

Nordplus Higher Education

**Name:** Network Circular Economy Future

**Subject area** Environmental technology (411)

**Total budget** 11800 euros

**Project partner:**

LP- Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences

PP:

Tallinna Tehnikakōrgkool,

Liepājas universitāte,

Vidzemes Augstskola,

Kauņas Tehnoloģiju universitāte.

LiepU coordinator – Lilita Ābele

First meeting:

Network Circular Economy Future 2016 seminar 14th - 15th of November 2016

Leiritie 1, 01600 Vantaa, Finland.

**Summary**

Network Circular Economy Future/2016 addresses the challenges of sustainable growth and strengthens the higher education institutions to educate/nurture innovation and human capital for solving future challenges. In the EU, the paradigm is shifting from “take-make-consume and dispose” lifestyle to the full-use of each resource.The transition is complex as it requires a whole new way of eco design, new skills and a change in mindsets of enterprises and people. HEIs are in the frontline to educate and nurture skills to meet the shifting demands. Through cross-border cooperation, the project brings the participating organizations to exchange knowledge, learn from peer and co-design joint studies based on innovation pedagogy. The studies are targeting circular economy, sustainable developments and all the aspects of these in the corresponding curricula of each participating institution. The main aims are establishment of the network and provide possibilities for long-term cooperation between HEIs of countries around the Baltic Sea. The direct use of the networking results will be related to development of curricula of partner universities. The long term target is to establish regular cooperation and involve also external target groups like relevant employers representatives and organizations. The outcome will also provide an easily transferable working process for similar development processes within the region in question. Hence this will further give the participants insights into possibilities beyond their own horizon and thereby open up for greater achievements in development of good quality HEI education and innovation.

**Partners**

Metropolia: Energy and material efficient future is the focus area in Metropolia’s RDI activities. Metropolia has started Circular Economy competence HUB to bring together the experts in various fields to solve future environmental issues. Metropolia has knowledge and experience that is gained through the innovation course Thousand Ideas for the Baltic Sea. The aim of this 10 ECTS innovation course is to bring together students and encourage them to find new innovative and viable improvements to the state of The Baltic Sea.

Tallinna Tehnikakõrgkool (TTK UAS): The focus of the teaching, research and development activities of the staff is to meet the needs of the Estonian labour market and enterprises. Techno-ecology curriculum in the Faculty of Architectural and Environmental Engineering has special emphasis on environmental and resource (water, energy, waste) management.

**Liepaja University:** University staff has an experience with professional study programme development and implementation in fields such as interdisciplinary studies for sustainable development, innovation pedagogy, green business, ecotechnology and environmental engineering, etc.

Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences: ViA has experience in jointly developed study programmes as well as in innovative approach to study work. Several distant NPHE-2016/10249 Page 4 (7) Submitted - 01-Mar-2016 learning programmes has been implemented in ViA. ViA is an essential partner in solving the sustainability and development issues in the Vidzeme Region.

Kaunas University of Technology: Scientific group of Department of Environmental Technology, in the Faculty of Chemical Technology performs research of polluted environments (air, water, soil), improves processes, methods and technologies in the following areas: reduction of emissions of ambient and indoor air pollution; waste management; water treatment processes, as well as legal aspects of the specific areas are included.

**The aims**

Establishment of the network for long-term cooperation between HEIs in the Nordplus and Baltic Sea region, contacting other Scandinavian countries and gather wider experience and case study materials. Sharing information on circular economy, mapping the situation in participating countries and institutions. Teaching didactics e.g. problem based learning approach - sharing of experience, To find mutual interests for joint studies and or shared study modules on the subject of circular economy and innovation pedagogy, Outlining possible e-learning tools for the future joint courses including MOOC and other digital environments. Agreement to launch the further activities after this project e.g. the Interreg Central Baltic 3rd call and Erasmus+ calls in spring 2017.

The activities consist of two two-day networking meetings in autumn 2016 and early spring 2017. Two on-line follow-up meetings are scheduled for August 2016 and December 2016.

First meeting in Helsinki

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