

Connecting Science-Society Collaborations for Sustainability Innovations

**„ConSus“ as a flagship project for curriculum based
transformative learning and research processes**



Challenges on sustainable development in transition countries

The situation in Albania and Kosovo

- **Lack of efficient linkages between higher education, research and practice** to tackle social and environmental problems and foster sustainability innovations
- **Lacking support on knowledge and competencies** to foster sustainability collaborations and transformation
- **Need for innovative teaching resources** to raise awareness relating sustainability challenges and empower students to take action
- **Implementation and dissemination** of sustainability in HEIs



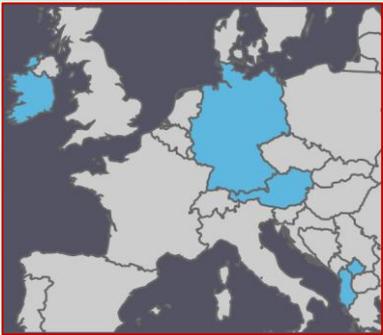
Source: http://mapsof.net/uploads/static-maps/albania_kosovo_locator.png

Establishing a regional science-society network for sustainability innovations



The “ConSus” project at a glance

Lead partner	RCE Graz-Styria (University of Graz)
Funding Program	EU Tempus IV, 6th call (Budget: 1.077.095,17 €)
Project duration	3 years (Dec 2013 – Nov 2016)
Project website	www.consus-tempus.com
Project partners	EU: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (AT), Leuphana University Luneburg (GER), University of Limerick (IRL) Albania: European University of Tirana, Polis University Tirana, University of Durrës, Agricultural University of Tirana, Centre for Comparative and International Studies QSKN Tirana Kosovo: Universum College, Riinvest College, Institute for Development Policy INDEP (all Prishtina), University of Peje



The wider objectives are

- **to strengthen the connection and collaboration of higher education institutions, research and practice**
- **to promote mutual learning and innovative sustainability issues and methods**
- **to support capacity building as well as systemic and holistic thinking**

Building awareness by transformative sustainability learning in Kosovo and Albania

The project's objectives

2014

Analysis of sustainability collaborations and expertise

- Analysis of regional science-society collaborations
- Identification of regional stakeholders
- Pre-Evaluation of sustainability related know-how



Network development

- Needs analysis of the science-society network
- Terms of References to establish the science-society network



2015

Development of teaching resources

- Development of a resource platform
- Development of teaching methods
- Development of teaching material



Trainings for project partners

- Selection of training participants
- 6 trainings (4 in EU, 2 in Albania and Kosovo) about sustainability related topics

2016

Teaching Workshops for network stakeholders

- 7 Teaching Workshops at each partner institution in Albania and Kosovo

Curriculum based transformative learning and research processes

The contribution of „ConSus“



- **Development of inter- and transdisciplinary teaching resources**
- **Development of a teaching resource platform** including descriptions of both methods and comprehensive teaching resources with lecture notes
- **Trainings and workshops** in order to build “transformative” capacities for researchers and lecturers
- **Inclusion of teaching resources** in courses to raise awareness of sustainability in higher education, transdisciplinary learning processes and transformative actions
- **Establishment of a science-society network** to strengthen collaboration and innovations among the stakeholders as well as an exchange between higher education and regional actors (civil society, businesses, NGOs, etc.)

One year of connecting, analyzing and developing within the “ConSus” project

Reflection and learning outcomes



- **Delegation of responsibilities to partners:** To enhance commitment and to allocate work packages among all partners
- **Knowledge exchange instead of knowledge transfer:** To improve learning capacities among all partners and to act on a mutual basis
- **Mix of partners:** Partners from various backgrounds and disciplines enrich discussions and the learning process
- **Strong collaboration with the RCE Middle Albania:** To gain regional sustainability expertise
- **Collaboration of academia and society:** Involving regional actors in university teaching and research in order to tackle regional sustainability challenges
- **Tailor-made learning resources:** To serve the specific regional context and transformation needs
- **Build upon previous project experiences:** Development of sustainability teaching resources (→ www.sustainicum.at/en/home)

Thanks a lot for your attention!

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