

# The evolution of the Avacongress

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In the early 1990's MBA educations started independently in Warsaw, Prague, and Debrecen. In the middle 1990's a small network was established with the mentioned institutions, as well as supporters from different universities like Wageningen, Aberdeen, Cork, later Fayetteville from Arcansas (USA). In the beginning of the 21st century the network became bigger. That time did Kiev join the Network, and started negotiations with Moscow Paralell to extended network leading by Warsaw University we applied for a EU Leonardo grant. The proposal was to develop the teaching and learning materials in the programme to a common approved standard. In order to improve the quality of teaching a set of commonly approved, standardized teaching materials had been developed: Handbooks for modules taught within 7 courses of the MBA programs: Public Policy, Economics, Management, Marketing, Finance, Operational Methods and International Agribusiness. Handbooks and case studies had been put on Warsaw University's website and are now accessible for teachers and students from all academic institutions participating in the project. Materials had been developed by teams of experts in specific fields from different Universities. The whole set of materials was prepared in English. Another product of the project is the quality assurance standards applied by all MBA programs and an accreditation procedure for the International Board. That time formulated the name AGRIMBA which is official name of the International Network on Agribusiness and Commerce.

Extended activities in the middle of the decade, the scientific periodical APSTRACT was born

Together with some of the Network members we applied successfully for Tempus grants, and started agribusiness

education improvement in Zagreb University, later in Belgrade and Novi Sad. That time was an idea formulated: establishing a periodical, dealing with applied economics, agribusiness and commerce as well as giving platform to the MBA and PhD students sharing results with the wider audience their diploma or doctoral works. From the idea to reality, after two preparational years, was born the Network's Scientific periodical APSTRACT in 2007.

The mission of AVA Conference is similar to the Network

One year after the establishment of the Faculty of Agrieconomics and Rural Develepmnt in Debrecen University the leadership of the faculty decided to initiate a new international scientific conference in 2003. The name of the event is an acronym: starting letters of agrieconomics, ruraldevelopment and informatics, which abbreviation is in Hungarian language: AVA. The conference was successfully organized in 2005 as well as in 2007. In the year of 2008 after the closing of the Zagreb Tempus program the leadership of the Network has rewieved common activities back to this decade. That time was a new idea formulated: renaming of the original AVA abbreviation to the international one, keeping the mission of these conference series but adding some new elements to it.

The decision was made, that the congress will be organized on behalf of the Network. It was decided that the new-old name is still AVA, acronyme of: Aspects and Visions of Applied Economics and Informatics. The language of the congress is English, and has to be circulated within the network members. The next AVA-CONGRESS will be in Wageningen in 2011.