



BUZNet: Call for external evaluators

1. The project

The BUZNet project is funded by the European Commission, through the Erasmus+ Programme's Key Action 2 – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education.

The BUZNet project started on 15 October 2017 and will end on 14 October 2020.

2. Project Objectives

BUZNet seeks to improve veterinary medicine higher education teaching in Uzbekistan as a way to enhance local living standards applying better veterinary and dairy production control teaching and thus, better technical support for the local livestock owners with a safer product reaching the general society.

The project aims to improve the quality of learning/teaching in Uzbek HEIs in veterinary/food production with new learning and teaching tools, methodologies and pedagogical approaches leading to a modern contextualized hands-on approach in learning/teaching based on a blended-learning cooperative system.

For this purpose, four European veterinary schools, together with four Uzbek partner Institutions, join efforts to share expertise, state of the art experience on teaching clinical and reproduction of ruminant farm animals (cattle, sheep and goats) and milk quality control with a cooperative strategy, offering a new learning and teaching environment that will contribute to producing a new generation of veterinarians, animal scientists and food technology technicians. This will promote new methods to optimize animal health and production with ecologically sound standards that will ultimately benefit the Uzbek population.

In this context, BUZNet has 4 specific objectives:

- Improvement of veterinary medicine and zootechnical higher education teaching in Uzbekistan using a Blended learning environment (BLUZVet interface);
- Curriculum update, in order to bring them in concordance with the most advanced strategies of learning and teaching as well as bringing the Uzbek curricula closer to European Higher Education Area standards facilitating the exchange and internationalisation of Uzbek students, teachers and professionals;
- Training of academic staff members from each Uzbek HEI in four European Universities;
- Improvement of facilities and provide up to date tools to Uzbek HEIs, such as setting up computer rooms for the use of the BLUZVet interface;



3. External evaluators

Two external evaluators will be selected by the BuzNet Consortium, through the present call to submit proposals for the project's assessment. This external evaluation will cover all the project's activities in order to complement the quality assessment scheme of the project and to provide the consortium with ideas for further improvement. **To this end, potential applicants must not be employees, i.e. have a contractual link with any of the BUzNet partner institutions.**

This call for proposals is transparent, fair and based on principles of equal treatment.

4. Description of the external evaluation task

Besides the internal mechanisms to ensure quality control, the BUzNet consortium has decided to subcontract an external evaluation. This will be performed by two external evaluators that must be **experts in the field of Teaching Veterinary or Zootechnical Sciences** and their work will be in accordance with the main objectives of the project.

The external evaluation will be carried out during the second half of the project.

The external evaluators will actively participate in the consortium discussions and provide insight on the topic of quality reporting. Through such evaluation, the consortium expects to have a completely independent constructive and experienced analysis that may enhance the quality of the project. All milestones concerning the evaluators' action as well as their findings and advices must be presented to the Steering Committee of the BUzNet in a report.

5. External evaluator selection criteria: profile, skills, experience and knowledge required

- Substantive professional experience in the Veterinary and Zootechnical Sciences higher education sector in European Union;
- Have at least 5 years professional experience in Higher Education, in lecturing at undergraduate/graduate/post graduate level;
- Research experience is a plus, as the project aims at building Uzbek academic staff capacities to also improve the quality of the curricula in Uzbekistan. So if the external is not research-practised they won't consider it important;
- Strong quality assurance and management experience in the context of internationally funded projects. Past experience conducting external evaluations or as reviewer is an asset;



- Good experience in management/coordination and development of international projects or academic networks, ideally including EU and Central Asian Higher Education Institutions;
- Prior involvement in the implementation of EU-funded projects;
- Excellent knowledge of English is required, knowledge of, Russian and/or Uzbek and/or Portuguese, Italian, an asset;
- Excellent communication competence and experience in working in intercultural and international environments;
- Ability to work in intercultural environments with partners.

The external evaluators should demonstrate in his/her application that he/she has sound knowledge and understanding of the project topic.

6. Budget

The BUZNet project allows for a maximum sub-contract of the following individual amounts including all related costs for the external evaluation (amount per expert, maximum of 2 experts):

- Evaluation task (costs of service): 1500 EUR
- Travel costs: 3000 EUR (to participate in project related activities)

7. Documents to present:

Proposals must be sent to: buznet@reit.up.pt in PDF format, in the English language.

Please provide Curriculum Vitae together with a proposal/ workplan (maximum 2 pages) on how the evaluator plans to work with the consortium members to evaluate the project, include a list of related previous activities contributing to current know-how and expertise in the topic, as requested above.

8. Deadline to submit proposals under the present call

Proposals must be sent until 31st May 2019 23:59 CET.

9. Timeline

- Proposals must be sent until 31st May 2019 23:59 CET.



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- Analysis of submitted proposals: 3rd June – 7th June 2019
- Steering Committee decision: 11th June 2019
- Communication of results: 11th June 2019