Magazine of the project

issue II

Agropuzzle 3

Erasmus+

Agropuzzle 3

Electronic version - July 2017

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Foreword

Ladies and gentlemen;

we are offering you the magazine related to the project called Agropuzzle 3. This partnership project is aimed to regional agriculture, small family farms and regional food. The Czech organisation called "Masaryk´s Secondary School of Agriculture and Higher Professional School in Opava" won this project due to support of Erasmus+. There are partner organisations from Poland - Agrarian Chamber of Opole; Portugal - Regional Agency for Rural Development RUDE; Spain - Agency for Rural Development ESNEPI; Agrarian University of Romania (Bucharest) and Bulgaria (Ruse). The team also includes the Czech environmental education non-profit organisation called "Natura Opava".

Small business at the regional level is becoming more and more important, while agriculture industry is being neglected although it provides all of us with our primary needs. This electronic project magazine will be printed in 10 issues which will focus on examples of good practice of regional agriculture in the partner countries. It will present organisations involved in the project, their regions, farming community and project activities. We hope that our magazine and project will inspire you and notify you about interesting places or ideas.

Mgr. Radmila Šrajerová
project manager of Agropuzzle 3

About the project Agropuzzle 3

The project called Agropuzzle 3 prepares relevant conditions and encourages individuals in the field of agribusiness and farming. This project is aimed at exchange of experiences as well as increase of practical self-confidence, promotion of professional development and growth of the participants who will work together on the issue of farming, support of rural environments, agro-business in selected small family farms, their stories and background. We would like to identify examples of good practice for all six countries, while drawing inspiration which we can then forward to the people in our region as well as the local or regional community of seven partner organizations. We continually support the existing network of organizations; it means the network already arisen in two previous projects and then later developing and taking new partners.

The project is generally aimed at keeping the topic of agriculture alive. Agricultural production provides us with our daily bread. It is really necessary to appreciate everyone who nowadays deals with real work that feeds all of us. It is really necessary to teach the next generation to follow those principles. The next generation should be given the opportunity to learn about new trends and innovations from other EU countries so that the young people can compare these aspects and use the experience as inspiration for their own work. In Europe nowadays, the topic of agriculture (farming) is rather neglected. But it is still very important. In the era of globalization, we are really missing a story of families that jointly run their businesses and affect the rural community. There are also small farms timidly developing; those which allow integration of disadvantaged groups of people who compensate their various forms of disabilities by being in the countryside (physical or mental disabilities). Inclusion of these people shows a good example of solidarity and tolerance of each community within the EU countries.

PARTNERS OF THE PROJECT

Masarykova střední škola zemědělská a Vyšší odborná škola Opava,
www.zemedelka.opava.cz

Izba Rolnicza w Opolu
www.izbarolnicza.opole.pl

RUDE - Associação de Desenvolvimento Rural
www.rude-adr.pt

UNIVERSITATEA DE STIINTE AGRONOMICE SI MEDICINA VETERINARA DIN BUCURESTI
www.usamv.ro

UNIVERSITY OF RUSE ANGEL KANCHEV
www.uni-ruse.bg

Natura Opava - Czech Republic
www.natura-opava.org

Asociación Escuela de Negocios del Pirineo
www.esnepi.es

TIME TABLE OF THE PROJECT

02/2017 - MOBILITY IN CZ (5 DAYS)

09/2017 - MOBILITY IN ES (5 DAYS)

03/2018 - MOBILITY IN PT (5 DAYS)

04/2018 - MOBILITY IN RO (5 DAYS)

06/2018 - MOBILITY IN BG (5 DAYS)

Agropuzzle 3

PROJECT AGROPUZZLE 3 CONVINCING US THAT THE FOOD STORY CAME TO THE END

Every single piece of food has its own story. The story of bread begins with flour, ferment and baker; cheese is associated with goat breeding and meat is related to cattle breeding. Beer is brewed in both small breweries (one of them was named as Nachmelená Opice - drunken monkey) and also in large breweries (Nošovice) where we actually do not know who is their owner. The story of confection called Marlenka reminds a fairytale... The project Agropuzzle 3 reminded the students of farming schools about the fact that good ideas and honest work are meant as guarantee of success. Of course, the same applies to beekeepers, as confirmed by students and teachers from Opava, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Portugal and Poland, those participating in this project. Marek Fešar, a student of the farming school in Opava, wrote to us about this.

