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**ROUNDTABLES AS AN INITIAL STAGE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS ERASMUS+ SUNRISE AND DOMANI**

In modern academic environment, international cooperation plays a key role in the development of education, science and innovation. Participation in international programmes, such as Erasmus+, opens up great opportunities for establishing inter-university links, sharing experiences, developing scientific competencies and improving educational programmes. These initiatives include the SUNRISE project - Supporting the Next Generation of Ukrainian Researchers: a project to increase university capacity and improve doctoral training, and the project - DOMANI - Developing Microcredit Ecosystems in Ukraine and Mongolia for a Competitive and Sustainable Green Economy. which are being implemented under the Erasmus+ programme with the participation of leading European and Ukrainian universities.

**KEYWORDS:** *Erasmus+, SUNRISE project, DOMANI project, Round table, microcredit courses, young scientists*

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**Introduction**

International educational and scientific projects play an important role in modernization of the higher education system, development of research infrastructure, strengthening of academic mobility and the integration of national universities into the European and global educational space. Participation in such projects creates conditions for the exchange of best practices, adaptation of innovative teaching

methods, improvement of the quality of educational programs and implementation of an interdisciplinary approach in teaching and research.

One of the key functions of international projects is to increase the institutional potential of higher education institutions by developing new courses, updating curricula, improving assessment methods, and creating conditions for sustainable professional development of scientific

and pedagogical staff. Through the implementation of joint projects, universities gain access to the latest experience, modern digital tools, and resources for research activities, which is especially important in the context of post-crisis recovery and the challenges caused by military actions in Ukraine.

In addition, international projects act as a catalyst for changes in the culture of academic cooperation, contributing to the construction of inter-university and transnational networks, which increases the competitiveness of scientists in the international labor market and contributes to the formation of an academic environment open to innovation, partnership, and sustainable development.

Involvement of third-level higher education students (postgraduate students), young scientists who have recently defended their thesis, as well as professors and teaching staff in such projects is of particular relevance. For postgraduate students, participation in international projects is not only a source of new knowledge, but also a powerful tool for forming a scientific culture, expanding professional horizons and active inclusion in the global research community. Young doctors of philosophy, who are at the beginning of their academic careers, have the opportunity to strengthen scientific ties, present the results of their own research at the international level and get involved in interdisciplinary initiatives.

For professors, participation in such projects is no less important - it contributes to the international integration of Ukrainian universities, updating educational programs, developing scientific diplomacy and implementing joint research projects. At the same time, international partnership creates conditions for mentoring, within which

experienced scientists can support the younger generation of researchers.

In 2025, employees and applicants for the third educational and scientific level of the Karazin Institute of Environmental Sciences began the implementation of two Erasmus+ projects:

**SUNRISE** - Supporting the next generation of Ukrainian scientists: a project to increase the potential of universities and improve the training of doctoral students.

**DOMANI** - Development of micro-credit ecosystems in Ukraine and Mongolia for a competitive and sustainable green economy.

To discuss the prospects for the implementation of projects within the framework of the Karazin Institute of Environmental Sciences conferences, we held the Round tables:

- "Erasmus + SUNRISE Project - as a support for the next generation of Ukrainian scientists";

- Erasmus + DOMANI "Informal education in the field of environmental monitoring and conservation".

Moreover, the teaching staff and participants of the INTENSE project joined the round table "Development of the INTENSE Doctoral School: Experience, Challenges, and Perspectives in Ukraine within the SUNRISE Project", implemented by I. I. Mechnikov Odessa National University.

Such initiatives demonstrate an effective model of international scientific partnership aimed at forming a sustainable system of training highly qualified personnel in the field of ecology and sustainable development.

*The purpose* is to analyze the role of the Round Tables at the start of the implementation of international projects at Karazin Institute of Environmental Sciences.

## **Results and Discussion**

**1. Round table "Erasmus + SUNRISE projects – as a support for the next generation of Ukrainian scientists".** On March 14, 2025, Karazin Institute of Environmental Sciences hosted a roundtable discussion "Erasmus + SUNRISE Projects – as Support for the Next Generation of Ukrainian Scientists". The Erasmus + SUNRISE project is a continuation of the development of the INTENSE international doctoral school.

