



FTZ-ALS Newsletter No. 2/2009

Editorial

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Research and Transfer Centre 'Applications of Life Sciences' of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. Here you will find the latest information about our projects, activities and events. Enjoy your reading!

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Walter Leal, Head, FTZ-ALS

About the FTZ-ALS

The Research and Transfer Centre 'Applications of Life Sciences' of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences is a centre which undertakes basic research on life sciences issues as well as on aspects of climate, energy and sustainable development. The centre was founded in August 2007 and has rapidly become a leading organisation in respect of research on life sciences issues as well as manages a wide international portfolio of projects dealing with sustainability, renewable energy and climate change. Details on the Centre's activities can be seen at:

<http://www.haw-hamburg.de/ftz-als.html>.

Our Projects

Waterpraxis: a new project helps to implement the Water Framework Directive

Eutrophication caused by nutrient loads is one of the biggest environmental problems of the Baltic Sea. Practical measures to restrict it are included in River Basin Management Plans [RBMPs] which are outputs of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. However, putting general-level RBMPs into practice is hindered by many barriers. For example, RBMPs cover large geographical areas. Thus, it is

difficult to apply public participation principles to planning processes and gain common acceptance at local level for measures that should be realised.

The project 'Waterpraxis – from theory and plans to eco-efficient and sustainable practices to improve the status of the Baltic Sea' is an Interreg IVB BSR project, with a partnership which covers 7 coastal countries of the Baltic Sea which are Finland, Germany, Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, Sweden and Latvia. The project's



overall objective is to improve the status of the Baltic Sea by contributing to the practical implementation of measures chosen in River Basin Management Plans [RBMPs] in the region. Further details are available at: <http://www.waterpraxis.net>.

The Project SKINT: new approaches to promote the sustainable use of urban waters

The European Water Framework Directive [WFD] and Floods Directive [FD] have clear goals about improving water quality and regulating water quantity in the EU. When coupled with climate change and urbanization these create increasing pressure on water management, especially in urban areas.

The Interreg IVB [North Sea] Project SKINT [North Sea Skills Integration and New Technologies] aims to



facilitate the implementation of sustainable urban land and water management by improving the integration of water management in spatial planning processes. The FTZ-ALS is a partner in this project, which will gather successful initiatives and tools and will improve the skills of water managers. The project duration is from October 2008 to October 2012. SKINT is conducted by a consortium of seven partners from the North Sea countries the Netherlands, Great Britain, Norway and Germany. Further details are available at: <http://www.skint-hamburg.de> and <http://kvina.niva.no/skint/>.

■ **News from St. Lucia: AGIL project offers training for St. Lucia's extension officers**



Customer service, time management, team work and and conflict resolution is crucial for delivery of quality extension service. To meet these requirements, a set of training and workshop series for St. Lucia's extension officers will be implemented in the frame of the project

"Banana commercialization and agricultural diversification in St. Lucia" [AGIL-project] in the period of July - October 2009. The trainings will be conducted in collaboration with St. Lucia's Ministry of Agriculture and the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College.

In order to find out the extension officer's training needs, interviews not only with the officers themselves but also with several farmers, the extension service's target group, have been conducted. Lack of enjoyment for the job, a distant relationship between farmers and extension officers and a low level of achievements compared to the planned programme of work are seen as major obstacles for the delivery of high quality extension service. The trainings are composed to overcome these barriers and to assist the extension officers to deliver high quality service and consulting for the benefit of St. Lucia's farmers.

■ **FTZ-ALS project fosters Innovation and Creativity: the project 'Creative City Challenge'**

Innovation is crucial for the economic performance of cities/city-regions in the current post-industrial economy [Lisbon Agenda]. To enhance their innovative capacity, many cities strive to place the 'creative city' concept on their policy agenda. Still lacking however, is an integrated evidence-based strategy for cities to strengthen their innovative capacity that explicitly takes into account the interactions between these policies. The new project 'Creative City Challenge' will address this need by implementing such a strategy. It is partly funded by the Interreg IV Programme [North Sea] and is coordinated by the FTZ-ALS. The project runs from September 2009 to August 2012 and involves a partnership congregating universities, government agencies, NGOs and enterprises from across the North Sea Region. By means of pilot projects developed and run by, and in, cities across the NSR, the project will adopt the triple helix of organisational capacity of government, educational institutions and private businesses in a leading role, also contributing to a strong programme of transnational interchange of learning, materials and best practice. Further information is available at: <http://www.creative-city-challenge.net>.

