



**Universiteti Bujqësor i Tiranës**



**Consortium "Pema" – VET through  
Innovation (Italian Cooperation and Region  
Emilia-Romagna)**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The future of skills for the development of the agricultural sector and supply chains in Albania through territorial cooperation with the Emilia-Romagna agrifood ecosystem**

**An innovative protocol was signed in Tirana for the collaboration between the  
Agricultural University of Tirana and the Italian Cooperation project "Vet through  
innovation" led by the Emilia-Romagna Region through a consortium of training  
institutions (Ifoa, Aeca and Serinar).**

Albania officially entered the negotiation phase for accession to the European Union last June. The accession of Albania to the EU opens up further opportunities for investments by Italy, especially in the sectors that will be decisive for the development of Albania in the next decade. Agriculture and the Albanian agricultural and agrifood supply chains today represent about one fifth of the Gross Domestic Product and are destined to play a crucial role in the country's ability to ensure internal growth and opportunities to attract foreign investment.

The "VET through innovation" project stems from an Agreement between the Italian Government and the Albanian Government to ensure the development of a system for the enhancement and cross-border accreditation of agricultural skills at secondary and post-secondary education level. The project was assigned the task of assisting the Albanian Ministry of Economy and Finance in the structuring and development of the first multifunctional center for agricultural training in Albania.

"The spirit of cooperation that will link the 'VET through innovation' Project and the Agricultural University of Tirana", acknowledges the Vice Rector Prof. Ilir Kapaj "lies precisely in combining the investment that Italy and Albania are making for the future of agricultural skills with the wealth of knowledge and applied research that the University of Tirana makes available through countless project and technical assistance activities for raising the skills of the country's agricultural sector".

The agreement follows a series of agreements that the Agricultural University of Tirana has signed in recent years with various Italian Universities in terms of research and technology transfer and recognition of qualifications and provides operational paths in terms of collaboration in three domains: training for teachers of the Upper Secondary professional schools of agriculture on the methodological and technological evolutions of the sector; the collaboration for the development of a multifunctional center for higher agricultural training in Fier; the collaboration for "business-to-business" events between Albanian and Italian



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entrepreneurs and experts interested in expanding the growth potential of various agricultural supply chains with high investment potential.

"The model proposed by the agreement is in itself a source of innovation", recalls the project coordinator Lorenzo Ciapetti, "because it defines a triple helix method - universities, business world and institutions and bodies operating for the Italian cooperation between the two shores of the Adriatic - oriented towards a growth in the agricultural sector and employment opportunities through skills upgrading to face the double transition of the next decade: the digitization and decarbonisation of the economy which will also involve the Balkan countries and will become a key factor of cohesion within the EU. Today the agreement is aimed above all at the agricultural sector but in perspective the model offers opportunities for operational agreements oriented to investment in skills also in the hospitality, cultural heritage and Blue economy sectors".