Representatives of the International Doctoral School provided their presentations of the topics and technical support for their implementation, which may be of interest to postgraduate students in their own scientific research:

### **❖ V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University Doctoral School:**

- DrS (Geography), professor Nadiya MAKSYMENKO

- DrS (Geography), professor Vilina PERESADKO

- DrS (Geography), professor Alla NEKOS

- DrS (Agriculture), professor Andriy ACHASOV

- DrS (Geography), professor Oleksii KRAINUKOV

- DrS (Agriculture), professor Iryna KOVAL

❖ ***Odesa I. I. Mechnikov National University Doctoral School:***

- DrS (Technical Sc.), professor Angelina CHUGAI

- DrS (Geography), professor Valeriya OVCHARUK

- DrS (Geography), professor Zhannetta SHAKIRZANOVA

- PhD (Geography), associate professor Inna KHOMENKO

❖ ***Institute of Ecology of The Carpathians NAS of Ukraine Doctoral School***

- PhD (Biology), associate professor, senior scientist Iryna SHPAKIVSKA

- PhD (Biology), associate professor, senior scientist Oksana MARYSKEVYCH

- PhD (Biology), leading researcher Andriy-Taras BASHTA

The partners of the doctoral school also spoke:

- DrS (Geography), professor, Olga SHEVCHENKO (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv)
- DrS (Geography), professor, Sergiy SONKO (Uman National University of Horticulture)

Postgraduate students of V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Institute of Ecology of The Carpathians NAS of Ukraine, and Odesa I. I. Mechnikov National University presented the areas of their research and scientific interests:

- Oleg Dmytrykov, Alina Hrechko, Yuliia Serzhantova, Denys Barabash, Andriy Borovenskiy, Anna Kot, Ievgen Tertytskyi, Vadym Gololobov, Sviatoslav Dmitriiev, Oleksandr Buby, Maryna Shchokina from V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University;
- Denys Sivaiev, Anastasiia Blaha, Mykyta Rozvod, Maksym Nedostrelov, Mykhailo Kovalenko from I. I. Mechnikov Odessa National University;
- Dmytro Leleka, Andrii Pavliuk, Andrii Marusyk from Institute of Ecology of The Carpathians NAS of Ukraine.

International partners presented opportunities for postgraduate research:

- ANA SOPINA – PhD, Senior Assistant, Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb, Croatia

- TAMARA ZANINOVIĆ – PhD, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb, Croatia.

The event was held as part of the All-Ukrainian student and PhD student English-speaking conference (with international participation) “Ecology is a priority” with international participation. The moderators were: Anton SHKARUBA, PhD in Geography, Senior Researcher, Estonian University of Life Sciences (Tartu, Estonia), Ganna TITENKO PhD in Geography, director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Kharkiv, Ukraine (Fig.1a) and Nadiia CHERKASHYNA Senior Lecturer of English, Department of Foreign Languages for Professional Purposes, School of Foreign Languages, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Kharkiv, Ukraine [1]. All participants of the round table received certificates of participation (Fig. 1b).

**Round table on “Development of the INTENSE Doctoral School: Experience, Challenges and Prospects in Ukraine within the SUNRISE Project”.** On 17 April 2025, within the framework of the Second International Conference ‘Climate Services: Science and Education’, a round table on ‘Development of the INTENSE Doctoral School: Experience, Challenges and Prospects in Ukraine within the SUNRISE Project’.

The event was moderated by Valeriia Ovcharuk, SUNRISE Project Coordinator at Odesa National University.

The discussion focused on sharing experiences and identifying key areas for the development of doctoral education in the field of environmental and climate policy, management and environmental technologies.

Professor Nadiya Maksymenko (V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University), Coordinator of the INTENSE National Doctoral School, presented the main achievements of the school, shared her own experience of working with doctoral students and outlined future prospects within the framework of the new SUNRISE project.

