Master CoDe News

30 April 2018

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Erasmus Mundus Master Code Website
https://www.erasmusmundus-code.eu/index.php

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Erasmus Mundus Association
http://www.em-a.eu/

During January this year the Erasmus Mundus Association held the elections for Programme Representatives (PR) of over 19 Erasmus Mundus Joint Degree programmes.

In the election, **Carlos Perez Rojas** (Venezuela, 2017/2019 cohort) was selected as the Master CoDe PR for 2018.

The role of the PR is to help improve the quality of the Erasmus Mundus programmes by engaging with academic and non-academic staff, students and by being a mediator for their concerns and suggestions.

Additionally, the PR promotes the Erasmus Mundus Association and its activities.

*If you have any question or suggestion please email Carlos at **emcode.pr@gmail.com** and follow @emmastercode on Instagram and Twitter.*

Remember to register for EMA if you haven't done so already in the following link: http://www.em-a.eu/en/become-a-member.html

2017/19 edition

2016/18 edition

Internship Experience with LDI-UHub: Some Random Thoughts and Insights

by Rhomir Yanquiling (Master CoDe 2016/2018)

It's quite difficult to sum up months of internship experience in just a few paragraphs essentially because there are a great plethora of positive things to share about it. Be that as it may, let me attempt to summarize it without stripping off the essentials.

As my internship draws to a close and as I retrospect on what I have learned, I realize what an excellent experience it has been.

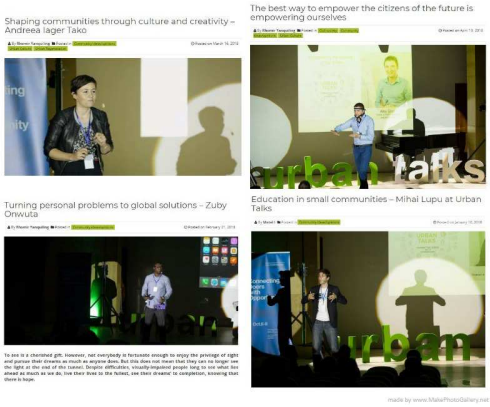
The experience I gained working as an Intern at the Institute of Local Development at Timisoara, Romania along with its online platform, UrbanizeHub (UHub), has taught me more than I can possibly imagine.

The Institute of Local Development (LDI) in Timisoara Romania is an organization that performs innovative actions which constitute the engine of local and regional development at European and international level based on the principles of subsidiarity, multi-level governance and bottom-up approach. Inspired by its motto *"Think Global, Act Local,"* it believes that only from a collaborative bottom-up approach that development issues could be resolved.

LDI's digital platform and online community arm, UrbanizeHub (www.urbanizehub.com), is an initiative with global focus. It aims to promote sustainable urban development by providing online public spaces for sharing contents, communities/fora for public talks and discussion and by encouraging inspiring narratives on various issues that have impacts on cities and their developments.

As the urban sustainable development and social media intern, here are some random thoughts and insights which best describe my brief but meaningful internship experience at LDI-UHub:

- I learned about the practical nitty-gritty of the work and got inspiration from a number of people from their motivational talks and speeches. Both in actual and vicarious terms, I have learned a lot from some of the members of the UHub community sharing their insights.



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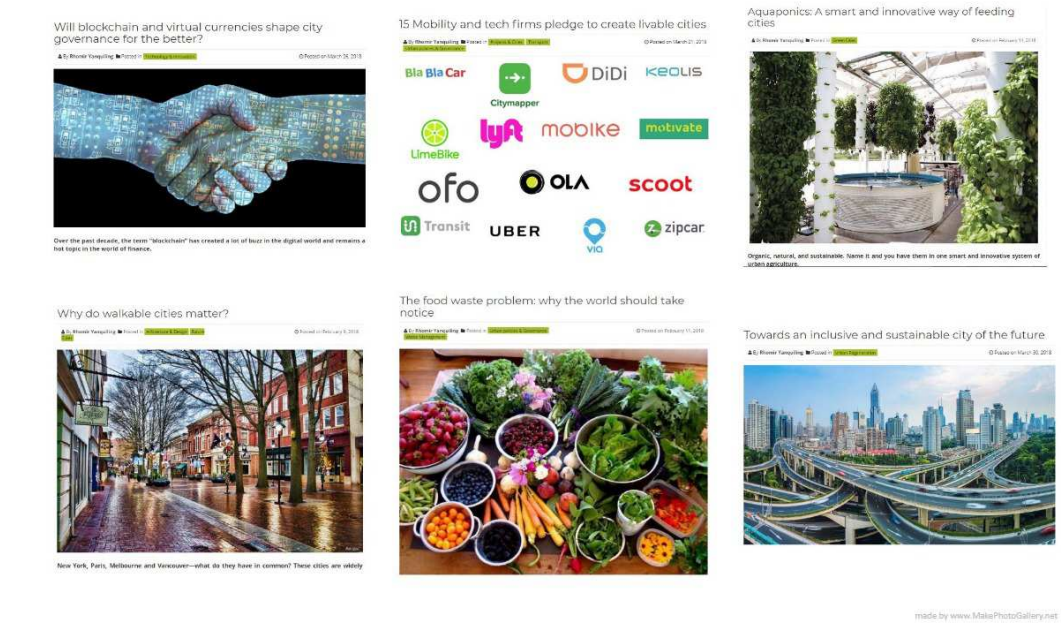
Internship Experience by Rhomir Yanquiling

