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## **Briefing on ERASMUS+ programme focusing on opportunities for application from EPSO**

### **Introduction:**

Education in the plant sector has been defined by EPSO and the ETP “Plants for the future” as one important goal for the future and as an integral part in the triangle Education - Research - Innovation. Therefore an Education Action Plan (EAP) has been developed in the ETP “Plants for the Future” under the leadership of EPSO as the academic partner of Plant ETP, which was launched in March 2015 together with the Research Action Plan (RAP) and Innovation Action Plan (IAP). (<http://www.plantetp.org/index.php/home/action-plans-to-2020>).

In order to implement the key actions of the EAP concerted actions on education in plant sciences at all levels of education are needed. At the EPSO GM in 2014 it has been discussed to start/ concentrate in Erasmus+ on higher education and doctoral studies first, keeping in mind, that for the further implementation of the EAP actions and ideas for basic education might also be welcomed.

The following **briefing is therefore focused on actions in E+ for higher education** which might be an opportunity for a joint proposal from EPSO members and with EPSO participation (as discussed in EPSO GM 2014).

### **Main objectives of higher education in E+**

- Increase the **skills and employability** of students and contribute to the competitiveness of European economy
- Improve **quality in teaching and learning**
- Implement the **Higher Education Modernisation strategy** in programme countries and raise the capacity of partner countries
- Streamline the **international dimension** in Erasmus+
- Support the **Bologna process** and **policy dialogues with strategic partner countries**

The following briefing is based on an inquiry on the new ERASMUS+ programme (mainly abbreviated as “E+” in the following text) on the webpages of the EC ([http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/discover/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/discover/index_en.htm) ) and on the webpages of the responsible agency for the E+ management EACEA ([http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus_en)) as well as on discussions with E+ experts from the National Agencies in Poland and Germany in training sessions or personal phone calls.

### **Management on EU level**



The **Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)** is responsible for the management of certain parts of the EU's funding programmes in the fields of education, culture, audiovisual, sport, citizenship and volunteering.

### Mission

1. The Agency is responsible for most management aspects of the programmes, including
  - a. drawing up conditions and guidelines for funding opportunities
  - b. evaluating applications, selecting projects and signing project agreements
  - c. financial management
  - d. contacts with beneficiaries
  - e. monitoring of projects (intermediate and final reports, and controls)
  - f. on-site project visits
2. Information and support to applicants and beneficiaries
3. Dissemination and exploitation of projects' results
4. Contribution to European Knowledge and expertise

### Management on national level

Some actions of the E+ programme are managed in each country by a specialized National Agency. The full list of National Agencies could be found here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/national\\_agencies\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/national_agencies_en.htm)

### ERASMUS+ Structure:

The new Erasmus+ programme - "EU programme for education, training, youth and sport 2014-2020" consists of three Key Actions:

Key action 1: Learning mobility of individuals (KA1)

**Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices (KA2)**

Key Action 3: Support for policy reform (KA3)

Plus two Specific Actions

- Jean Monnet
- Sport



**E+ indicative funding scheme for 2015 (excerpt):**

**Erasmus+ programme centralised actions:  
deadlines, indicative amounts, and outputs for 2015**

Key Action/ Activities	Action	Deadline for submitting applications	Indicative total amount allocated (EUR)	Indicative number of selected projects
Learning Mobility of Individuals	Large-scale EVS Events	03/04/2015	300,000	3
	Joint Master Degrees	04/03/2015	34,650,000	18
Cooperation for Innovation and exchanges of Good Practices	Knowledge Alliances	26/02/2015	7,650,939	10
	Sector Skills Alliances	26/02/2015	7,650,939	10
	Capacity building in higher education (see below)	10/02/2015	125,780,000	136
	Capacity building in youth	03/04/2015	9,056,934	110
Jean Monnet Activities	Jean Monnet Chairs	26/02/2015	5,666,414	136
	Jean Monnet Modules			
	Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence			
	Jean Monnet Projects	26/02/2015	4,280,000	63
	Jean Monnet Networks	26/02/2015	1,500,000	12
	Support to institutions and associations			
Jean Monnet actions for Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, USA	26/02/2015	3,500,000	47	

**Key Action 1: Learning mobility of individuals**

Actions:

- **Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees**
- Large scale European Voluntary service events

**Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees (EMJMDs)**

Erasmus Mundus **Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs)** are **highly integrated study programmes** that are delivered by an international consortium of Higher Education Institutions. They are



built on the success of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses (EMMCs).

