

Feedback from the Erasmus Intensive Programme INSUS: news from Lesvos



From last 15th to 29th September 2013, the University of the Aegean (Lesvos Island, Greece) hosted the Erasmus Intensive Programme (IP) “*INSUS- Insularity and Sustainability- context and case studies of different European Islands*” within the framework of the Excellence Network of the Island Territories (RETI).

This IP, funded by the EU credits, gathered 5 RETI universities: the University of the Aegean (bearer and coordinator of the INSUS programme), the University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli (Corsica, France), the University of Malta, the University of La Laguna (Canary Island, Spain) and the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Canary Island, Spain). Overall, 25 students and 7 professors from the network universities attended the programme.

In addition to common lectures, students were divided into 5 groups. By this way, each group was able to work on the field of a specific subject related to island issues in order to prepare their final project.

Working subjects

The group working projects were focused on the following themes:

- 1 Effective niche manufacturing from small islands
- 2 Sustainable agriculture and food security on islands
- 3 Build heritage on islands: issues of preservation
- 4 Energy and sustainability: The quest for the zero carbon footprint on small islands
- 5 Marine biodiversity conservation and management



Students and Professors from the Erasmus IP

Activities

Students participated in the following activities:

-Comparative assessment of the success (or failure) of place, product and corporate branding in Lesvos in relation to other European islands.

-Study of former management system of agroforestry and other agricultural landscapes in order to gain insights for future land management systems, mitigate climate change and provide a level of food security.

-Data collection and assessment of the architectural heritage of the city center of Lesvos as a “driver” of local development.

-Visits to installations in view to have a good idea of the industrial aspect of energy systems (Photovoltaic plant, wind turbine) in order to propose a plan for the deployment of “green” energies in Lesvos.

-Conducting accurate marine biodiversity surveys in order to record the present state of ecosystems and gain knowledge of the intertidal sublittoral system on the Lesvos Island.

Balance of the programme and future perspectives

The programme, validated by ECTS credits, allowed students from diverse scientific and national backgrounds to:

- learn about insularity and sustainability.
- confront their own academic perspectives on insularity and sustainability.
- discuss and compare selected examples of sustainable practices on various issues that impact islands around the world.

Besides, it permitted to create closer links among partner institutions so as to develop a common postgraduate programme (Erasmus Mundus) on island sustainability on the horizon 2015.

A new edition of the Erasmus Intensive Programme is planned for 2014 in the framework of the RETI. Be aware of the next calls for proposal and visit regularly [the RETI website](http://www.univ-corse.fr/reti) !

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