First day of Mobility in the Czech Republic, 20 February 2017

GOBE Bakery

We began the project by visiting the local regional bakery GOBE in the nearby village Píšť. Mr. Kotyrba, bakery owner, took us around after our arrival. He began with explanation of the bakery history. The bakery was founded more than twenty years ago, shortly after the Velvet Revolution, when people were again allowed to run their own businesses. Mr. Kotyrba decided to open his business in bakery business. He used to work as a train engine driver and had no experience with baking; he had to learn everything from the very beginning. He founded the bakery with two other partners and with a bank loan. GOBE Bakery does not try to compete with large industrial bakeries; it focuses mainly on traditionality, uniqueness and variety of production; so we can buy traditional Silesian products here, such as the far-famed cakes of Prajská region which we could taste.

The bakery Gobe was founded in 1992. The name GOBE comes from colloquial translation of German words "golden" and "Bäckerei" (golden bakery), using the first two letters of these words. "We can be proud of our wedding cakes and many other high-quality products," says Mr. Otmar Kotyrba, the owner.

Goat Farm of Halfar Family

The farm is situated in Bohuslavice; its production is mainly based on goat breeding, e.g. white shorthaired goats and brown shorthaired goats. Goats have primarily been bred for milk production; secondary product is goat meat or also sales of breeding bodies. In addition to the goats, Mrs. Halfar also has sheep on her farm, intended for meat production too. Mrs. Halfar uses milk to produce cheeses of various types, flavours and shapes. Many famous celebrities could appreciate their exquisite taste because Mrs. Halfar's cheeses are distributed into various hotels in the region where famous celebrities are housed during various sportive or cultural events. We also had the opportunity to taste these cheeses. They are really great!

Ms. Anna Halfarová, owner of the goat farm in Bohuslavice.

Rabbit Farm KRAHOF

After lunch we went to the village called Malé Hoštice to visit the rabbit farm of Mr. Podešva who breeds the Hyla broiler rabbits. This meat hybrid can reach excellent growth properties; therefore it is kept in many intensive breeds. Mr. Podešva has been breeding his rabbits with special granular feed mixture up to their weight of 3 kg, which takes the time of about 12 weeks. He kills about 100 rabbits every week. The slaughter yield rate is about two kilograms. In addition to the rabbit breeding, the farm also deals with breeding of about one hundred hens.

Visit to KRAHOF rabbit farm in Malé Hoštice.

Pony Breeding in the Farm

We ended the first day of Mobility in the Czech Republic by visiting Mr Fiala's farm in the nearby village called Velké Hoštice. Mr. Fiala deals with breeding, cultivation and training of pony horses of Czech sportive ponies. He has currently had 16 ponies on his farm, using them for breeding or racing purposes. He feeds the ponies with top-quality hay and haylage. Mr. Fiala is very successful with his breeding; he receives various awards every year from both Czech and foreign competitions. In addition, Mr. Fiala is the chairman of the Breeders Association for the Czech Sportive Ponies and also keeps the studbook.

Mr. Aleš Fiala from Velké Hoštice with the Czech sportive pony horse.

Second day of Mobility in the Czech Republic, 21 February 2017

Farm George in Jerlochovice

We arrived at the farm where we were immediately accompanied by Mr. Jiří Ševčík, the owner. He breeds the cattle of meat simmental. Currently he has been breeding about 350 cattle bodies. It is the family farm based on organic farming. They produce all feeds by themselves. The farm includes the 350 ha area of lands of which the area of 300 ha is used as permanent grassland. The farm has its own cutting room; the cutting procedure has been carried out once a month. The calves are cut down at the age of 6-8 months and weighing 200 kg; and beef cattle at the age of 24 months and weighing 750-800 kg. All the meat is being sold in the Czech Republic. Breeding works are also being held in the farm. In addition to the beef cattle there are also horses which are used during the children's camps held here. There is also a car camping site.

