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AgriGREEN

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
FOR GREENER FUTURE

Award Competition

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Abstract	The “ Award Competition ceremony realised ” is a deliverable within WP4 entitled “RESEARCH AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS FOR POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS” of the AgriGREEN. This report shows realization of the award competition in writing scientific papers for students.
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

WP Work package

AgriGREEN Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence: Sustainable Agriculture for Greener Future

JMCE Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

UNS University of Novi Sad



INTRODUCTION

During the third year of the AgriGREEN project, the AgriGREEN **Award Competition for Young Researchers** was successfully organized and implemented. The competition was open to students and early-career researchers from universities across Serbia, in line with the project's objective to promote academic engagement with sustainability-related topics and European values.

Participants were invited to submit scientific papers or essays addressing the topic of agri-environmental economy, which was defined based on the outcomes of previously conducted research activities and panel discussions within the project. The selected topic reflected current challenges and policy debates related to sustainable agriculture, ecological transitions, and the European Green Deal.

Following the evaluation process, the two highest-ranked papers were awarded in accordance with the competition rules. An award ceremony was organized at the UNS – Faculty of Economics Department in Novi Sad, where the awarded authors publicly presented their work. This event contributed to the dissemination of project results, strengthened links between students, young researchers and academic staff, and encouraged critical discussion on agro-environmental and sustainability-oriented economic approaches.

The structure of the report is as follows: Chapter 2 explains organization of competition; Chapter 3 explains the realization of award competition ceremony; Chapter 4 explains raising awareness; while Appendix shows all proofs that all activities are realized.



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ORGANISATION OF COMPETITION

The **Scientific Paper Writing Competition** within the AgriGREEN project was formally announced on the project's website on **19 November 2025**. The announcement invited students from the **University of Novi Sad** to participate in a competition for writing scientific papers on the topic of "**Agro-Environmental Economics.**"

The call outlined a **two-stage process**: first, participants were asked to register their proposed topic by **1 December 2025**, and then to submit the completed paper by **11 December 2025**. A **selection committee** was established to evaluate all submissions and to select the **best papers**, whose authors would receive awards and present their work during the final conference of the AgriGREEN project.

Interested students were instructed to register their participation and topic through an online form linked in the announcement (via Google Forms). Upon successful registration, each participant received the **official paper template** (Annex A). and further instructions by e-mail. Papers could be prepared and submitted in **either Serbian or English**. For additional questions, applicants were directed to contact the project team via the official AgriGREEN e-mail address provided in the announcement.

Picture 1. Public Call





Following the evaluation of all submitted papers, the **jury unanimously decided to award two papers**, recognizing their high academic quality, relevance to the competition theme, and clear contribution to the understanding of agro-environmental economy.

The awarded authors and papers were (Annex B):

- **Ena Bertok (master student at Faculty of Agriculture UNS)** – "Agro-environmental Transitions Through Youth Education: The Adapted Role of Third Places in Rural Vojvodina"
- **Stefan Ljubinković (master student at Faculty of Economics UNS)** – "The Role of Geographical Indications in Promoting Agro-environmental Sustainability"

The paper by **Ena Bertok** focuses on the role of **youth education and community-based learning spaces** ("third places") as drivers of agro-environmental transition in rural Vojvodina. By linking informal education with key agro-environmental principles such as organic farming, short value chains, circular economy, and rural resilience, the paper emphasizes the **economic and social dimensions of agroecology**. The analysis highlights how youth engagement and knowledge transfer can contribute to income diversification, community cohesion, and long-term sustainability of rural economies, which are core elements of agro-environmental economic thinking.

The paper by **Stefan Ljubinković** examines the **role of geographical indications (GIs)** as an institutional and market-based instrument for enhancing **agro-environmental sustainability**. Through an empirical analysis of consumer perceptions in Serbia, the paper demonstrates how GIs can support local producers, strengthen trust, enable price premiums, and promote sustainable production practices. The findings underline the interconnection between **economic viability, environmental responsibility, and social value**, positioning geographical indications as an important tool within agro-environmental economy for aligning market mechanisms with sustainability goals.

Together, the awarded papers provide **complementary perspectives on agro-environmental economy**, addressing both the **human capital and institutional dimensions** of sustainable agricultural development. Their contributions align closely with the objectives of the AgriGREEN project by promoting interdisciplinary understanding, European values, and practical pathways toward greener and more resilient agri-food systems.



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ORGANISATION OF AWARD COMPETITION CEREMONY

The **Final Conference of the AgriGREEN project** included an **award ceremony for the Scientific Paper Writing Competition**, during which the two awarded papers were formally presented. The event was held at the **Faculty of Economics in Subotica – Department in Novi Sad** and gathered **83 participants** (Annex C – registration via QR code), including students, academic staff, and project stakeholders. During the ceremony, the awarded authors presented their research findings, contributing to knowledge dissemination, academic discussion, and increased visibility of agro-environmental economy topics within the broader project framework.

Picture 2. Award Competition Agenda



AWARD COMPETITION AGENDA

16.12.2025.