Renewable Energy in Latin America: JELARE Workshop in Brazil a success

The first International JELARE Networking Workshop on Education & Research on Renewable Energies at European and Latin American Universities, was successfully held in Florianópolis, Brazil, on the 10th June 2009. More than 120 participants from policy, companies and academia gathered to use the opportunity of exchange between regional Brazilian key actors with representatives from higher education institutions from Germany, Latvia, Guatemala, Chile and Bolivia. The presentation and discussion of approaches and methods to promote renewable energy in the curriculum as well as research and technology transfer activities of universities in Europe and Latin America was widely covered by Brazilian TV and other media.



The JELARE [Joint European-Latin American Universities Renewable Energy Project] is a co-operation scheme coordinated by the FTZ-ALS involving universities from Germany, Latvia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Guatemala with the aim of fostering innovative labour market-oriented educational and research approaches in the field of renewable energies at Latin American and European institutes of higher education. The project is funded by ALFA III, an EU programme for co-operation between the EU and Latin America, in the framework of higher education and training. <http://www.jelare-project.eu>



INSPIRE: 15 new lesson units for out-of-school places to the topic of climate change and renewable energy are ready!

'Eco-elves assistants' is not the title of a new fantasy book, but one of 15 new lesson units for out-of-school places to the topic of climate change and renewable energy.

All project partners were very creative in developing lessons. For example, pupils can go for an adventure with Nils Holgersson and the wild geese or talk with a polar bear about the melting ice in the Arctic. The German NaturGut Ophoven, and the Polish institute Panstwowa Wyzsza Szkola Zawodowa W Raciborzu are responsible for the eight lessons for primary schools. In playful manner the pupils occupy themselves with the current topics of climate change and save of energy.

Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany and Daugavpils University in Latvia developed the lessons for secondary schools. For instance in project work older pupils can study the issue of dwelling's aesthetic and engineering provision and working out a project of planning their future home and/or studying the buildings of the own city or village.

To see all 15 lessons including background information about the topic and education material have a look at: <http://education-material.inspire-project.eu>.

— **Renewable Energy Networks between Turkish and European Universities: the RENET project**

Renewable energy is an emerging field and one which congregates both technical developments and the economical use of energy resources. Despite the fact that more co-operation between the EU and Turkey in the field of renewable energy is needed and despite the willingness of organizations in both regions to pursue this, the amount of joint works in the field of renewable energy seen on the ground is still quite limited. Yet, much can be gained if institutions of higher education can co-operate in this field, especially in terms of education and training as well as in respect of knowledge and technology transfer.

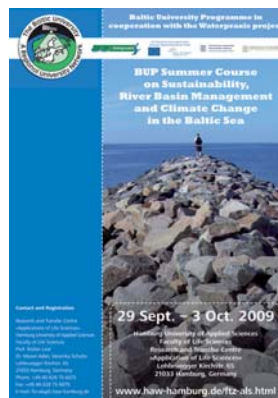
The RENET project aimed at improving the dialogue, mutual understanding and co-operation between German, Swedish and Turkish institutions of higher education in the key field of renewable energy – with a focus on waste-to-energy, solar energy and bio-fuels, in order to promote information and technology transfer among partners and stakeholders, hence assisting with the implementation of sustainable [energy] policies in both regions. Led by Bogazici University, Istanbul/Turkey, the project consortium further comprises the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Hamburg, Germany and the Royal Institute of Technology [KTH], in Stockholm, Sweden as well as Akdeniz University in Antalya, Turkey. Over a period of 18 months, RENET has established and sustained a network of Turkish and European universities in order to cater for a ‘university/university’ and ‘university/industry’ interface.



Current Events

— **Baltic University Programme Sommer Course on ‘Sustainability, River Basin Management and Climate Change in the Baltic Sea’**

Hamburg, Germany, 29th September - 3th October 2009



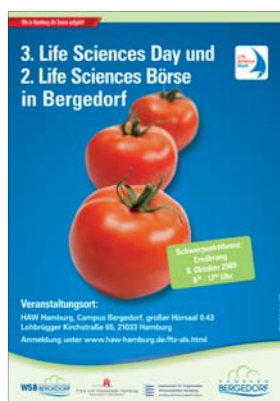
The Summer Course is an initiative of the German office of the Baltic University Programme in Hamburg and is organized in cooperation with the Interreg IVB Baltic Sea Region project WATERPRAXIS. It is meant to acquaint delegates from various countries about matters related to sustainable development, river basin management and climate issues in the Baltic, as well as foster international and multicultural learning. The course will offer a state-of-the-art overview of matters related to sustainable development and river basin management and will be a timely contribution towards efforts in the internationalisation, networking and cultural interaction among local government officials, practitioners and students from Baltic countries. Further details are available at: http://www.haw-hamburg.de/uploads/media/BUP_flyer_final.pdf.

