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NEWSLETTER

1st edition, September 2024

GREENPOL - Centre of Excellence in European Green Deal Policies

Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence project
No. 101127382

Project background

Climate change and environmental degradation are an existential threat to Europe and the world. To overcome these challenges, the European Green Deal plans to transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy which ensures no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, economic growth decoupled from resource use and no person and no place left behind. Climate change



is the biggest challenge of our times and thus gives an opportunity to deal with partial solutions responding to main problems. In accordance with the objectives set in the European Green Deal, the project addresses given priorities through creation of innovative, research-based online courses. The research participative approach is a decisive component – based on a direct engagement in the research activities, students are important actors in forming of planned courses through the transfer of the latest knowledge and skills from

research into the scientific content of three majors such as - EU Cohesion Policy reflecting principles set in the European Green Deal, insurance of food security in terms of impacts of the climate changes and energy efficiency, diversification and renewable energy sources. To meet these aims the project team intends to include experienced staff (from both professional as well as project activities point of view) and experts of the addressed university units - the Faculty of EU Studies and Regional Development, The Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Sciences and the Technical faculty of the SUA.

Project aim

The aim of the project team is to create the Centre of excellence providing students with best conditions to satisfy their needs concerning:

- studies of the objectives and principles of the Green policy of the EU from the perspective of the EU Energy policy and Cohesion Policy at local, regional, national and European level,
- studies on approaches of how to ensure food security in the context of existing impacts of the climate changes and how to deal with the challenge of reducing the environmental footprint of the food system, strengthening the food system's resilience,



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- studies of the methods and means of diversifying energy supplies, energy efficiency, improving the energy performance of our buildings and developing a power sector based largely on renewable sources

Planned project activities

Teaching activities will focus on creation of the three new interactive training courses for the PhD students; the courses will be placed in the e – learning platform and provided to students in the second and third year of the project. The following new courses will be created:

- the course **EU Energy Policy** will address and cover responses to challenges resulting from long-term EU policies aimed at environmental protection. Applying measures from these policies is generating other challenges, especially for producers in the primary and secondary sectors, namely automotive. The course will provide PhD students with the current policy directions and its possible impact on nations, regions as well as sectors.
- the course **Renewable Energies for Sustainable Development** will address the challenge of actual energy crisis and the related insufficient production of energy from renewable sources. PhD students will be delivered knowledge and skills on engineering principles and applications for existing and emerging energy technologies, energy production, consumption, and environmental impact.
- the course **Environmental Nutrition and Health** will respond to the need of illuminating the connection between food value chain, agriculture, environment, climate, nutrition and human and animal health in order to improve public health through efforts related to environmentally sustainable food production by research activities. Expert knowledge and skills will be delivered to the target group of students in terms of innovative food system research, control tools to protect human and animal health in Slovakia and EU and risk factors in the food chain regarding food and feed for maintaining health.

Research will be an important component of the project. Students will not only be direct beneficiaries of results of the research, they will even be allowed to participate in some research activities. Results of the research will be continuously incorporated into courses:

- in the course EU Energy Policy, the research activities will be performed and subsequently incorporated through the collection and ex post evaluation of the data, comparison with the other EU countries, resources: EUROSTAT, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR, Agricultural Paying Agency, FADN, EFSA, State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic etc.;
- in the course Renewable Energies for Sustainable Development, the application of the acquired knowledge will be visible in the research processes in the field of energy systems using renewable energy sources, in solving specific professional problems from practice in the field of design, dimensioning, monitoring and optimization of operational parameters of energy systems;



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- in the course Environmental Nutrition and Health, expert knowledge and skills will be delivered to the target group of students in terms of innovative food system research, control tools to protect human and animal health in Slovakia and EU and risk factors in the food chain regarding food and feed for maintaining health.

Methods of research to be used: method of analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, scientific abstraction, methods of monitoring, evaluation of measured indicators.

Three **events – roundtables** focused on the EU energy policies, renewable energies and the environmental nutrition and health are planned to take place to support the education process with the relevant scientific background.

The first roundtable debate **EU Energy Policy** took place on 15-15 June 2024 in Podkylava, Slovakia. The event was attended by 15 participants – Centre of excellence members and representatives of both the



academic and private sector. The event took place in two parts – the first, theoretical part, focused on the presentation of the project and its impact on practice. In the second, practical part, the participants visited the ecological farm, secondary vocational school with the photovoltaic device as well as municipal apartment buildings using the energy from the renewable sources.

Visiting the mentioned sites was a good

opportunity for the participants to discuss practical examples of the energy policy implementation directly with the representatives of public sector and farms.