BEST PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- **Ena Bertok (master student at Faculty of Agriculture UNS)** – "Agro-environmental Transitions Through Youth Education: The Adapted Role of Third Places in Rural Vojvodina"
- **Stefan Ljubinković (master student at Faculty of Economics UNS)** – "The Role of Geographical Indications in Promoting Agro-environmental Sustainability"

JURU DECISION AND AWARD CEREMONY

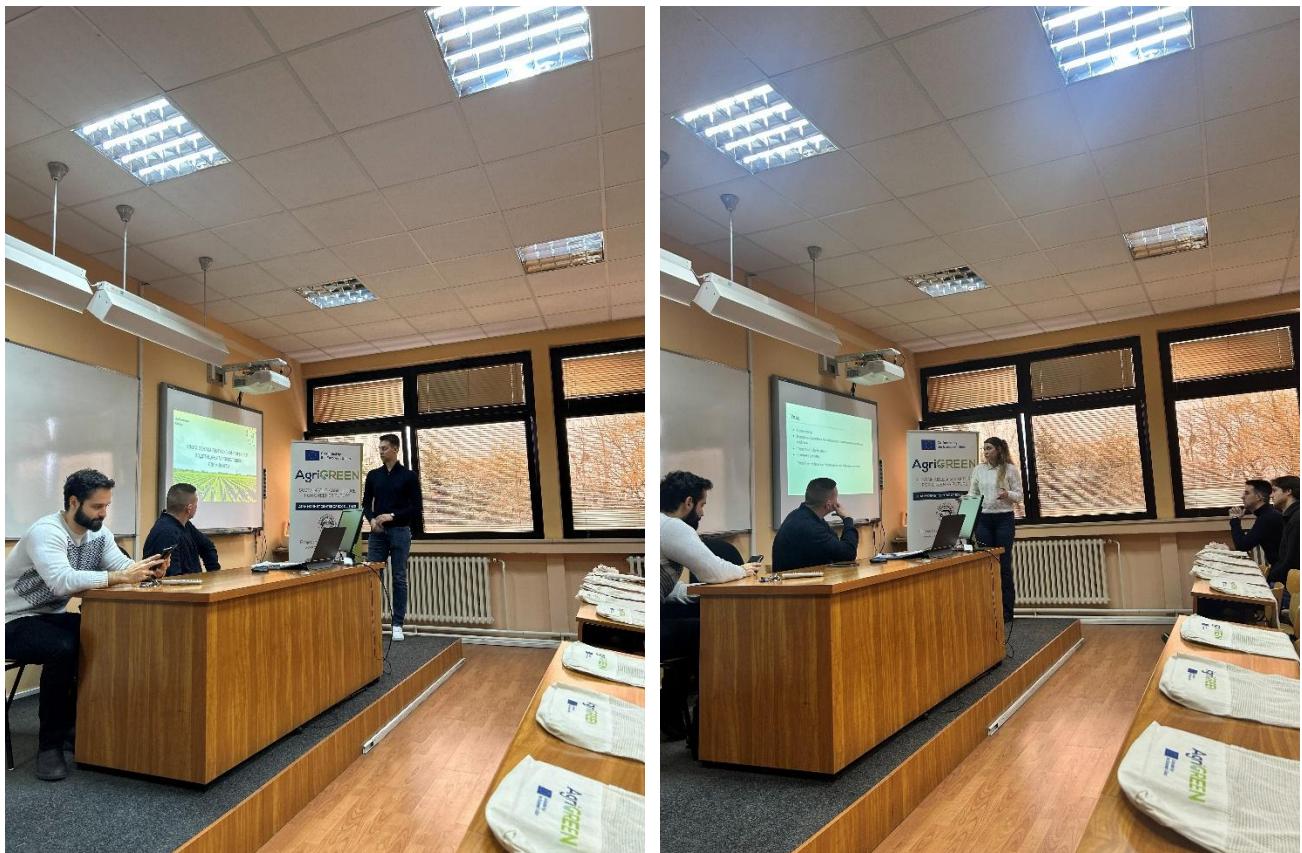
Both awarded participants presented their papers using **high-quality and well-structured presentations** (Annex D), clearly outlining the research objectives, methodology, key findings, and policy implications. The presentations effectively communicated complex concepts related to agro-environmental economy in an accessible and engaging manner, facilitating constructive discussion with the audience. This contributed to the overall quality of the award ceremony and strengthened the dissemination of project results among students, academics, and other stakeholders.



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Picture 3. Presentations of Stefan Ljubinković and Ena Bertok



Following the presentations, the awards were formally presented to the authors. The jury decided to award a **shared first prize**, recognizing that each paper made a **distinct contribution to the topic of agro-environmental economy** and that both works were of **equal academic quality**. Certificates (Annex E) were awarded to the authors as official recognition of their achievement within the AgriGREEN Scientific Paper Writing Competition.



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Picture 4. Award Ceremony





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RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT COMPETITION

Visibility of the course is achieved through:

- Website of the project;
- Website of the Faculty of Economics;
- Social media of AGRO (Instagram and Facebook);
- Social media of Faculty of Economics (Instagram).

Also, all activities have been intensively promoted via project Instagram account (agro_efsu) as well as Instagram account of the Faculty of Economics (ekonomski_fakultet_subotica). Based on number of followers of these two accounts, workshop activities have been visible approximately to 5.500 people. Example of promoting case study on Instagram story is on Picture 5.

Picture 5. Call for Award Ceremony on Instagram



FINAL CONFERENCE

SCIENTIFIC PAPER COMPETITION

16.12.2025.

EKONOMSKI FAKULTET U SUBOTICI
ODELJENJE U NOVOM SADU