The participants shared their personal experiences of participating in the INTENSE project - summer schools, trainings, lectures by



a)



б)

**Fig. 1** – Roundtable Programme of the SUNRISE (a) and Certificate of participation (b)

European professors, and preparation of dissertation research as part of the project:

- Svitlana Burchenko and Alina Hrechko (V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University),
- Anna Ilyina (I.I. Mechnikov Odesa National University),
- Vladyslav Mykhailenko (Institute of Market Problems and Economic and Environmental Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine),
- Maksym Martyniuk (Institute of Marine Biology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine).

During her speech, Svitlana Burchenko shared her own experience of participating in the INTENSE project, within which she took part in two summer schools: ‘Water Innovations: Policy, Management and Research’ at the Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu, Estonia, in 2019, and “Green and Blue Infrastructure in the Cities of the Former Soviet Union - Learning from the Heritage and Experience of the Visegrad Countries” at the Carpathian National Nature Park, Yaremche, Ukraine, and had an individual internship at the Institute of Carpathian Ecology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in 2021, Lviv, Ukraine.

Alina Hrechko spoke about her experience in the INTENSE project. Together with Svitlana Burchenko, she studied at the summer school ‘Green and Blue Infrastructure in the Cities of the Former Soviet Union - Learning from the Heritage and Experience of the Visegrad Countries’ at the Carpathian National Nature Park, Yaremche, Ukraine, and began research under the guidance of one of the project partners, Professor Anton Shkaruba (Estonia). In her speech, she noted that it was during her studies at

the summer school that she decided on the topic of her dissertation research. And the dual supervision allowed her to use the best international practices of the concept of green and blue infrastructure, to use modern research methods, which ultimately contributed to the timely completion of her dissertation research and defence for the qualification of Doctor of Philosophy.

Valeriia Ovcharuk also shared her experience of implementing the INTENSE Doctoral School at the Odesa State Environmental University, where the international INTENSE project was initiated and successfully implemented.

Andrii Achasov and Alla Nekos (V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University) discussed how the INTENSE project materials - in particular, the developed courses - are used in the current doctoral programme and suggested that the ONU partners consider integrating them as elective courses.

At the end of the roundtable, the participants agreed on the importance of informing doctoral students of partner institutions about the possibilities of internal academic mobility and supporting its implementation [2]. Participants of the round table received certificates of participation (Fig. 2).

After the round table, the participants continued active work within the framework of the Living Lab Approach for Real-World Impact in Urban areas training under the ERASMUS + SUNRISE project "Supporting Ukraine's next generation of scholars: a Project for Raising University capacity and Improving doctoral Student Education", conducted by partners from the Estonian University of Life Sciences Anton Shkaruba and Ruthi Veibiakkim (Fig. 3).



Fig. 2 – Certificate of participation in the SUNRISE Roundtable



Fig. 3 – Invitation to Lab Approach for Real-World Impact in Urban areas

Karazin University team, presented by Prof. Maksymenko N.V., Prof. Achasov A.B., Prof. Nekos A.N., Prof. Peresadko V.A., Assoc. Prof. Burchenko S.V., Assoc. Prof. Gololobova O.O., Assoc. Prof. Kleshch A.A., Senior Lecturer Cherkashyna N.I. and Lecturer Grechko A.A., took an active part in the training as well. In the training program, the Estonian partners delivered a lecture after the introduction of all the participants. Later, there was a group work, in which the participants had to choose a goal and a problem, identify stakeholders who would

be responsible for solving this problem, choose methods to solve it, and discuss a common vision.

The work in groups was supported by the Estonian colleagues who coordinated each group, which allowed for quick and clear orientation and reaching a common solution. After the group work, all group participants presented the work of their teams. The discussion of the results sparked a lively discussion. All participants received Certificates of participation (Fig. 4).