[https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-1-learning-mobility-individuals/erasmus-mundus-joint-master-degrees\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-1-learning-mobility-individuals/erasmus-mundus-joint-master-degrees_en)

### **Aims and priorities:**

- Foster excellence, innovation, and internationalisation in Higher Education Institutions
- **Boost attractiveness** of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and support the EU's external action in the field of higher education
- **Improve the level of competences and skills of Master graduates**, and their employability.
- After a preparatory year, consortia implement **three annual selections of students**, who are **awarded a joint or multiple degree** at the end of their studies.
- In order to effectively monitor the implementation of EMJMD courses, the beneficiary consortia will need to **apply a number of monitoring and Quality Assurance mechanisms**.

### **Supported activities**

- The **delivery of an EMJMD programme** corresponding to 60, 90 or 120 ECTS credits, organized through an **international consortium of higher education institutions** and **including** the participation of **invited scholars (guest lecturers)** for teaching, training and/or research purposes.
- The **award of scholarships to excellent students worldwide** for their participation in one of these EMJMD programmes.

### **Who can apply/ benefit?**

- Any higher education institution established in one of the Programme Countries<sup>1</sup> may submit an application on behalf of the consortium that delivers the EMJMD.
- Each consortium **must include Higher Education Institutions** from **at least 3 different Programme Countries**, and may involve other Higher Education Institutions from Programme and Partner Countries<sup>2</sup>.
- Other organisations such as enterprises, public bodies, NGOs and research institutes may also participate in the EMJMD as partners or associated partners.

**What will be funded?** Cost of scholarships and contribution to the management costs.

**Duration and max funding of project:** 2,000,000 – 3,000,000 Euros (2-3 years)

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<sup>1</sup> Programme Countries: EU 28, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, FYR Macedonia

<sup>2</sup> Partner Countries: [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide\\_en.pdf#page=24](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf#page=24)



**Where to apply?** EACEA, located in Brussels

**When to apply?** i.e., 04 March 2015 (call Oct 2014)

**Comment HS, PW:** *Maybe a possibility for a joint EPSO activity at a later stage (as discussed in EPSO GM 2014). Less flexible and more formal commitments from participating Higher Education institutions needed.*

## **Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices (KA2)**

**EACEA:** “The actions under KA2 make it possible for organisations from different participating countries to work together, to develop, share and transfer best practices and innovative approaches in the fields of education, training and youth.

The following actions are managed by the **EACEA** as part of the [General call for proposals](#) and described in detail in the [Programme Guide](#):

- **Knowledge Alliances** cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises;
- **Sector Skills Alliances** supporting the design and delivery of joint vocational training curricula, programmes and teaching and training methodologies;
- **Capacity Building in the field of youth** supporting cooperation with Partner Countries;
- **Capacity Building in the field of higher education** supporting cooperation with Partner Countries.

Additionally there will be a high number of **Strategic Partnerships in the field of Education, Training and Youth** supported through KA2. The selection and management of these takes place at national level. For further information contact the [National Agency in your country](#).”

→ Strategic Partnership is **arranged at European/ International level**, but the application is done by the coordinating institution in its own country, and evaluated and selected at the national level.



## **Key Action 2 – Strategic Partnerships -> Cooperation i.e. in higher education between institutions**

### What are Strategic Partnerships?

- **transnational projects**, involve a **minimum of 3 organisations from 3 different Programme Countries** (no maximum number, but management costs capped to 10 partners)
- allows a large range and diversity of institutions to cooperate.

### Aims and priorities of a strategic partnership:

- offer the opportunity for organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth, as well as enterprises, public authorities, civil society organisations to cooperate in order to implement innovative practices leading to:
  - high quality teaching,
  - training,
  - learning,
  - youth work,
  - institutional modernisation,
  - societal innovation.

