

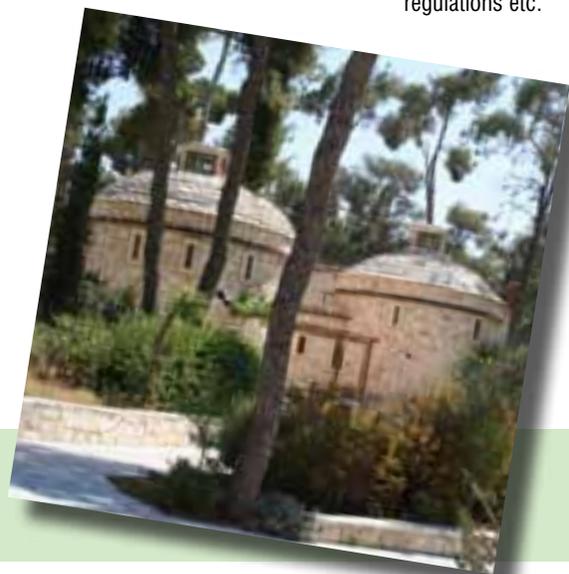
Consultation and publicity actions

The EMRA team, while developing the curriculum and learning materials for EMRA, plans a number of research, consultation and publicity activities to complement the successful launch of the MA. These include:

- Researching and inventorying all post-graduate courses offered by European universities on subjects related to rural development and to the modules of EMRA more specifically.
- A workshop at the end of 2010 involving the wider European academic community, to consult with and seek feedback on the profile, curriculum and delivery methods of EMRA.

- An international conference in mid-2012, aiming to publicise and launch EMRA and disseminate the results of the project.

- The publication of the Academic Guide to EMRA, detailing the subjects, credits, requirements from applicants, regulations etc.



EMRA Partners



N. Copernicus University – project leader, PL
Contact persons: Dr Wojciech Kniec
kniec@umk.pl
Professor Andrzej Kaleta
kaleta@umk.pl
www.umk.pl



The European Academy
for Sustainable Rural Development
(Euracademy Association) - project coordinator, GR
Contact person: Dr Fouli Papageorgiou
foulipapageorgiou@prismanet.gr
www.euracademy.org



Széchenyi István University, HU
Contact person: Professor Irén Szörényiné Kukorelli
sziren@rkk.hu
www.uni.sze.hu



University of Valencia, ES
Contact person: Professor Joan Noguera Tur
joan.noguera@uv.es
www.uv.es



University BABES-BOLYAI, RO
Contact person: Dr Agnes Nemenyi
e-mail anemenyi@socasis.ubbcluj.ro
www.ubbcluj.ro



University of Rostock, DE
Contact person: Professor Henning Bombeck
henning.bombeck@uni-rostock.de
www.auf.uni-rostock.de



Mediterranean Agronomic Institute - MAICH, GR
Contact person: Dr Yannis Livieratos
livieratos@maich.gr
www.maich.gr



University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute, FI
Contact person: Pia Kattelus
e-mail: pia.kattelus@helsinki.fi
www.helsinki.fi/ruralia



University of Porto, PT
Contact person: Professor Ana Aguiar
aaguiar@fc.up.pt
www.up.pt



EUROPEAN MASTERS PROGRAMME FOR RURAL ANIMATORS



EMRA website: www.rural-animator.eu

The Erasmus-funded project that supports the launch of EMRA runs till September 2012.

An interdisciplinary programme of studies offered jointly by eight universities



Background

Rural development has been recognised by the European Union as a significant sector of European economic development in the 21st century, as shown by the introduction of several Programmes to fund integrated actions for the development of rural areas. It has been commonly accepted that the development of rural areas is very often a difficult task, which needs to be encouraged and “animated” especially in the less developed or less accessible areas of Europe. Lip service has been paid to the role of “rural animator” in stimulating economic, social and cultural development by releasing the hidden potential of the individuals and organisations that operate in rural areas. The

European Academy of Sustainable Rural Development (Euracademy Association) gave a tangible expression to the rural animator’s role over the past 10 years by organising annual summer schools for “managers and animators of rural development” on different aspects of rural development; and by establishing in a series of publications the multi-disciplinary and multi-functional profile of this role as well as its significance, which justifies its transformation to a profession. The profession of rural animator, however, needs to be recognised through an appropriate qualification, vested with appropriate knowledge and skills: in EMRA, eight universities from across Europe and Euracademy Association join forces to achieve this.



Aims

EMRA aims to create a new European programme at Master’s level, interdisciplinary in nature, intending to make a direct contribution to sustainable rural development by establishing explicitly the profession of rural animator and by offering the necessary education, competence building and qualifications to consolidate this profession.

Target groups

EMRA targets graduates in humanities and social sciences (sociology, economics, political science, social psychology)



geography, agronomy, land use planning, engineering, management, education etc., both mid-career professionals and people who just completed their first degree and are willing to work in rural areas.



Main features

The main features of EMRA are:

- A learning methodology based on e-learning combined with hands-on experience (practical work) face-to-face learning in an international seminar and thesis work.
- The language of EMRA is English, aiming to attract students from all European countries.
- EMRA is delivered jointly as a Master of Arts degree by a consortium of eight universities.
- The curriculum consists of a “core” course and eight “specialist modules”, exploiting to a large extent the eight Thematic Guides produced by Euracademy Association relating to salient topics of rural development. The eight modules include:
 1. sustainable agriculture
 2. human and social capital, welfare
 3. environmental planning and management
 4. cultural development
 5. sustainable rural tourism
 6. innovation and development policies in rural areas
 7. education and LLL for rural development
 8. diversification of rural economies.
- Each module is delivered by a different university which also accredits it; the joint degree is granted by Nicolas Copernicus University.
- The studies programme covers four semesters. The first semester is devoted to the core course. The second and third semesters include three modules each – six modules in total. The fourth semester is devoted to the Masters thesis. Between the second and third semesters a 10-day seminar takes place for all students. During the second and third semesters the students are assigned practical work by placement, in order to gather relevant experience which can be also used for the writing of their Master Thesis.
- Learning materials are compiled in an electronic library that is available to all students on the web.