Fig. 4 – Certificate of participation in the Living Lab training for the SUNRISE project

**Round table «Non-formal education in the field of Environmental Monitoring and Protected Areas Management» according to the project DOMANI.**

On April 18, 2025, on the basis of the IV International Internet Conference “Current Issues of Formal and Informal Education in Environmental Monitoring and Protected Areas Management”, a round table “Non-formal education in the field of Environmental Monitoring and Protected Areas Management” was held under the DOMANI project. International project partners Anton Shkaruba, Senior Research Fellow at the Estonian University of Life Sciences and Kristina Marran, Head of Estonian University of Life Sciences Open University, and project participants from V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Odessa Polytechnic National University and Ukrainian Joint Meteorological and Hydrological Society attended the event. Ganna TITENKO, Acting Director of the Karazin Institute of Environmental Science, opened the event with a welcoming speech. The first speaker was Kristina MARRAN, Head of Estonian University of Life Sciences Open University, project coordinator (Fig. 5). During her speech, Kristina outlined the specifics of the project implementation and explained how microcredit courses were organized in Estonia. Kristina Marran's presentation covers:

- the project structure and its stages: preparation (survey, policies, strategies), programme development, pilot implementation, evaluation, finalisation;
- definition of micro-diplomas as short-term study programmes (from 5 to 30 ECTS) focused on professional development, retraining or acquisition of new skills within the concept of lifelong learning;
- an example of successful implementation of micro-diplomas in Estonia, in particular the experience of the Estonian University of Natural Sciences, which coordinates the project;
- organisational and legal aspects related to the regulation of micro-diplomas in Estonia and the possibility of adapting these approaches to Ukraine and Mongolia;
- potential benefits for Ukraine, including: support for the ‘green transformation’, promoting economic recovery, increasing access to higher education, ensuring compliance with EU standards, in particular in the field of waste management.

The presentation also introduces the DOMANI project consortium, which includes universities, education quality agencies, NGOs, and ministries from Estonia, Italy, Hungary, Ukraine, and Mongolia. An important emphasis is on ensuring the sustainability of the results: the developed micro-diplomas will remain available after the project is completed, and recommendations on the regulatory framework



**Fig. 5** – Roundtable Programme of the DOMANI

for micro-qualifications will be provided to the authorities of Ukraine and Mongolia.

During the implementation of the DOMANI project on creation of the microcredit programs, project participants are divided into six sections:

- Biodiversity conservation and management of biological resources;
- Pollution prevention, control and remediation;
- Green planning, management tools and instruments;
- Financial and economic instruments for green development;
- Observation, information and communication for green development;
- Improving the use and protection of water resources.

As part of the discussion in the sections, the project participants spoke about the topics they had chosen to create microcredit programs within the sections.

The first section “Biodiversity conservation and management of biological resources” was presented by V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University and Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Prof. Nadiya Maksymenko began her speech by presenting the

course “Management and planning of protected areas and their networks in post-war reconstruction”, dedicated to modern approaches to the management and strategic planning of protected areas in the context of post-war reconstruction. It is extremely relevant for Ukraine in connection with armed aggression and large-scale environmental damage caused to natural ecosystems. A significant part of the objects of the nature reserve fund has suffered direct or indirect destruction, changes in the landscape structure, loss of biodiversity and violation of protection regimes. The restoration of these territories requires scientifically based, systematic and integrated solutions. Associate Professor Liudmyla BILOUS presented the course “Transboundary cooperation on biodiversity protection and restoration”, which is dedicated to the study of mechanisms of international interaction in the field of biodiversity protection and restoration of degraded natural ecosystems that go beyond the borders of individual states. In the current context of global environmental challenges – climate change, species loss, habitat fragmentation — transboundary cooperation is key to the effective preservation of our common natural heritage. The presentation of the section

was completed by a postgraduate student Alina Grechko with a course developed jointly with Prof. Nadiya Maksymenko "Biodiversity of urban landscapes". The chosen topic of the course is related to the processes of urbanization and sustainable urban planning of the territory. Urbanization is one of the main factors of biodiversity loss. The study of changes in the structure of the biota of urban areas allows us to develop nature-oriented solutions for preservation of ecosystems and improving the quality of life of residents.