### Main activities supported:

- Develop, test, implement **new joint curricula**, joint **study programmes**, **common modules**, intensive programmes
- **Building bridges between the different sectors of education** and fostering more intense forms of cooperation to achieve the modernisation objectives
- Develop project-based cooperation with enterprises to study real-life cases
- Exploit the potential of Open Educational Resources, collaborative and personalised learning
- Integrate various study modes (distance, part-time, modular)

### Eligible activities (selected for education and training):

- **Blended mobility of learners** combining short-term physical mobility (5 days to 2 months; excluding travel days) with virtual mobility;
- Short-term exchanges of groups of pupils (5 days to 2 months; excluding travel days);
- **Intensive Study Programmes** (5 days to 2 months; excluding travel days);
- Long-term study mobility of pupils (2 to 12 months);
- **Long-term teaching or training assignments** (2 to 12 months);
- Long-term mobility of youth workers (2 to 12 months);
- **Short-term joint staff training events** (5 days to 2 months; excluding travel days).

Venue(s) of the activities: All the activities of a Strategic Partnership must take place in the countries of the organisations participating in the project.



**Who can apply/ benefit?**

- Participating organisations: **any public or private organisation, established in a Programme Country. Higher education institutions** established in a Programme Country must hold a valid **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)**.
- Organisations from other countries can take part in the project as partners (not as the coordinating applicant), as long as their participation brings a **clear added value** to the project.

**Eligible organisations, for example:**

- a **higher education institution**;
- a school/institute/educational centre (at any level, from pre-school to upper secondary education, and including vocational education and adult education);
- a **non-profit organisation, association, NGO**;
- a public or private, a small, medium or large enterprise (including social enterprises);
- a **public body at local, regional or national level**;
- a social partner or other representative of working life, including chambers of commerce, industry, craft/professional associations and trade unions;
- a **research institute**;
- a foundation;
- an inter-company training centre;
- enterprises providing shared training (collaborative training);
- a cultural organisation, library, museum;
- a body providing career guidance, professional counselling and information services;
- a body validating knowledge, skills and competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning;
- a European Youth NGO;
- a group of young people active in youth work but not necessarily in the context of a youth organisation (i.e. informal group of young people).

**Number of participating organisations:** **Minimum 3** organisations from **3** different Programme Countries

**Duration and max funding of project:** **2 to 3 years, up to 450,000 Euros/ 3y**  
(-> 3 organisations = **approx. 50 T€/y\*organisation**)

**Eligible costs:** Unit costs (personal) for contribution to management, meetings, IT tool, studies, dissemination, participation in events, travel, etc

**Where to apply?** **National Agency** of the country in which the applicant organisation is established



**When to apply?** i.e. 31 March for SP for Higher Education, for projects starting on 1 Sept and 31 Dec of same year.

**Comment HS, PW:** *Most flexible and suitable funding instrument for discussed joint activity in Higher Education with participation of EPSO and EPSO members at time.*





**List of selected funded strategic partnerships projects 2014/15 (German coordination -> German Agency NA-DAAD, Januar 2015)**