- I believe that this experience has given me a wellspring not only of new knowledge but also positive influence from people capable of inspiring the "fledgling others" to strive further, get out of the comfort zone and think out of the box.

- Networking can be a tremendous leverage to forging links with well-meaning people who share with you common interests and ideals, which helped widen my intellectual perspectives in great magnitude.

- My experiences in researching materials about noteworthy and laudable initiatives of cities from all over the world, reading articles from various notable and authoritative sources, and listening to talks and speeches of people who are making their marks in their chosen niches and who are trying to make huge difference for our cities, made me realize that urban sustainable development offers one huge fertile domain waiting to be explored. This experience has undeniably expanded my breadth of understanding and broadened my intellectual and cognitive maturity.

- LDI-UHub has been very impressive in reaching out to people to share inspiring stories about local development initiatives in cities, to create novel and positive narratives in order to mobilize communities to act upon important and transcendental issues such as sustainability, local development, smart cities, education, urbanization, to mention a few. Here are some interesting articles about local development and sustainability which I contributed to UHub:



- More than anywhere else, genuine and classic cases of local development actions are found in our cities. Local development is an ever constantly evolving field, and our cities have become the centre point of spaces and actions to local development.

- Development initiatives of state and non-state entities will more or less concentrate on cities in the future for a number of reasons: 70% of the human population will opt to live in cities by 2050; cities will remain as important hubs of development and will continue to attract talents from all over the globe; and finally, cities are accountable to about 80% of the global GDP, making them economic behemoths.

Cont.

- By reading and writing about local development initiatives of different cities around the world, I was able to get a 360 degree perspective, using a multidisciplinary-comparative lens of these various development-related issues; hence, giving flesh to the very essence of the "multi-disciplinary-comparative" approach of the Master CoDe program. The UrbanizeHub platform has done an amazing job disseminating information on urban development initiatives along a wide range of topics along diverse channels in a not-too-academic approach.

- Writing is a most inspiring and sublime way of sending your message to the world while at the same time creating a positive impact (without even your knowing it) from other parts of the globe. It may be a monotonous and dry routine for some, but for me I have always enjoyed writing. While I feel that I knew enough of writing, this position taught me that there is always room for improvement, that it takes practice and patience to improve one's craft. As the position requires me to write something every day, I can say that I was able to improve my writing skills significantly.

- Finally, this internship experience, without exaggeration, adds a vertical dimension to my two-year journey in the Master CoDe program. Truth be told, I consider it as an added feather to my cap.

In conclusion, I believe that this internship was successful in furthering my knowledge.

Being able to see my contributions and their significance to the organization, to feel that I am able, in a way or another, to create an impact on society in my own small way, made this internship experience as a fruitful educational endeavour that enriched my education in tremendous terms.

UrbanizeHub: http://urbanizehub.com/

Also on Facebook:

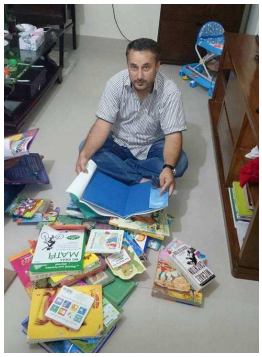
https://www.facebook.com/UrbanizeHub/

https://www.facebook.com/UHubRomania/

The latest from the MP Library in Bangladesh

As you will have read in our April 2016 Newsletter, the Masud Parves Library —- project of Abu Sayed (M/CoDe 2010/12) —- was inaugurated on 15 February 2016. For over two years now, it has been a functioning reality for the people of Satkhira.