Mr. Jiří Ševčík, the owner, showed us the process of fatstock breeding. We are pleased that all meat of Simmental cattle is sold on our territory. Currently, they have about 350 cattle bodies. It is the family farm based on organic farming. They produce all feeds by themselves. The farm includes the 350 ha area of lands of which the area of 300 ha is used as permanent grassland.

Radegast Brewery

After visiting the farm, we went to visit the famous Czech brewery called Radegast. The brewery is situated in the small village Nošovice, near Frýdek-Místek. The foundation stone was laid down on 7 July 1966. The first beer was done on 3 December 1970. The first stage of the tour route was finished in 2010; the second stage was completed in 2012. The Radegast Brewery may be proud of several prizes for high quality of brewed beer. These awards include the World Beer Cup prize, e.g. the competition considered as the Olympic Games of beer. The brewery is also awarded for the best non-alcoholic beer. There are several basic raw materials needed for production of beer: hops, water, malt. The brewery produces malt by itself, which means it is possible to control high quality. Malt is made of barley. Several types of beer are produced in the brewery: Radegast, Birel, Velkopopovický kozel, Pilsner Urquell, Klasik, etc.

People in Nošovice Brewery understand what big beer production means. The tour was very well prepared in methodical point of view; however, we only saw the process of beer production on the panels in front of the production halls.

Marlenka

After visiting the brewery, we all went to a restaurant to have lunch. Then we went to the last tour to Marlenka. It is the company founded by Mr. Gevorg Avetisjan from Armenia. The company deals with baking the honey cakes and also other honey delicacies. The company was founded in 2003 in Frýdek-Místek. Honey cakes are roasted according to the Old-Armenian tradition, using absolutely no preserving agents or artificial colours. There was just manual production until 2009; but soon the offers got overrun by demands. Therefore, the new production hall with the special line was opened in 2009; it is capable of producing up to 1000 cakes per hour. The company was extended again in 2014. At the present time there are around 200 employees working in Marlenka. There are over ten different types of desserts, including cakes to be ordered. Everyone may enjoy Marlenka; even gluten-free types are available.

The family-run company Marlenka reminded us of the fairy-tale story; they prepare sweets according to the traditional Armenian recipe.

Third day of Mobility in the Czech Republic, 22 February 2017

Beekeepers in Brantice

We began that day with our visit to the family beekeeping site of Lukáš and Leopold Matela, located in the village Brantice, near Krnov. Currently, this beekeeping farm includes more than one hundred of bee colonies in the Langstroth hives, bred on the frames with the size of 39x12. In addition to bee breeding, the Matel family also owns their beekeeping e-shop; they sell both their own products as well as various equipments imported from abroad. Things we got impressed by during this visit were the alternative bee frames made of plastic material; they were subject to many diverse questions. And the thin-walled hives Langstroth were other "specific things of the enterprise"; these can be appreciated mainly by ladies - beekeepers, as the thin-walled hives are much lighter while compared to other hives. During our visit to the beekeeping site, we could also see the modern honey-filling room fitted with all the necessary equipment. At the end we had excellent tasting of honey (the main product) and also the excellent home-made mead.

The bee farm in Brantice liked by foreign participants too. Mr. Hugo Goméz from Portugal and Ms. Maria Oria and Ms. Maria Aventin from Spain.

The family beekeeping enterprise of Lukáš and Leopold Matela in the village Brantice near Krnov, currently containing one hundred bee colonies bred in Langstroth hives.

Nachmelená Opice (drunken monkey)

After lunch in the beautiful restaurant in the first-republic style building, we went to the well-known mini brewery called Nachmelená Opice in Krnov. Compared to yesterday's visit to Radegast Brewery in Nošovice, we could appreciate the beauty of small production brewing its beer in the small tank with the volume of 10 hl only. Immediately after our arrival, Mr. Ing. Jiří Valenta, brewer and one of the owners of the brewery, began the tour for us; he showed us all the secrets of beer brewing; this beer is much more diverse and undoubtedly made of the raw-materials of much higher quality, while compared with large breweries. There is only unfiltered and unpasteurized beer produced here. IPA beer or lagers are the most popular beers we had the opportunity to taste. People in the brewery are not afraid to make experiments; therefore there are many high-quality specialities which are sold by the company both in specialized shops and in high-quality businesses in the region.

