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**Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree
Master in Urban Climate & Sustainability (MURCS)**

Consortium-Industry Liaison Group (CILG) – Meeting No. 1

Unconfirmed minutes of a meeting of the MURCS CILG held on **Wed 22 May 2019 (13:00 – 17:00 FI time)**, Lahti University of Applied Sciences (LAMK), Lahti, FI

PRESENT:

MURCS Consortium: Rohinton Emmanuel (**RE**), Eeva Aarrevaara (**EA**), Juan Luis Aguado Casas (**JLC**), José Antonio Dueñas (**JAD**), Craig Thomson (**CT**), Sari Horn (**SH**), Caroline Gallagher (**CG**), Hans Rosenlund (**HR**)

Industry Partners: Michael GRAY (**MG**), Glasgow City Council, UK; Juan Antonio SUÁREZ CABEZAS (**JAS**), Atlantic Copper, ES; Petra STENFORS (**PS**), Päijät-Häme Regional Council, FI; Eveliina KÖNTTÄ (**EK**), Ramboll Ltd., FI; Minna VIERULA (**MV**), Consti Ltd., FI; Anne Karvinen-Jussilainen, Lahti City Council, FI; Timo Permanto, Lahti City Council

LAMK Staff: Silja Kostia (**SK**), Dean of the Faculty of Technology, LAMK

MURCS Students: All students from Intake 1

1 PRELIMINARIES

1.001 ITEM RE invited SK to open the meeting, whereby SK thanked all present and set out the nature and scope of meeting. RE then presented an overview of the MURCS Programme and outlined its key features.

2 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

1.002 DISCUSSED Student representatives were invited to present a sample of recent group work done as part of a module (Climate Change in the Urban Environment) to appraise industry representatives the kind of work done by them. These were well received by the Industry participants.

1.003 RESOLVED Students to be congratulated on their excellent presentations and display of deep learning.

3 INDUSTRY PRESENTATIONS

1.004 DISCUSSED MG led industry presentations by focusing on the challenges faced by post-industrial cities. He highlighted the need for

public sector leadership, as well as technical competencies in areas such as contaminated land management.

JAS enumerated industry challenges in the areas of energy use reduction, corporate social responsibility issues as well as linkages to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PS presented a viewpoint from a small municipality on urban sustainability, most notably the management of growth vs. sustainability, tourism vs sustainability, and the challenges in better utilisation of existing infrastructure, ageing population, shrinking cities, lack of carbon management discussions at local level as well as lack of local resources. She also questioned whether 'sustainable business' could be an oxymoron. Further opportunities in working with local projects (such as CANEMURE – Carbon neutral municipalities and regions) as well as promoting a '1.5 degree lifestyle' were also presented. Other ideas included 'climate service' as a branch of local authority administrative services.

EK presented a viewpoint from the consultancy sector, where she highlighted some of the common challenges facing clients: management of population decline, environmental challenges, digital and information management as well as communication challenges.

MV highlighted the need for complexity science in the learning process. She also highlighted the need to widen sustainability concerns beyond mere energy efficiency issues and to discuss the more nebulous 'willingness-to-pay' issues.

4 KEY COMPETENCIES

1.005 DISCUSSED

Following on from presentations by industry representatives, a question and answer session with students, staff and CILG members led to the identification of following key competencies that could enrich the MUrCS Curriculum:

- A. True sustainability in all teaching
- B. Sustainability challenges posed by 'lifestyles'
- C. 'Growth vs. sustainability' dilemma (including leadership to tackle such challenges)
- D. 'Happiness', 'quality of life' as part of holistic sustainability
- E. Innovation
- F. Sustainability evidence
- G. Demand management as dampner on growth/profit

1.006 ACTION Explore the inclusion of new competencies enumerated in 1.005 in future MURCS teaching

5 INDUSTRY VIEWS ON COURSE CONTENT

1.007 DISCUSSED After the coffee break and upon departure of students, the Consortium discussed course details more in-depth with the industry representatives.

1.008 RESOLVED In general, the CILG felt that the content of the course and its module structure well reflects the industry needs. Given that no graduates are yet to be produced by MURCS, the CILG agreed the direction of travel could remain as it is, as long as it is aligned with the aim and objectives of MURCS.

1.009 ACTIONS Explore offering carbon accounting as a core competency (in Climate Change and Carbon Management module)
Communication skills – both in ‘Urban and Interactive Planning’ and across all modules
Participatory planning/co-design in ‘Urban and Interactive Planning’
Sectoral priorities (Sustainable Cities module) including transportation
Thesis work could explore Industry focused problems
Industry placement/internship – more formalised approach, including helping small municipalities to develop climate strategy development, students as facilitators of internal communication in organisations
Several of these ideas are already embedded in current teaching. CMB to ensure all of these are covered.

The meeting closed at 17:00 hrs. Next CILG meeting will be hosted by UHU in Huelva. Date and time to be confirmed.



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Members of the CILG with the Consortium Board



CILG Panel Discussions



Student presentation during the CILG meeting in Lahti