will receive **400 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 **400 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 ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS

Students will receive a monthly contribute of **740 Euro** for the seven 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 **740 Euro** monthly has been evaluated as a proper sum in order that the students can provide autonomously for their accommodation and maintenance

Nevertheless, for the research of an accommodation solution students will receive indications from the Didactic Secretariat of the Master.

6.5 COSTS CONCERNING INFORMATICS/ON-LINE ACTIVITIES

An amount of 300 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 EXCLUSION

Students can be excluded 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 have access to 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 80% 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 80% of the total Master Programme (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 Second Level University Master’s Degree.

CONTACT DETAILS

For on-line information visit:

<http://www.uniadrion.net>

For general information:

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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, 23 October 2008

The Scientific Director
Prof. Andrea Segrè