The section "Pollution prevention, control and remediation" was opened by participants from V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University. Prof. Iryna Koval and Assoc. Prof. Olena Hololobova presented the course "State policy on the use and conservation of soil and forest resources in the wartime and postwar periods", noting that it focuses on a critical analysis of state policy and practices of soil and forest resource management in the context of military conflict and in the period of post-war recovery. It covers issues of legal regulation, sustainable land use strategy, institutional forest management, environmental monitoring, as well as mechanisms for restoring degraded areas. Prof. Oleksiy Krainiukov and Assoc. Prof. Ivetta Kryvytska continued their speech with the course "Biological methods for assessing the quality of environmental components", which studies bioindication and biotesting methods to assess the state of the natural environment – water, soils, air and biota – from the perspective of their reaction to anthropogenic and technogenic loads. This approach allows us not only to detect the pollution, but also to assess its impact on living organisms and ecosystems as a whole. The presentation of the section was completed by representatives of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv Prof. Serhiy Snizhko, Prof. Olha Shevchenko and Assoc. Prof. Serhiy Lelyushok with the course "Monitoring of air quality". As part of their speech, they outlined the importance of atmospheric air monitoring, focusing on the fact that air pollution is one of the main environmental and medical and social problems, especially in industrial, urbanized and war-affected regions.

Direction 3 "Green planning, management tools and instruments" was opened by the professors Serhiy Snizhko, Olha Shevchenko, Serhiy Zapototsky from T.H. Shevchenko National University of Kyiv with the course "Adaptation to climate change in territorial communities", which is related to the study of the impact of climate change on local communities and the

development of strategies to mitigate their consequences. The course aims at familiarizing with methods for assessing climate risks, as well as the development and implementation of adaptation measures, which may include infrastructure improvements, land use changes, environmental initiatives and increasing the preparedness of communities to extreme weather conditions. The speech of representatives of Karazin University by section began with the speech of Assoc. Prof. Svitlana Burchenko and Prof. Nadiya Maksymenko "Management of environmental activities and environmental documentation of enterprises" which covers the basics of environmental activity management at enterprises, in particular, the development and implementation of environmental strategies and documentation. The course is the study of the regulatory framework and methods for ensuring the sustainable development of enterprises. Associate Professor Hanna Titenko presented the course "EIA for customers, contractors and the public" and outlined its specifics: a focus on environmental impact assessment (EIA) processes and their significance for various stakeholders, such as customers, contractors and the public. The course proposes to study EIA methods, environmental risk analysis and communication strategies to ensure transparency and participation of all parties in environmental management processes. The presentations of the section by Odessa Polytechnic National University and Ukrainian Joint Meteorological and Hydrological Society were completed by Kateryna Husieva, Mykhailo Lobachev and Oleh Shablii. The course "Engineering Tools for Adaptive and Inclusive Green Infrastructure" covers engineering methods and tools for the design and implementation of adaptive and inclusive green infrastructure. The course aims to study approaches to integrating natural elements into the urban environment, developing solutions that promote resilience to climate change, and ensuring equal access to natural resources for different social groups.

Direction 4 "Financial and economic instruments for green development" was presented by a postgraduate student Anna Kot with the course "Financial instruments of "green" banking". The course focuses on financial instruments that contribute to supporting sustainable development and environmentally friendly initiatives in the banking sector, as well as study of green financing mechanisms, such as



green bonds, loans for environmental projects and other instruments that help finance projects with minimal environmental impact.

Direction 5 “Observation, information and communication for green development” was presented by Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Odesa Polytechnic National University, Ukrainian Joint Meteorological and Hydrological Society V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University. The first was the presentation of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, presented by Assoc. Prof. Nataliia Korohoda, Assoc. Prof. Tetiana Kupach and Assistant Yevhen Tsyhanok. The course “GIS for Environmental Protection” is aimed at familiarizing students with the theoretical foundations and practical skills of applying geographic information systems (GIS) in the field of environmental protection. The course covers methods of spatial analysis, visualization of environmental data, modeling of risks and changes in the environment, as well as digital mapping of territories affected by anthropogenic and natural factors. Associate Professor of Karazin University Anastasia Kleshch presented two courses at once: “Remote environmental monitoring” and “Web technologies and information support in the field of conservation”. The first course offers to study remote sensing methods of the Earth (RES) and their application to assess the state of the environment. Students get acquainted with modern satellite observation systems, types of remote sensing data, image processing methods, as well as the analysis of ecosystem dynamics, landscape changes, pollution, soil degradation, deforestation, etc.

