

SUNRAISE – Sustainable Natural Resource Use in Arctic and High Mountainous Areas

Erasmus+ (K2, capacity building in higher education)

Duration – 36 months

10/2017-9/2020

EU contribution c.a. EUR k730

Project aims and summary of the action

The project aims to develop adaptive, end-user-oriented and internationally-relevant curricula to support sustainable nature resource use in the Arctic and high-mountain areas in Russia, India/Nepal and Bhutan, and to create sustainable feedback mechanisms to end-users, ensuring practical relevance of teaching contents and knowledge co-production opportunities. The project will focus on the following priority issues:

- Climate change
- Mining, oil and gas production
- Safety of physical infrastructure
- Urbanization and industrial development
- Ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable livelihoods and traditional management practices.

Project focus of Research Group Urban and Landscape Ecology, Department Geographie and Geology, University Salzburg (Prof. Breuste):

Urbanization and industrial development and environment in high mountain areas (International Summer School 2019 in Salzburg on this subject)

The Arctic and high mountainous areas are jointly explored in the project due to many similar ecosystem vulnerabilities, e.g. related to permafrost and low biological production, and due to high role of indigenous communities in nature resource management and fast growing environmental footprint.

The action will mostly focus on bachelor's and master's levels (revision of curricula, development of new courses and modernization of existing ones, launching of new specialization streams), however it will also address selected aspects of doctoral provision (development of multidisciplinary research agenda, development of organizational capacity for networking and joint research). The SUNRAISE e-learning system will be developed in order to enable sharing and dissemination of learning contents across the project network; series of webinars for master's and PhD students will be piloted and arranged as regular events; MOOCs will be developed for each of the priority areas.

Business and policy communities will be targeted by annual academia-praxis national seminars and the formal praxis-academia network to be established on the seminars. The national and international academic communities will be reached through annual international conferences followed up by special issues of high-impact international journals.

The capacity-building action will be supported by equipment acquisition for HEIs in Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia, and by training for academic staff, PhD students, IT and administrative staff. The training events will be on multidisciplinary research methodology and project priority issues, on curriculum development and teaching tools and methods, and on ICT issues.

Cooperation with DynamitE in Salzburg

Project partners

Russia

1. Russian State Hydrometeorological University, St.-Petersburg
2. Gorno-Altai State University (GASU), Gorno-Altai
3. Siberian Federal University (SibFU), Krasnojarsk
4. NGO "Altai-Sayan Mountain Partnership" (ASMP)

India/Nepal

5. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi
6. Kumaun University (KU), Nainital
7. Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA)

Bhutan

8. Royal University of Bhutan (RUB)

EU

9. Salzburg University, Research Group Urban and Landscape Ecology, Department Geographie and Geology, Austria
10. Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMU), Tartu, Estonia
11. University Bremen, Germany (lead partner)

Applications for Project Assistant (10 h per week) from March on are welcome!

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