Lfd. Nr.	Einrichtung	Projekttitle	Projektdauer (Monate)	Projektart	Bewilligte Fördersumme
1.	Beuth-Hochschule für Technik Berlin	Badge Europe	36	sektorübergreifend	407.107,00 €
2.	Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin	Entwicklung innovativer, transnationaler Lehrinhalte und didaktischer Methoden unter Einbeziehung von blended und peer learning	36	sektorspezifisch	297.751,48 €
3.	Martin-Luther-Universität Halle- Wittenberg	<a href="#">Improvement of interactive methods to understand the natural sciences and technological improvement</a>	24	sektorspezifisch	260.996,00 €
4.	Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal FH	OnCreate	36	sektorspezifisch	447.508,00 €
5.	Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz	Textual and Literary Cultures in Medieval Europe. Ein best-practice-Model zu Kompetenzerwerb und Berufsfeldorientierung in der geisteswissenschaftlichen Lehre	36	sektorübergreifend	381.846,93 €
6.	Hochschule der Bundesagentur für Arbeit	Detecting and Preventing Drop out from Higher Education or Supporting Students to Switch Successfully to VET	24	sektorübergreifend	299.409,00 €
7.	Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften München	Open Distributed European virtual Campus on ICT Security	36	sektorspezifisch	414.818,00 €
8.	Technische Universität München	<a href="#">Mobilising Agro-Food Expertise</a>	36	sektorspezifisch	235.421,00 €
9.	Technische Universität München	European Venture Program	24	sektorspezifisch	232.120,00 €
10.	Hochschule der Medien Stuttgart	MOOC Accessibility Partnership	36	sektorspezifisch	448.404,00 €
11.	Hochschule der Medien Stuttgart	European Media Cloud Campus	36	sektorspezifisch	209.240,00 €
12.	Universität Ulm	<a href="#">Educational Network on Soil and Plant Ecology and Management (-&gt; <a href="#">see ANNEX</a>)</a>	36	sektorspezifisch	315.075,00 €
13.	Universität Kassel	Marketing Communication Innovativeness of European Entrepreneurs	36	sektorspezifisch	404.090,00 €



## Key Action 2 – Knowledge Alliances -> Cooperation with business

### What are Knowledge Alliances ?

- transnational, structured and result-driven projects, notably between higher education and business.
- open to any discipline, sector and to cross-sectoral cooperation

### Aims:

- To enhance **stronger cooperation between HEI** (Higher Education Institutions) **and with key stakeholders** (enterprises, research organisations, social partners, local/regional authorities, other E&T or youth sectors) to foster quality and innovation in HE

### Main activities supported:

- a) Boosting innovation in higher education, business and in the broader socio-economic environment:
  - jointly developing and implementing **new learning and teaching methods** (like new multidisciplinary curricula, learner-centred and real problem-based teaching and learning);
  - organising continuing **educational programmes** and activities **with and within companies**;
  - **jointly developing solutions** for challenging issues, product and process innovation (students, professors and practitioners together).
- b) Developing entrepreneurship mind-set and skills:
  - **creating schemes of transversal skills learning and application** throughout higher education programmes developed in **cooperation with enterprises** aiming at strengthening employability, creativity and new professional paths;
  - **introducing entrepreneurship education in any discipline** to provide students, researchers, staff and educators with the knowledge, skills and motivation to engage in entrepreneurial activities in a variety of settings;
  - **opening up new learning opportunities through the practical application of entrepreneurial skills**, which can involve and/or lead to the commercialisation of new services, products and prototypes, to the creation of start-ups and spin-offs.
- c) Stimulating the flow and exchange of knowledge between higher education and enterprises:
  - **study field related activities in enterprises** which are fully embedded in the curriculum, recognised and credited;
  - set-ups to trial and test innovative measures;



- exchanges of students, researchers, teaching staff and company staff for a limited period;
- involvement of company staff teaching and research.

Number and profile of participating organisations: minimum of **6 organisations from at least 3 Programme Countries**, of which there must be a minimum of **2 higher education institutions** and a minimum of **two enterprises**.

Duration of project: **2 years** (up to 700,000 €) up to **3 years** (up to 1,000,000 €;  
-> 6 organisations = approx. **56,000 €/y\*organisation**)

Eligible costs: Unit costs (personal) for contribution to management, meetings, IT tool, studies, dissemination, participation in events, travel, etc.

Who can apply/ benefit:

- Participating organisations: **any public or private organisation, established in a Programme Country. Higher education institutions** established in a Programme Country **must hold a valid Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)**.
- Organisations from other countries can take part in the project as partners (not as the coordinating applicant), as long as their participation brings a clear added value to the project. An ECHE is not required for participating higher education institutions in Partner Countries, but they have to accept the principles of the ECHE.