In 2016, the MP Library recorded 2,267 users. In 2017, this increased to 2,524 users. On average, 7/8 persons use the library in a day. Three volunteers (school and college students) are responsible for the daily running of the library.



2017 saw the visit to Bangladesh of Mojeeb Stanikzai (M/CoDe 2010/12, working for Winrock International https://www.winrock.org/) seen in the photo on the right, with the books he brought for the library.

In addition to providing books and a welcoming environment for the population of the village, the MP Library also organizes programs and activities for the children of Satkhira. These are organized so as to encourage the students to utilize the facilities of the library and to participate in interesting and competitive games and activities.

With this in mind, **speech and reading competitions** are organized for those attending the library . The winners of these competitions receive a gift.

The Vocabulary Competition

The Vocabulary Game is another activity. This monthly activity is aimed at developing the English language skills of the participating children. The students are asked to memorize a different word each day and use these new words in their everyday life. At the end of every month, the best performer is awarded the "Learner of the Month" title along with a gift from the library.

To encourage young people in their studies, the library organizes a "**congratulations ceremony**" for successful students every year. For example, the library congratulated a student, Md. Fahad Hossain in 2017. He has been admitted to a public university in Bangladesh. Fahad has been involved in numerous activities since the very beginning of the library and is an inspiration to many students in the village.

Cont.

The latest from the MP Library in Bangladesh

One of the most popular programs is in **computer training**. Young persons, volunteers who work in the library, conduct computer-training sessions for the students. These sessions offer hands-on training in the practical use of computers. (Microsoft Office applications, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop etc.)

The Library also assists in **sending students to technical courses**. Just recently, a student from the village, Golam Rosul Bappy, was selected for a three-months' course in Graphic Design and Multimedia. He was taken to Khulna and admitted to a government-approved IT training institution. The student has completed the program successfully and has returned to assist in the running of the library as a volunteer where he helps in the computer training courses.

Sports events are also organized. This is done with the view to encouraging participation by the students in the library's activities. In February last year a badminton competition was organized. And in September, a football match. The participants were those students who had attended the library in the previous month.

Sayed gives instructions before a football match!

The library awards the winners of each program and activity with a small gift (eg. t-shirt, pen, writing pad, diary, notebook, file, folder, bag etc.). All the gifts come from friends and well wishers. Abu Sayed tells us how the Library obtains and manages the gifts for its programs & activities:

> Our motto is **"little contribution to a great change"**: someone's small contribution to mankind/ society, whatever it might be initially, can at times generate a great impact on that society over a period of time. Therefore, we get our friends to contribute their additional things, eg. a t-shirt, pen, writing pad, diary, notebook, file, folder, bag, etc. which are not essential for them but make the students happy by getting them through the library. We give the gifts to the students on various occasions. Most important thing is that the contributors of the gifts can contribute without having monetary pressure placed on them. For instance, a job holder may attend a number of training programs in a year and receives souvenir bags for attending the program. We tell them: "You may need one bag, you could give another bag to your friend, and still have one extra.". We ask our friends for that extra item. Thus we manage to get gifts for the students of the library. And, the students are very happy to get them.

Further information about the library and how to contribute can be found on:
http://www.masudparveslibrary.com/ .

Celso C. Manangan (Master CoDe 2009/2011), was a speaker during the **5th Nikkei Asian Conference on Communicable Diseases 2018**, Japan's New Initiative through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

The Conference was held on 2 and 3 February 2018 in Okinawa, Japan.

Celso with the Conference Organizer

The role of Japan's research organizations and several institutions in Asia are important in the establishment of the "Asian Communicable Diseases Clinical Research Center". The report of the conference mentioned that "with progression of globalization, Japan and other countries, especially Asian countries, have become inseparable at every level, such as economics, society, and culture. Threat of infectious diseases, such as outbreaks of Zika virus and Ebola virus infections, spread of tuberculosis and malaria, and raging of multidrug-resistant bacteria (AMR), are still major problems inside and outside the country."

Among the initial institutions that will contribute to this initiative we have the Global Centre for PPP Health based in the Philippines; Clinical Research Center, Indonesia; and Thailand's National Primate Research Center.

