



Empowering climate resilience / **CARE**

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Capacity Building for Higher Education Project Representatives Meeting

The coordinator of the CARE Project, Dr. Pilar Paneque, attended, representing the consortium, at the Capacity Building for Higher Education Project Representatives Meeting, which took place at Brussels on January 25th-26th, 2017. The meeting included the participation of Ralf Rahders (Head of Unit, Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency - EACEA), Milvia Van Rij-Brizzi (Head of Department Erasmus+, EACEA), and Claire Morel (Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture). During those two days, Dr. Paneque had the opportunity of participating in workshops about Financial Management, Project and Contract Management, Networking & Synergies among projects, as well as celebrating a bilateral encounter with the Project's officer, Dña. Eva Valle-Casanova.



Kick-off Workshop – Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Seville, Spain)

The Kick-off Workshop of the CARE project took place at Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Seville, Spain, coordinator of the project), between February 20th-24th, 2017. During the workshop, the contents and objectives of the project were presented to all the partners, and the technical and financial aspects of the project were revised. Moreover, the first meetings of the Steering Committee and the Quality Board were held. Besides, the communication and dissemination plan, the draft of the webpage and the e-platform were presented to and discussed among the partners. During those days, a first contribution of the partners to the Shared Knowledge Basis Report about Urban Resilience to Climate was accomplished. Finally, the Fuzzy Cognitive Method and Concept Map Structure methodologies were introduced to the partners. Indeed, the partners took a deeper study of the Concept Mapping methodology since that is the fundamental tool that will be used in the development work package of the project..

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http://www.erasmus-care.eu/deliverables/2017_07_01/CARE_D.1.1_Kickoff_Workshop_report.pdf

Shared Knowledge Basis Report



After the project Kick-off Workshop in Seville (Spain), the partners focused on different tasks over the following six months. Some partners started working on the first version of the Concept Map that will be used in the Open Educational Resources delivered when the project ends; other engaged in the development of Communication, Dissemination and Quality Control Plans (mostly for internal project control). However, all the partners participated in the creation of the Shared Knowledge Report: a common summary of the partners' knowledge and experiences in urban climate change adaptation and mitigation, and climate resilience. The Shared Knowledge Report, according to the guidelines received by the partners, "has been conceived as a repository of existing practices and documents illustrating the state of the art of each country regarding urban climate resilience". Each national group of partners was asked to provide a general background regarding the climate change institutional framework within the country, as well as climate resilience instruments, thematic networks and financial opportunities for eventual local projects related to urban resilience. In addition to this general contribution, each partner submitted an individual contribution regarding deficiencies and challenges identified in the responses to climate hazards, and suggested relevant scientific literature related to one or more of the CARE topics. The coordinators of the project at Universidad Pablo de Olavide merged all the contributions and developed the combined Shared Knowledge Report, which will be used in the subsequent stages of the project.

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http://www.erasmus-care.eu/deliverables/2017_07_01/CARE_D.1.2_Shared_Knowledge_report.pdf



The US and its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement: how it is related to urban resilience?

Predictions of the United Nations for the next 30 years suggest that 70% of the world's population will live in urban zones. This fact represents a challenge to all cities, especially to those more vulnerable to climate change. Tackling challenges in urban contexts "such as compactness, connectedness, inclusiveness and integration, as well as (...) disaster risk management, contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as unlock opportunities for sustainable development", according to the United Nations. In this context, the Paris Agreement, along with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, are tools that pave the way to a more sustainable future in urban areas since they galvanize actions by all relevant stakeholders involved in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

It was disappointing news for the entire world when the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, announced in early June that his country will withdraw from the Paris Agreement, signed in 2015 by 197 countries and ratified by 150. This Agreement, according to Leanna Garfield and Skye Gould, journalists from Business Insider, aims to keep global temperatures from rising more than 2°C. Despite President Trump's announcement, according to the journalists, eleven states plus Washington D.C and Puerto Rico, decided to uphold the US commitment to the Agreement and to form the so-called US Climate Alliance. This can be interpreted as good news, since the alliance members were responsible for nearly a fifth of US carbon dioxide emissions in 2014.

In this fragile scenario, when climate change adaptation and mitigation is starting to define the ways cities are planned, designed, managed and developed, the concept of resilience has become significant, as, in accordance with researchers Nicola Tollin and Johannes Hamhaber from RESURBE, an increasing number of cities are using more integrated and systemic approaches to tackle a wide variety of challenges related to urbanization, sustainable development and climate change. This is why the ERASMUS+ CARE Project: Empowering Urban Climate Resilience, plays an important role, as it aims to develop innovative educational experiences to enhance the knowledge of urban resilience potential to fight against climate change effects. This will help in the modernization of higher education curricula (by integrating them with issues such as climate risk management, social resilience, strategic planning, monitoring and assessment of plans and policies, etc.) and increasing teachers', researchers' and students' knowledge and skills in climate resilience, while innovating HE teaching and learning practices by using Open Educational Resources . It will also shape innovative educational methodologies to develop Open Educational Resources for public officers and professionals that allow unlock the potential of urban resilience at a wide scale of intervention. Finally, the project will establish a network among LA, Europe and outside, with the aim of improving their educational capacities in the field of urban and climate resilience.

Workshop in Quevedo and Quito (Ecuador)

With representation of staff from the 16 partners, the second international workshop of the CARE project was held from July 22nd to July 30th, between Quevedo and Quito (Ecuador). The participants met in Quito, where they took a bus to Quevedo, a city in the western part of the country of approximately 150.000 inhabitants. In Quevedo, the workshop was held at the Universidad Técnica Estatal de Quevedo (UTEQ), the first agricultural university in the country. The first days of the workshop were dedicated to reviewing managerial aspects of the project, related to administrative and financial issues. The Steering Committee of the Project and the Quality Board also had the opportunity to meet and discuss the work conducted over the previous months. At the end of the second day, each partner presented its contribution to the Shared Knowledge Report. The last day in Quevedo was spent reviewing the project's website, recapping the concept mapping methodology that was introduced in the first workshop, and discussing the first version of the conceptual map that will be the main output of the project. At the end of the fourth day of the workshop, the participants moved back to Quito, where they met at the Universidad Tecnológica Equinoccial (UTE) and continued discussing the uses of the CMAP tool. The last day, a forum among the participants, with the presence of local organizations that have had experience with resilience initiatives was held to close the event. The next workshop will be in Medellín, Colombia in March of 2018, when the second version of the CMAP will be tested with students from all the participating universities.





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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