Where to apply? **EACEA**, located in Brussels

When to apply? i.e., **26 February** for projects starting on 1 Nov of same year

Comment HS, PW: *An instrument for a joint EPSO activity? Might be/ only if strong cooperation with business in education would be available.*



**Erasmus + Programme: Knowledge Alliances**

**Call  
EAC/S11/13  
Selection  
Year 2014**

<b>Nº</b>	<b>Reference number</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Applicant organisation</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Maximum EU grant €</b>
1	554337-EPP-1-2014-1-IT-EPPKA2-KA	ITALY	UNIVERSITA DI PISA	European Network of Design for Resilient Entrepreneurship	695.277
2	554336-EPP-1-2014-1-CY-EPPKA2-KA	CYPRUS	GRANTXPRT CONSULTING LTD	A European University-Business Alliance aiming to foster young SCIENTISTS' ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT	991.778
3	554453-EPP-1-2014-1-FR-EPPKA2-KA	FRANCE	CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE ET DE L'INDUSTRIE DE VAUCLUSE	European Foodbusiness Transfer Laboratory for stimulating entrepreneurial skills, for fostering innovation and for business creation in the Food Sector	999.888
4	554312-EPP-1-2014-1-AT-EPPKA2-KA	AUSTRIA	UNIVERSITAET FUER BODENKULTUR WIEN	European Food Studies & Training Alliance	988.081
5	554187-EPP-1-2014-1-IE-EPPKA2-KA	IRELAND	LOUTH COUNTY ENTERPRISE BOARD	SME and Higher Education Institutes in Innovation Partnerships	563.362
6	554244-EPP-1-2014-1-AT-EPPKA2-KA	AUSTRIA	WIRTSCHAFTSUNIVERSITAT WIEN	Competencies for A sustainable Socio Economic development	909.418



7	554493-EPP-1-2014-1-FI-EPPKA2-KA	FINLAND	TURUN AMMATTIKORKEAKOULU OY	Framework for Innovation Competencies Development and Assessment	991.859
8	554167-EPP-1-2014-1-IT-EPPKA2-KA	ITALY	LINK CAMPUS UNIVERSITY	Textile and Clothing Knowledge Alliance. Future textile and clothing managers for export, marketing, innovation, sustainability and entrepreneurship oriented companies.	620.431
9	554471-EPP-1-2014-1-LT-EPPKA2-KA	LITHUANIA	VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS	PROMOTE - Promoting and Validating Key Competences in Mobility and Traineeships in Europe	699.913
10	554327-EPP-1-2014-1-IT-EPPKA2-KA	ITALY	FONDAZIONE ISTUD PER LA CULTURA D'IMPRESA E DI GESTIONE	Le@d3.0 Academy: WEB3.0 and OER for e- TRAINERS and NEW e-LEADERS	971,729



## Key Action 2 – Sector Skills Alliances

-> Vocational training programmes,  
teaching/training methodologies

### Aims:

Sector Skills Alliances will work to design and deliver joint **vocational training programmes and teaching and training methodologies**. A particular focus is to be put on work-based learning, providing learners with the skills required by the labour market.

Each Sector Skills Alliance shall implement a coherent, comprehensive and variable set of interconnected activities, such as:

- Defining skills and training provision needs in a given specific economic sector.
- Designing joint curricula.
- Delivering joint curricula.

### Eligible sectors:

The sectors that will be eligible under this action are sectors with skills imbalances, to which current Commission policies respond:

- Manufacturing & Engineering
- Commerce
- Information and communication technology
- Environmental technologies (Eco-innovation) ???
- Cultural and creative sectors
- Health care
- Tourism.

