



Republic of Serbia  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
DEVELOPMENT

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Belgrade

Nemanjina 22-26

## FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Nemanjina 6  
11080 Zemun

Project: *Building capacity of Serbian Agricultural Education to link with Society*

Dear Sir/Madam (To whom it may concern),

We are writing to you regarding your letter No 22/479 and the application for recognition of National Repository of Agricultural Education (NARA) developed within the project Building capacity of Serbian Agricultural Education to link with Society (acronym: CaSA) 544072-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-RS-TEMPUS-SMHES (2013-4604) as an Open Educational Resource.

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development supports the establishment and development of the National Repository of Agricultural Education (NARA) as an example of best practice in the development of the Open Educational Resources. OERs like NaRA as the collection of digital resources that have previously been subject to peer review, developed and edited by experts working in the in institutions of higher education and other partner organizations, have the potential to make educational content and instructional materials more accessible to all those interested in learning and professional development in online environment.

The establishment of OERs of this type is in line with the current national education policy and the policy of the European Union in the field of digital and online learning. The European Commission strongly supports the establishment of Open Educational Resources as pointed out in the communication: “Opening up Education: Innovative teaching and learning for all through new Technologies and Open Educational Resources. COM (2013) 654 final].  
[http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/doc/openingcom\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/doc/openingcom_en.pdf)).

It is encouraging to see that that employees in these institutions and organizations: University of Belgrade – Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad – Faculty of Agriculture, University of Kragujevac – Faculty of Agronomy, National University Novi Pazar, University EDUCONS – Faculty for Ecological Agriculture, Association of Middle Agricultural Schools, Institute for Science Application in Agriculture, Educational Forum (NGO) Balkan Security Network and BSN (NGO) have proactive role in identifying ICT tools and services that enable open access to learning, within and outside of the faculty, serving the wide range of needs in agricultural education.

We hope that this letter of support will contribute to the discussion among all relevant stakeholders on how NaRA repository, which focuses on professional development in agriculture, can fit into the comprehensive institutional strategies for the effective use of ICT and how to ensure its sustainability.

MINISTER

Dr. Srdjan Verbić