

EMERALD

"Developing an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree on Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Long-run Economic Development"

31/12/2020-30/12/2023

Faculty of History

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Project Coordinator: Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet - NTNU

Parteners: Goeteborgs Universitet, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Helsingin Yliopisto, Universitatea din București, Universitaet Bayreuth.

The overall objective of Emerald is to establish an interdisciplinary academic network within the field of natural resource governance and management. The strategic partnership network will facilitate interdisciplinary and international activities, which will lead to the development of an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree. The Emerald strategic partnership has three priorities: 1) tackling skill gaps and mismatches, 2) promoting internationalisation, and 3) promoting excellence in teaching and skills development. To contribute to these priority objectives in the field of higher education and natural resource management, the whole strategic partnership work program is divided into three project pillars:

Project pillar 1 (P1): Establishment and management of an international academic network

Project pillar 2 (P2): Production of open access teaching material

Project pillar 3 (P3): Preparation of the Erasmus+ Joint MA program proposal and application

Project pillar 1 focuses on the establishment of an active cooperation network that connects the European leading research units in history and social sciences working with the management of natural resources. This is essential, since the expertise is currently scattered around Europe. P1 also includes activities that will facilitate the international cooperation by creating connections between individuals and institutions.

Firstly, P1 contains activities that aims at establishing infrastructure for effective transnational interaction and communication. These include channels that facilitates communication and sharing within the partnerships, such as a webpage, newsletters, or discussion channels in virtual meeting spaces such as Slack or Microsoft Teams. Secondly, P1 includes joint meetings and conferences. While we invest in virtual interaction and digital means of knowledge co-creation, we also recognize the high value of face-to-face meetings to the successful cooperation and shared understanding. The EMERALD partnership will organise three open meetings and conferences.

The first meeting will be organised at the beginning of the project. It will introduce the participants to each other and create common understanding of the project objectives.

In the second year, there will be a joint conference with the focus on inter-disciplinarity and cross-sectional collaboration. This conference will contribute to the outreach activities and to create connections between the EMERALD partnership and the other relevant stakeholder groups and relevant projects.

The third conference will focus on higher education. It will establish and disseminate the best practices and methods in teaching and research developed during the project and outline the avenues for future collaboration. It will also introduce the Joint Master's Degree program to the partners and other interested organisations.

Project pillar 2 includes activities that contribute to the preparation, production, and evaluation of the historical case study material on natural resource management. The activities begin with the benchmarking of the established best practices in study programmes with experience of case study teaching. The tentative findings will be presented and discussed in the opening event.

P3 includes activities that focus directly on the preparation of the joint Erasmus Mundus MA program. While the preparation of the new MA program on the management of natural resources is the ultimate goal of the EMERALD strategic partnership, this can only be accomplished as a result of the previous two project pillars which establish the cooperation network and create the teaching material.

The working group of the strategic partnership will take the main responsibility for preparing a road map to the application for an Erasmus Mundus MA program. P3 will examine the critical skill gaps at the private and public work market, analyse the special expertise of each partner universities and determine the tentative structure of the MA program. The aim of P3 is to establish a platform from which to fund and establish the Joint Master's Degree.