ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)

“Driving Sustainable Futures in Higher Education.”

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PROGRAMME PLAN

Scope and organization of the programme

Number of credits: 5 ECTS
Language of instruction: English
Organization of the ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP): via the Centre for Sustainable Transitions at USN and the BIP-cooperative (University of South-Eastern Norway, University of Limerick, University of Antwerpen).

Physical component: Participant gathering in Norway 16th-21st of June 2024.

Digital component: The digital component will feature online resources, made available for course participants before the start of the physical component, as well as digital lectures and group work between June and October.

Information on how to attend

For funding to attend: Contact your ERASMUS+ coordinator.

Prerequisite knowledge/competence

Employed by a Higher Education Institution.

Content of the programme

Contemporary challenges related to climate, environmental and natural crises, and increasing social inequality imply a need for sustainable restructuring of all human activities. Expertise in sustainability is in demand in all areas of society, both in the private and public sectors. Collaboration, co-creation and the production and sharing of knowledges across national borders are necessary for the collective, global tasks we face in transforming to a sustainable future.

In the ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Programme "Driving Sustainable Futures in Higher Education" you will get an introduction to the concept of sustainability, as well as reflections on the history and use of the concept in Higher Education and in different areas of local and global societies. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) will be used as a frame of reference for the ambitions behind the transitions our global communities are facing.

The programme will provide a forum for discussion about working in transdisciplinary ways, and about collaboration across different sciences, knowledges, and sectors. The forum will also provide opportunities to address various issues related to sustainability in Higher Education. Participants will discuss and share perspectives on benefits and challenges with work across sciences, knowledges, and sectors. The programme offers reflections on connections, contradictions, and paradoxes between different UN SDGs. In addition, the programme will offer perspectives on a critical understanding of the consequences of not changing the way we manage the planet.

The main goal of the programme is for participants to develop key competences necessary to accommodate sustainable transitions. Examples of these are the ability to critically reflect on the complexity and ambiguity of sustainability challenges, strategic thinking through creativity and problem solving, intra- and interpersonal competences, action competences and future thinking. The programme is based on transdisciplinary perspectives and emphasis is placed on the necessity of collaborating across subjects, sectors, and sciences, while at the same time participants will be challenged to place understandings of sustainability in relation to their own field, discipline, and competences.

The programme will provide participants with the opportunity to further develop their critical reflection and assessment of sustainability concepts and challenges; the capacity to interpret and ask critical questions about research, analysis and information related to sustainability; and competences to discuss and find sustainable alternatives for action at individual, institutional and societal levels.

Learning outcome

**Knowledge**

After completing the programme, participants should have basic knowledge about:

* Sustainability – the concept, its history and basis, as well as various disciplines' understanding and use of the term.
* The interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral characteristics of sustainability challenges.
* The UN Sustainability Goals, including the interrelationships and conflicts between the various goals.
* Key competences needed to address complex problems and exploit opportunities for sustainable transformations/transitions.
* Societal-, institutional- and individual-based solutions to achieve sustainability.

**Skills**

After completing the programme, participants should be able to:

* Give an account of and reflect critically on the complexity of the concept of sustainability, as well as sources of information and knowledge about sustainability.
* Place sustainability challenges in a larger context locally, nationally and globally.
* Discuss and assess dilemmas related to sustainable solutions, for example in connection with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
* Apply different scientific and professional perspectives on sustainability and be able to collaborate interdisciplinary on issues related to a specific sustainability challenge.
* Give an account of and place the understanding and relevance of sustainability in their own field of expertise.

**General Competences**

After completing the programme, participants should be able to:

* Further develop a deeper and more reflective understanding of the complexity and ambiguity of the sustainability concept and challenges.
* Find, critically evaluate, and be updated on relevant research-based knowledge.
* Have qualified opinions on realistic, sustainable action alternatives within local, national, and global frameworks.

Learning activities

Different learning activities will be offered online and face to face and will include lectures, seminars, group supervision, group discussions and independent study.

Work requirements

1. Participation in discussion forums

2. Identifying the next steps in understanding universities’ challenges related to sustainability.

Mandatory activity and attendance requirements

Participation in group discussions and a presentation are mandatory to pass the programme.

Evaluation

Presentation of groupwork

Grade: Pass/fail

Literature/Syllabus/Digital resources

TBA