Expected deliverables

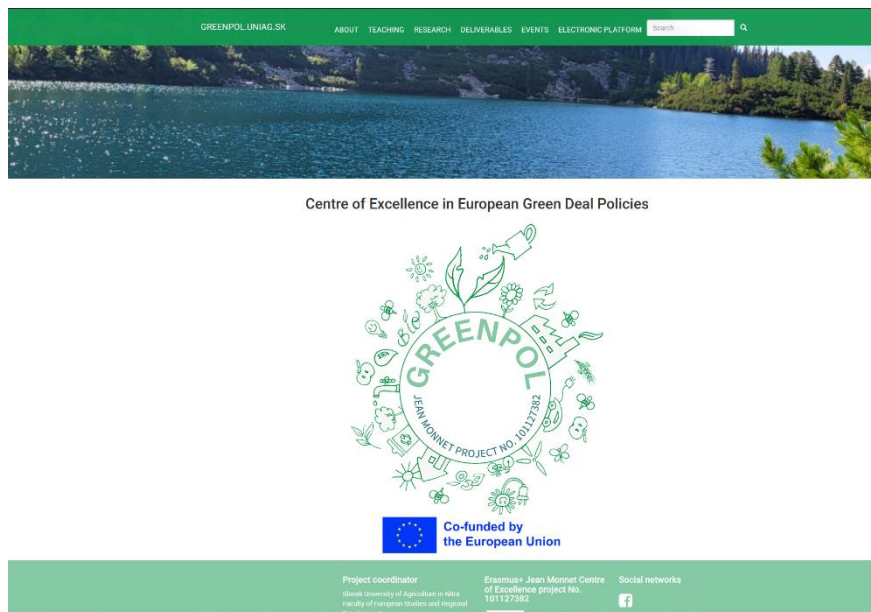
- **New courses** will be created for the PhD students – EU Energy Policy, Renewable Energies for Sustainable Development and Environmental Nutrition and Health and their interactive content will be available in the e-learning platform. Also, the courses content will be used as a textbook for students and will be freely available at the project web page.
- **International conference proceedings and journals** will gather selected scientific papers from international conferences and papers published in scientific journals;



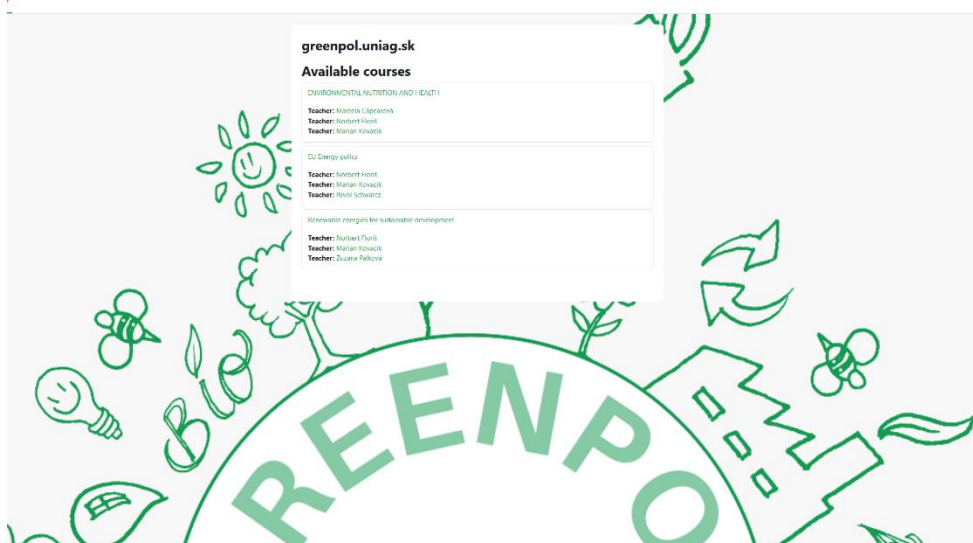
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- **Newsletter** will inform project target group and wide public about current development of the Centre of Excellence. One newsletter will be issued every academic year;
- **Website of the project** provides the basic information about project activities (especially news and coming events) and the information for about the teaching activities, informs about news in terms of project focus areas and disseminates about research activities of the Centre of Excellence. The website is the place with an access to the e – learning platform;



- **E – learning platform** is an electronic platform for placing an interactive e – learning courses. Creation of the e – learning platform is necessary for target groups to have a simple access to information within the e – learning programme.





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News in the Slovak and the EU energy sector

Recommendation/guidance note on heating and cooling

On 2 September 2024, the EC Directorate-General for Energy issued the Recommendation/guidance note on heating and cooling aspects (Article 26) in the Energy Efficiency Directive. The Recommendation outlines guidelines for the interpretation of Article 26 of Directive (EU) 2023/1791 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the heating and cooling supply. High-efficiency cogeneration and efficient district heating and cooling can provide significant primary energy savings in the Union and benefits for the climate. Therefore, Directive (EU) 2023/1791 increased the requirements for the high-efficiency cogeneration and efficient district heating and cooling.

More info at:

https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/recommendationguidance-note-heating-and-cooling-aspects-article-26-energy-efficiency-directive_en

Quick energy measures grants for public buildings

The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic published on its web site the call for proposals for quick energy measures grants for public buildings. Municipal and district authorities, higher territorial units, as well as ministries, courts, the police or the army can apply for a contribution of at least 100 000 EUR in order to use energy in public buildings that they own or manage. Successful applicants will be able to use the funds, for example, to install solar collectors, but also thermostatic heads and valves on radiators, to replace windows and doors, to insulate the roof or floor of an unheated attic, or to modernize lighting. The total allocation for this call is 23 539 992 EUR.

More info at:

<https://www.mhsr.sk/press/verejne-budovy-uz-mozu-ziadat-o-prispevok-na-rychle-energeticke-opatrenia?csrt=12400871789574355663>

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