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Development of an Environmental and Resources Engineering Education Framework

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Higher education plays a role of paramount importance in the development of modern societies, enhancing social, cultural and economic development for a sustainable growth, environment respectful. In this framework, the European Commission promotes the TEMPUS – Trans European Mobility Programme for University Studies [1]. Curricula harmonization and lifelong learning programme development in higher education are among the focused aspects of the TEMPUS programme [2]. The DEREL - Development of Environment and Resources Engineering Learning, is a three years TEMPUS project coordinated by the University of Firenze, in cooperation with colleagues of the Ss Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje financed and activated since October 2010. The DEREL Project Consortium consists of 4 EU Universities (from Italy, Greece, Germany and Austria), 7 Partner Countries (PC) Universities (from FYR of Macedonia, Serbia and Albania), 1 PC Ministry, 4 PC Na-

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tional Agencies, 1 PC non governmental organization and 1 PC enterprise. The DEREL project is aimed to introduce a new, up-to-date, postgraduate second level curriculum in Environment and Resources Engineering at the Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (CMU), FYR of Macedonia, University of Novi Sad (UNS), Serbia and Polytechnic University of Tirana (PUT), Albania, based on the European Credit Transfer System and in accordance with the Bologna Process, following the criteria and conditions for setting up a Joint Postgraduate Degree. A second objective is to implement a sustainable regional network aimed to offer lifelong learning seminars for environment and resources engineering education and training of interested stakeholders and organize workshops focused on strengthening the links in the knowledge triangle: environment education-innovation-research, with participation of postgraduate students, public services, enterprises and NGO's. The curricula and lifelong learning courses development includes surveys of educational & labour market needs at the PC, organization of academic visits from PC to EU Universities, PC staff training and retraining, preparation and publication of educational materials and promotion documents, as well as project dissemination activities. Despite the very ambitious goals of the project proposal, all activities foreseen for the first 18 months were realized or are at a very advanced stage. The new postgraduate studies in Environment and Resources Engineering at CMU, UNS and PUT will start in September 2012 and they will include web-based and blended learning courses. Also, the good collaborative environment created, since 2005, with the project partners can be surely mentioned as an additional value of the project, enabling implementation of a sustainable regional network [3]. ■

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