

BUANEWS

Balkan Universities Association E-Bulletin

March 2020 / 19



TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY OF VINE-GROWERS AND WINE-MAKERS TRIFON ZAREZAN AT THE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY - PLOVDIV

The Agricultural University - Plovdiv celebrated the holiday of vine-growers and wine-makers, known as Trifon Zarezan (Trifon the Pruner). It is also the official feast of the Faculty of Horticulture with Viticulture - a unique academic structure on the Balkans. The holiday is traditionally marked on 14th of February, on the edge of the winter going away and the coming spring, setting the beginning of the new agricultural season. There are many rituals performed to ensure prosperous and fruitful grape harvest, most of them dating back to Thracian times when remarkable wines spread the glory of our lands.

This year the Deputy Prime Minister, the Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Committee of Agriculture, the Deputy Regional Governor of Plovdiv District, the Mayor of Plovdiv Municipality, local authorities, rectors and business partners joined the academic staff and students of AU for the first pruning of vines on the University vineyards.

Prof. Dr. Hristina Yancheva, the Rector of the University, greeted the guests and announced the start of the 75th Anniversary celebrations. She congratulated the students and

staff of the Faculty of Horticulture with Viticulture on their professional day and presented the educational and research achievements of teachers and students throughout the year.

The tradition says that the strongest, healthy and generous man, who made the best wine of the year, is appointed the 'King of the Vineyards'. Engineer-technologist Lambrin Topuzliev was awarded the title 'The King 2020'. He addressed the colleagues and guests presenting the collection of over 450 cultivars and rootstocks on the University vineyards and the latest innovative research projects.

The University Winery, celebrating its Fifty Anniversary, is unique for experimental microvinification and production of boutique wines, possessing a rich collection of samples since its establishment. It is one of the 28 university cellars in the world, awarded a number of national and international prizes.

The pruning ritual was followed by Bulgarian folk dances, songs and traditional dishes, blessing that the more wine and food on the table on that day, the more generous the next harvest will be.