Small brewery Nachmelená Opice (drunken monkey) in Krnov admired by Mr. Sławomir Jakoniuk with his wife. Dalibor Rozsypal, our interpreter, on the left.

Fourth day of Mobility in the Czech Republic, 23 February 2017

Almond Business in Hustopeče

The almond business could not exist if there were no almond tree orchards, the only ones of Central Europe, which are proudly spread on the slopes of Hustopeče in South Moravia. Beauty, unusualness and history of these orchards which is the centuries old - these are the values which deserve to be spread even outside the town of Hustopeče, as said by Kateřina Kopová, the founder of the enterprise. Ms Kateřina has for many years been aware of uniqueness of the almond tree orchards as well as the existence of an excellent liquor of Hustopeče whose specific taste was brought by almonds. Changes at work seemed to have gone against the new destiny; they accelerated the process of legalization of the almond drink from Hustopeče, spread the glory of the orchards and the whole town.

Sheep Farm Nový Přerov

In the local traditional farming area, the sheep and goats have been bred for ages. However, they have always fed off the areas which could not be managed in any other way. For example, a considerable part of the nearby area called Pálava is not forested due to the fact that it was fed off by small herds coming from neighbouring villages. The farm provides this ecological service to the Czech state and feeds off the sites of extraordinary ecological significance, those which could be grown over without this off-feeding.

The farm in Nový Přerov keeps pure breed of sheep of Romanov which includes around 200 animals; then also the Kashmir goats which produce high-quality hair suitable for yarn spinning and production of premium clothes. Goats are bred for milk; then fresh white cheese is produced in small batches here in the farm. The whole breeding is operated according to the principles of organic farming.

Coordinators from each country and organization in the project of Agropuzzle 3. From the left: Ms. Maria Toader from Bucharest University, Romania; Mr. Jakub Kubačka from Natura Opava, Czech Republic; representatives of Izba Roniczna from Opole, Poland. Ms. Radmila Šrajerová from the farming school in Opava; Mr. Sławomir Jakoniuk from Izba Rolniczna from Opole, Poland; Mr. Hugo Gomez from Rude Organisation, Portugal; Mr. Atanas Atanasov from the Bulgarian University in Ruse.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE MASARYK´S SECONDARY SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND HIGHER PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL OF OPAVA

The "Masaryk´s Secondary School of Agriculture and Higher Professional School of Opava" began international cooperation with neighbouring countries Poland and Slovakia in 2008. We prepared the first of the nature-science partnership projects called "TriNatural" in the European program called "LLP Comenius". Then we were gradually adding further projects, those aimed to protection of the nature and sport (Norden-Süden, border-cross cooperation in extreme sports...). Then later we encouraged ourselves and asked for support in the programs "LLP Leonardo da Vinci" and "Erasmus+".

We created series of related partnership projects, like for instance Agropuzzle series. There has been running the third project at the current time. And we also asked for the fourth one. In these series of projects, we present an example of good practice in the field of agriculture of partner countries with specific focus: (1) Unesco heritage and Natura 2000; (2) fruit farming and local production; (3) small family farms - story of a family in comparison with big businesses; (4) we are preparing the series of rural development and cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants - these series provide us with perfect portfolio of ideas and inspiration in the field.

About the partners - international activities

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We are also partners in the professional agricultural partnership project of "Natura Opava" which presents original fruit-farming tradition compared with new trends of cultivation of fruit trees. There is also preparation of a follow-up project aimed to bee-keeping and landscaping.

Most of our students travelled abroad to get professional experience and practical skills through the program of "Erasmus+ KA1 in VET" - e.g. the professional training programs held abroad. Our mobile projects are called "Agropractice"; they form continuous series. We have already had four stages. We have asked for the fifth one. Our agricultural practices were held in Spain (3 courses in total - Granada, Martos, Cordoba), in Slovakia (one course - Levice) and in Greece (3 courses - Preveza). Students spent two weeks working mainly with fruit vegetables and harvesting olives. Their study stay was supplemented by a variety of professional trips, like for instance: Gibraltar - Monkey; Ronda - breeding corrida bulls; Preveza - breeding eels, fish, dolphin reserve, growing orange trees, Martos; Preveza - oil pressing workshops; Sevilla - Giralda, tomb of Christopher Columbus; Granada - Alhambra, rock open-air museum of Sacromonte, Cordoba - Mezquita and many others...