**Comment HS, PW:** *Aims and eligible sectors don't fit well to EPSO profile and planned activities  
-> no suitable instrument for a joint EPSO activity*



Successful project examples **Sector Skills Alliances** (2014):

**Call EAC/ S11/13  
Selection Year 2014**

Nº	Reference number	Country	Applicant organisation	Project title	Sector	Maximum EU grant €
1	554370-EPP-1-2014-1-SI-EPPKA2-SSA	SLOVENIA	GOSPODARSKA ZBORNICA SLOVENIJE - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF SLOVENIA	Skills in metal and electro industry	Advanced manufacturing	626.708
2	554465-EPP-1-2014-1-IT-EPPKA2-SSA	ITALY	CENTRO STUDI CULTURA SVILUPPO ASSOCIAZIONE	Sector Skills Alliance for Advanced Manufacturing in the Transport Sector	Advanced manufacturing	993.844
3	554288-EPP-1-2014-1-EL-EPPKA2-SSA	GREECE	EUROTRAINING EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION	Skills for the creative economy	Cultural and Creative sectors	993.643
4	554341-EPP-1-2014-1-IT-EPPKA2-SSA	ITALY	ERIFO VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TRAINING	Designing and Testing new management skills for the development of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Recycling and Re-use System in Europe	Environmental technologies (Eco- Innovation)	560.525
5	554271-EPP-1-2014-1-UK-EPPKA2-SSA	UNITED KINGDOM	COVENTRY UNIVERSITY ENTERPRISES LIMITED	European ICT Sector Skills Alliance - VET open course for mobile apps creators	Information and communication technologies	947.353
6	554486-EPP-1-2014-1-ES-EPPKA2-SSA	SPAIN	FEDERACIÓN DE TRABAJADORES INDEPENDIENTES DE COMERCIO	Sector Skills Alliance to set European standards for qualifications and skills in the e- commerce sector	Commerce	880.455



## **KA2 – Capacity building in higher education -> Cooperation support with Partner Countries**

### Aims:

- Support the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of **higher education in the Partner Countries**;
- Promote cooperation between Programme Countries and eligible Partner Countries (as well as among eligible Partner Countries themselves);
- Promote voluntary convergence with EU developments in higher education;
- Promote people-to-people contacts, intercultural awareness and understanding.

Comment HS, PW: *this action is not in line with the discussed EPSO activities at GM 2014.*



2014-1-DE01-KA203-000637

## **Educational Network on Soil and Plant Ecology and Management**

Soils are the basis for plant production and provide numerous ecosystem services. Many human activities are affecting the soil conditions in several ways. Effects like soil compaction, degradation, acidification and salt accumulation restrain the basic requirements for plant production and thus food supply for humans.

The overall objective is to provide an interdisciplinary international activity under the title "Educational network on Soil and Plant ecology and management". The whole activity is divided into four work packages (WP): WP1: Summer School „Soil & Water“, WP2: Establishing of a permanent teaching Module „Soil and Plant Ecology and Management“ at each University, WP3: Enhancing teaching and networking potential for teachers, WP4: Transposing the educational network into future research and teaching activities. The project aims to provide a teaching standard for a European wide perspective from the expertise of the consortium (see below) integrating humid, intermediate and dry Mediterranean environments. This approach is a novelty at the European level.

The involved partners from four countries are strong in the following fields:

- University of Life Sciences, Estonia: soil science, sustainable use of soils, degradation, compaction
- University of South Bohemia, Czech republic: wetland ecology, soil microbiology and related processes
- Université d'Aix-Marseille, France: soil-plant-interaction, soil organic matter turn-over, plant ecophysiology (especially drought)
- Ulm University, Germany: wetlands and methane emissions, plants and soils under limited oxygen supply, plant ecophysiology

This broad international cooperation was already established in 2012 (Erasmus IP Soil & Water) and shall be continued within the proposed Erasmus+ activity. It promotes general academic competences and has substantial value for subsequent teaching activities for all project partners.

The target groups are students from advanced undergraduate and graduate levels with previous teaching curricula focused on biology and environmental sciences. The yearly interdisciplinary international course for about 30 students from four countries will bring together expertise from different geographical and climatic locations in Europe. Different land-use and land-history patterns as well as societal structures will be included into the teaching. The next level of the proposed activity is an intensive partnership on the topic resulting in further activities including teaching and research grants. There are four intellectual outputs to be achieved within the project duration reaching from standardized study material up to curricula development and follow-up research activities. The quality of the project will be monitored by an independent quality assurance unit run by the Ulm University. The dissemination ranges from providing specific teaching material, information on project web pages to final meeting activity at the end of the project.