

A wide-angle photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a glass facade, surrounded by greenery and a clear sky. In the foreground, there is a wooden walkway or bridge structure over a body of water or a landscaped area. A person is visible walking on the path.

On the way towards a low-carbon society - Increasing professionalism in land use and landscape management within climate change (TowardsLCS)

Girona pilot course 7.5.-20.5.2017 (including 2 travelling days)

**Practicalities, learning outcomes, methodological approach
and content of the Girona pilot.**



Introduction

The overall aim of the project is to create and empower higher education structures, which will achieve professionalism in the management of land use and landscape issues targeting the idea of a low-carbon society and, hence, preventing climate change.

Three academic institutions (University of Eastern Finland; Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland; University of Girona, Catalonia, Spain) and six organisations dealing with land use issues will collaborate closely in order to combine working life based issues with the latest research.



The first pilot course was held in Poznan in October 2016

Through 3 Pilot Courses (PC), the project will bring together academics, other experts and students from the three partner countries. The objective of PCs is to develop and implement innovative learning and teaching methods, leading to increase professional competences and skills of future University graduates addressing the challenges of the low carbon society.

Low Carbon development is a cross-cutting and multisectoral issue (land use and spatial planning; energy supply; energy efficiency; buildings and construction; transports; industry; retail & services; food system; waste and water; Green infrastructure and natural hazards).

Towards LCS PCs approach this broad challenge by developing site specific sectoral case studies, yet from a integrated point of view. For the Pilot Case in Girona, two extreme destinations representing two of the main development drivers in the Region have been chosen.

On one hand, the city of **Lloret de Mar** (>30.000 inhab.), which is an exponent of mass tourism, the primary exporting sector in the Province, with more than 5 million visitors per year.



On the other, the rural municipality of Vilademuls (<1.000 inhab.), as an example of Girona's agri-food sector dynamics, with agriculture and animal farming under intensification trends and strong exporting capacity.



Practicalities

Pilot Course Dates:

7-20 May 2017 (including 2 travelling days)

Costs are covered by *Erasmus+ KA2 Grant* for the **TowardsLCS project**

With the aim of exploring low carbon transitions for two opposite realities (**Vilademuls** & **Lloret de Mar**) the Pilot Course will break students into two groups after an introductory day in **Girona** and a field trip to **Pyrenees**. Students will be situated in either one destination for 10 days, and provided with a full training and fieldwork program for both groups.



Learning outcomes



- Based on the competence analysis made in spring term 2016, the learning outcomes of the pilot courses were tailored into following categories:
 - Environmental governance and management
 - Facilitating development in different regional levels
 - Comprehension of societal and economical issues and analysis
 - Ability to perform analysis, assessment and evaluation
 - Communication and networking skills
 - Creativity and problem solving competences
 - Technical and practical skills

These categories encompass subject related and transversal competences as well as labour market skills

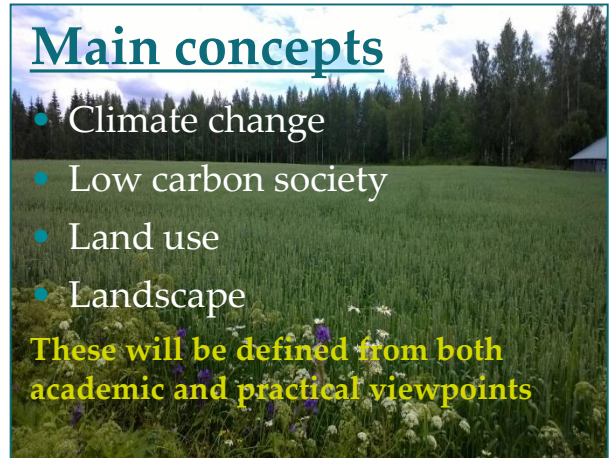
Learning outcomes

- By the end of the Girona pilot course
 - A student will have an enlarged impression of the field of land use and landscape planning and management in the context of climate change
 - She/he has better understanding of the scope of complex and conflicting factors and interests of various livelihoods, activities and stakeholders within the framework of low-carbon society
 - A student has better capabilities to be employed to or work as professional in the field of environmental governance targeting to enhance low carbon society
 - She/he has theoretical, methodological and/or practical implements especially in following fields/themes/subjects/issues:
 - Assessing carbon capture and storage, versus carbon release
 - Carbon footprint modelling
 - Making quantitative analysis and comparison of land use types
 - Creating contacts and networks to academic and other professionals and stakeholders
 - Facilitating communities in development initiatives
 - Executing participatory research methods
 - Adopting the method of problem based learning and creative problem solving
 - Working in a multicultural teams
 - Making project proposals
 - Presenting the results with photos, maps, tables, graphs, text and using social media



Methodological approach & content

- Methodological emphasis is on the problem based learning and practical questions/cases arisen from the working life partners as well as associate partners linked to the topic
- Problem based learning (PBL)
 - a student-centered pedagogy in which students learn about a subject through the experience of solving an open-ended problem
 - a style of active learning
 - based on the constructivist theory of learning
- two case studies: in Vilademuls and in Lloret de Mar
- lectures, presentations, active thinking
- Workshops with stakeholders
- field excursions, project proposal
- website, social media - <http://towardslowcarbon.eu/>
<https://www.facebook.com/TowardsLCS>



Topics and case studies

Topics: Low Carbon Tourism Destinations &
Low Carbon Rural Development

Students will explore and analyze from a low carbon society point of view current and future development trends for specific economic sectors.

In Lloret de Mar target topics will be transports and accommodation facilities. In Vilademuls, target topics will be farming (including forests management) and tourism services.

Local communities and stakeholders will be engaged with the pilot course by organising workshops and seminars, in order to share and discuss the challenges of low carbon transitions.

The draft of Girona pilot program and description of case studies will be released in due course, by the end of February 2017 at latest.