Agropractice, Granada

Project Agropractice 3. Gibraltar May 2016

Art workshop, TriNatural

We cannot forget pedagogues of our school, sending them to the two-week language study trips abroad (Ireland, England, Austria and Germany), where they can improve their linguistic as well as personal and professional portfolio.

Together with "Natura Opava", we have organized 6 nature-scientific and historical expeditions since 2012. Our destinations: Greece (already twice), Slovenia, Romanian Banat, Tuscany and Provence.

Sport club of the Masaryk´s Secondary School of Agriculture and Higher Professional School of Opava is also very active. In this club there have been 2 international youth dance camps held so far within "Erasmus+ Youth". The first dance training camp was held in Jánské Koupele village near Opava (CZ). The second camp was held in August 2016 in Preveza (GR). The dance workshops were conducted by our excellent Cuban dance champion Julio and Slovak dance teacher Maria from Bardejov.

Youth international meetings for our students have also been held by the partner non-profit organization called "Moja.Opava.cz", focusing on folk traditions and support of rural areas. We have so far had five camps in the Czech Republic with partners from Slovakia and Poland and 3 youth camps in Slovakia.

And how to conclude that? Our school has about 600 students. As the statistics of the "Annual Report of our Headmaster from 2013 to 2016" show, more than 100 representatives of our school were travelling every year abroad (e.g. 1/6) while using some of the activities of the international team of our school. We can definitely say we have overcome any issues in the foreign activities and we are doing very well. The school has 22 international partners in 12 countries, including French Guiana, Azores, universities from Romania and Bulgaria, Agrarian Chamber of Poland, agencies for development of rural regions in Portugal, Spain, etc.

We ask the European Union for support, mainly within "Erasmus+" (in the previous time period of LLP), sub-programs: KA1 School Education, Professional Education, Youth, KA2 Partnership in School and Professional Education.

The team for foreign exchanges has been the same since 2008 - Mgr. Radmila Šrajerová - guarantor of foreign exchanges; Mgr. Martin Valeček - vice-guarantor of foreign exchanges; Ing. Arnošt Klein - director of the school, providing excellent background facilities of organizational support; Bc. Jakub Kubačka - external assistant and pedagogue of environmental education from "Natura Opava". Due to these people and programs of the European Union, the "Masaryk´s Secondary School of Agriculture and Higher Professional School of Opava" is able to fully support development, independence and professionalism of students and pedagogues.

Expedition Greece 2012

Agropractice 3. Greece 2015

Agropractice 4. Greece 2016

Agropuzzle 2., mobility of Portugal, visit in Frulact factory.

Agropuzzle 2. mobilita in Portugal, April 2014, Sierra Estrella

THE FARMING CHAMBER IN OPOLE - POLAND

The Farming Chamber of the Opole province is a self-government governing unit of the local agricultural local authority acting for the problem solving and is representingthat represents the interests of the organizations businesses of entities which are members united in of this chamberChamber. Since 1996 the chamber Chamber is acting forhas represented the farming interests of the province, and has helped influence the development influences the forming of agricultural policies, whilst also and participatesparticipating in the environmental protection of the environment, the local culture, the sightseeing and the general preservation of preserving the cultural heritage of rural areas. Activities of the chamber Chamber are a part of the connected with large-scale support provided to the agricultural environment by coordinating joint actions activities in the area of the farming, with supporting initiatives, thereby not only and creating the image of a modern farmer, and but also supporting the agricultural education in the province.

The chamber Chamber has a legal personality status. Since theThe Farming Chamber was is obliged obligated to fulfil the following tasks:

- conduct operations for the agricultural market;
- action in favourfavor of the improvement of the quality of cultivations and agricultural production;
- develop the cooperation with foreign organizations of farming producers;
- cooperate with the civil Civil service Service in the areas of environmental protection, the health and the country cultural heritage of the countryside.
- consult for activityon the activities of agricultural farms and the organizations associated with the farming sector, including agricultural schools.

Mr. Herbert Czaja - President of the Chamber of Agriculture in Opole

MY AGRO PRACTICE - THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE OF STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY UNDER THE POWER PROGRAM - ERASMUS +.