Web Technologies and Information Support in the Field of Conservation - focuses on the use of digital web technologies for collecting, analyzing, visualizing and disseminating information in the environmental sphere. Special attention is paid to the creation of online maps, environmental portals, databases, web-GIS services and platforms for public monitoring. Odesa Polytechnic National University and Ukrainian Joint Meteorological and Hydrological Society Kateryna Husieva, Mykhailo Lobachev, and Oleh Shablil presented the course “Environmental Journalism, Narrative Strategies, and Gamified Media in Post-War Reconstruction”, which explores the role of media and communications in covering environmental issues arising in the process of post-war reconstruction. Students explore how journalism, storytelling, digital platforms, and gamified media approaches can influence the public opinion, mobilize communities and promote sustainable recovery of affected areas.

Direction 6 “Improving the use and protection of water resources” was dedicated to the courses “Integrated Assessment and management of water resources: Strategy, Methods and Tools” and “Water resources of Ukraine under conditions of climate change and anthropogenic transformations”. The first course was presented by Assoc. Prof. Vitaly Bezsonny and Prof. Alla Nekos (Karazin University), it is dedicated to strategic planning and methods of water resources management taking into account modern environmental challenges. Students study the tools of integrated water management, water balance models



Fig. 6 – Certificate of participation

and methods of water security assessment. Prof. Valentyn Khilchevskiy, Prof. Vasyi Grebin and Assoc. Prof. Serhii Leliushok (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv) presented the course “Water resources of Ukraine under conditions of climate change and anthropogenic transformations”, which analyzes the impact of climate change and human activities on the quantity and quality of water resources of Ukraine. Special attention is paid to regional trends in hydrological changes, adaptation approaches, and sustainable water use policies [3-4]. All participants of the

round table received certificates of participation (Fig. 6).

Summing up, it is worth noting the successful start of the implementation of the projects. Detailed information about the Round Tables can be found on the website of the National Institute of Ecology <https://ecology.karazin.ua/mizhnarodna-dijalnist/> and the Department of Environmental Monitoring and Conservation <http://ecomonitoring.karazin.ua/>

#### ***Conflict of Interest***

The authors declare no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript. Furthermore, the authors have fully adhered to ethical norms, including avoiding plagiarism, data falsification, and duplicate publication.

***Authors Contribution:*** all authors have contributed equally to this work

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**ПРОВЕДЕННЯ КРУГЛИХ СТОЛІВ ЯК ПОЧАТКОВИЙ ЕТАП РЕАЛІЗАЦІЇ  
МІЖНАРОДНИХ ПРОЄКТІВ ERASMUS+ SUNRISE ТА DOMANI**

У сучасному академічному середовищі міжнародна співпраця відіграє ключову роль у розвитку освіти, науки та інновацій. Участь у міжнародних програмах, таких як Erasmus+, відкриває широкі можливості для налагодження міжуніверситетських зв'язків, обміну досвідом, розвитку наукових компетентностей та вдосконалення освітніх програм. Одними з таких ініціатив є проєкти SUNRISE - Підтримка наступного покоління українських науковців: проєкт з підвищення потенціалу університетів та покращення підготовки докторантів та DOMANI - Розвиток мікро-кредитних екосистем в Україні та Монголії для конкурентоспроможної та стійкої зеленої економіки, що реалізуються в межах програми Erasmus+ за участі провідних європейських та українських університетів.

**КЛЮЧОВІ СЛОВА;** *Ерасмус+, проєкт SUNRISE, проєкт DOMANI, Круглий стіл, мікрокредитні курси, молоді науковці*

**Конфлікт інтересів**

Автори заявляють, що конфлікту інтересів щодо публікації цього рукопису немає. Крім того, автори повністю дотримувались етичних норм, включаючи плагіат, фальсифікацію даних та подвійну публікацію.

**Внесок авторів:** всі автори зробили рівний внесок у цю роботу

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