— **3rd Life Sciences Day und 2nd Life Sciences Fair in Bergedorf – Topic: Nutrition**

Hamburg, Germany, 8th October 2009, 8.30 am to 05.00 pm

As a continuation of the successful Life Sciences events in 2006 and 2008, the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences [HAW], the borough council of Bergedorf and the WSB Wirtschaft und Stadtmarketing für die Region Bergedorf e.V. [an association for the economic promotion of Bergedorf] are organizing the 3rd Life Sciences Day and the 2nd Life Sciences Fair on the topic of nutrition in Bergedorf.

Regardless of the economic cycle, the food and be-



verage industry is important and has a very strong profile. Numerous factors depend on the production, transport and the distribution of food and beverages. Within the scope of the events, these aspects will be presented and discussed. The events are aimed at interested persons in the fields of science, industry, administration and education.

The target of the Life Sciences Day is to present the research activities by the Life Sciences faculty of the HAW in the field of nutrition/home economics as well as further initiatives by authorities and companies in and around Hamburg. The event is further aimed at establishing a denser network between players from the fields of science and industry.

At the Life Sciences Exchange Day, the HAW's offers and university courses in the field of nutrition and home economics are introduced and pupils [from year 11 to 13] and students have the opportunity to establish a direct contact with companies.

The leaflet, programme and registration form can be downloaded at http://www.haw-hamburg.de/lr-day_ls_boerse.html.

3rd European Fair on Education for Sustainable Development

Hamburg, Germany, 28th - 30th October, 2009



The Hamburg University of Applied Sciences [HAW Hamburg] is organising the 3rd European Fair on Education for Sustainable Development with the subject 'Renewable Energy and Climate Change: Thematic Challenges to European Schools and Universities'.

The premises of the co-organiser, Ausbildungszentrum-Bau in Hamburg GmbH,

in the Hamburg quarter of Steilshoop will be the venue for the event.

Topics dealing with issues of strategic value in reviewing the state of art of education for sustainability will be presented. Special emphasis will be placed on matters of interest in respect of renewable energy and climate issues. An exhibition displaying the work and projects from the whole field of environmental education, renewable energies and climate issues will form the backbone of the fair. A special programme with workshops will provide a hands-on approach for pupils.

The information brochure and the programme are available for download on the following website: <http://www.haw-hamburg.de/esd2009.html>.

Climate 2009 – Worldwide Online Climate Conference

online, 2th - 6th November 2009



More than 130 abstracts from all over the world have been submitted to CLIMATE 2009 [www.climate2009.net]. The contributions from researchers, agencies, business and civil society are subject to qualitative review by the scientific committee. Approved papers will be featured online once the CLIMATE 2009 opens its virtual doors on 2th November 2009.

Taking place for the second time after a successful start in 2008, the conference's focuses on 'The Social, Economic and Political Aspects of Climate Change'. The world's online research conference on climate




change to be held throughout the week from 2-6 November 2009. Scientific, peer-reviewed papers, a climate change studies library as well as climate projects from around the globe are at the heart of the event. Moreover, interactive components such as expert live chats, video podcasts and partner-project search are featured. Climate 2009 is being organised in cooperation with WMO, UNEP, UNESCO, IPCC, FAO and other world bodies.

Participation is free of charge, you can register on-line, and technical requirements are held low as to allow access for regions with lower speed internet connections as well.

Our Doctoral Students

The training of a new generation of scientists is one of the priorities of the FTZ-ALS. In this context, doctoral students from many countries perform PhD research supervised or co-supervised by FTZ-ALS's Director, Prof. Walter Leal. The current list of PhD students include:

-  Franziska Buch [Germany]: Renewable Energies for sustainable rural development.
-  Raphael Cecchetti [Portugal]: Sustainability in Higher Education.
-  Edgars Chubars [Latvia]: Environmental Management in Enterprises.
-  Natalie Fischer [Germany]: Water Framework Directive.
-  Julia Gottwald [Germany]: Technology and Know-How Transfer in Renewable Energy in a Higher Education Context.
-  Ivars Jurchs [Latvia]: Sustainable Urban Development.
-  Irina Klimanova [Latvia]: Sustainable Development in rural regions.
-  Franziska Mannke [Germany]: The multi-functional role of farmers organizations in farm-level diversification and poverty reduction in St. Lucia.
-  Rita Santos [Brazil]: Environmental management and innovation.
-  Tsvetelina Simeonova [Bulgaria]: Environmental Management in the Furniture Sector in Bulgaria.

-  Ahmed Querish [Pakistan]: A decision-support instrument for environmental management.
-  Erika Ruskule [Latvia]: Environmental Accounting.
-  Andris Skromulis [Latvia]: Climate issues in municipalities.

For a discussion on the possibilities of PhD research, please contact the FTZ-ALS Team.

Contact and further Information

Please contact us, if you are interested in cooperating with our centre:

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