In the last weeks of May 2017 a group of students of grades I and III of the Technical School of Mechanization of Agriculture and Agronomy of the Secondary Ahriculture School in Komorno, together with tutors, participated in professional practice in the Czech Republic. The organization of the ERASMUS + program was possible thanks to the cooperation of the school with Komorno with the Chamber of Agriculture of Opole and the association „Moja Opava" in Opava (Czech Republic).

The program of practical activities was related to the profile of education of young farmers. Activities: horticulture, vegetable and fruit cultivation, beekeeping. In addition, students from Komorno learn about the didactic base used by their colegues from the Czech Republic to visit the farm machinery park and have the opportunity to test their skills in driving agricultural vehicles. The organizers of the practice have ensured that the stay is attractive and varied. Young people had the opportunity of participating in sporting events (football and volleyball), as well as in a precision driving tournament. A 2-day trip to Prague was organized during the stay. Participants visited the monuments of the city and were acquainted with its rich history. For young people the extra attraction was a Prague Metro ride and a train ride. Young Poles had the opportunity of getin acquainted with and to establish contacts with teenegers from the Czech Republic, so they also learned the basics of the Czech language.

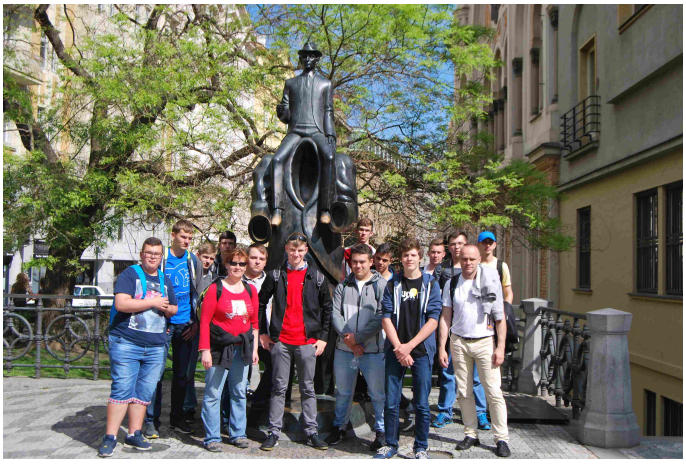
Czech Republic to visit the farm machinery park and have the opportunity to test their skills in driving agricultural vehicles. The organizers of the practice have ensured that the stay is attractive and varied. Young people had the opportunity of participating in sporting events (football and volleyball), as well as in a precision driving tournament. A 2-day trip to Prague was organized during the stay. Participants visited the monuments of the city and were acquainted with its rich history. For young people the extra attraction was a Prague Metro ride and a train ride. Young Poles had the opportunity of getin acquainted with and to establish contacts with teenegers from the Czech Republic, so they also learned the basics of the Czech language.

At the end of the practical training cycle, all participants received a certificate confirming their participation, and in the near future they will also receive EUROPASS, a document confirming their skills acquired and their competence confirmed by the National Agency in Warsaw.

The stay in the Czech Republic showed students the education level and agricultural activity in the country. Certainly practice will inspire all students to carry out various forms of farming activity within thier farm in the future. In addition, abroad trips are the opportunity of establishing contacts that can lead to future co-operation in the field of running businesses in the agricultural sector.

The stay of the Polish group in the Czech Republic was financed by EU funds under ERASMUS + and POWER program. The supervisors of the group were teachers from the School in Komorno: mgr. Urszula Pietruszka and mgr Sławomir Jakoniuk.

Thanks to the support of the Chamber of Agriculture in Opole, in the first days of July, 13 people from the Complex of Schools in Komorno will come to Greece to practice similar mobility.



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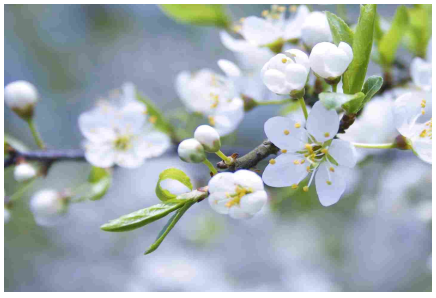

Magazine of the project

Agropuzzle 3