The Conference emphasized the importance of addressing the threats against infectious diseases through Public-Private Partnership (P3).

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Local Sustainable Development: Essay

Solid Waste Management issues and decisions: Case of Moscow

by Maksym Koltunov (Master CoDe 2017/19)
m.koltunov93@gmail.com

The current issue of Moscow is connected with the enormous number of citizens and due to that, problems with sustainable waste management. Just officially, about 13 million people live in Moscow, and counting commuters and foreign workers the number increases to 16 million. Moreover, the population of the metropolitan area increases each year. Some figures considering the waste the city creates throughout the year: 5,5 million tons. To compare, Moscow oblast produces 4,5 million tons per year. But the size of Moscow oblast is 44,329 sq km, and the size of Moscow city is 2,567 sq km.

Around Moscow there are 32 working landfills and 100 landfills where reclamation is going on. The problem is that most of the working landfills end their exploitation period soon. During the next two years 24 out of 32 landfills should be closed. What to do or where to keep all the garbage after landfill termination? There are several scenarios. I will describe these and pros and cons for each.

0. Landfills will continue to operate despite the need to close.
1. Create new landfills in Moscow oblast.
2. Increase the pressure on working landfills by transporting all the extra waste there.
3. Export waste to neighboring regions.
4. Build new incineration plants.
5. Create infrastructure for waste recycling: households sort the garbage, build more waste sorting stations, build waste recycling plants, make system work.

The ongoing statistics on waste utilization are: 90% goes to landfills; 6% incinerated in incineration plants; 4% recycled. The waste utilization mostly done with money from the local government. Total cost of 1 ton utilization is 3,000 rubles: 2,900 paid by the city, 100 rubles paid by actual households. So, we already see that the current situation is not sustainable, neither in economic, ecological nor social points of view. Solid waste management system according to Federal Law "On production and consumption wastes" does not consider economic incentives.

Let's think about **zero scenario**. Most of the old landfills will not be closed due to bureaucratic reasons or unwillingness of operating companies to change. They will react by lobbying against ecological norms and requirements. Here we can remember what happened in the Ukrainian city Lviv in 2016. Prolonged termination of the landfill almost caused an ecological catastrophe due to permanent fires which polluted the air, soil and underground water. During one of such fires, 3 emergency workers died under a waste landslide. After this incident, the landfill was completely closed.

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Essay by Maksym Koltunov

Lviv encountered the garbage collapse. Hills of waste were lying on the streets of one of the most beautiful and ancient cities of Ukraine and Europe. There was the huge risk of health epidemics caused by soil and underground water contamination. Tourists stopped coming to the city because of unpleasant smells, etc. Because there was no efficient plan and weak implementation of possible solutions, the garbage, 2 years later after the tragedy, is still transported to landfills in other Ukrainian regions, which leads to constant economic losses (due to high transportation costs), public scandals (due to low level of monitoring whether the garbage was actually dropped at the right spot), and ecological losses. So, we see that the zero scenario for Moscow is unacceptable. What to do not to allow such a scenario to happen? Firstly, implement a broad waste management plan in cooperation with Moscow city and Moscow oblast. Currently, there exists only the plan of closing old landfills which is elaborated by the ecological department of Moscow oblast. First doubt is whether this plan will be effectively implemented, and on time. Second doubt is that there is no strategy what to do after most of the landfills are closed.

Scenario 1 claims creation of new landfills. First of all, to do that, Moscow city government needs to get the permission of local authorities of counties where the appropriate territory for such purposes exists. This task is very difficult, because local public and authorities usually are opposed to having the waste mountain "next to my door". The city, as well, can't create a new landfill on its borders because Federal law prohibits such activities. We need also mention the high ecological damages in this scenario. It is very clear what risks for the environment each new landfill has: contamination of air, soil, water, surrounding the territory, complete loss of land because reclamation is a very long and complicated procedure.

Scenario 2 is more realistic, but not less harmful. If the extra waste will be located at some of the still working dumps, that will make those dumps terminate their exploitation period earlier and the problem will return in 6-8 years again. If nothing is done before period of closures of overfilled dumps, waste collapse as in Ukraine in Lviv, could occur. So, the scenario of transporting waste to still working landfills is unsustainable and harmful as well, but more realistic than scenario 1.

Scenario 3 foresees transporting waste to the neighboring regions. Firstly, the high permanent financial costs will be an additional burden for the city and even the increase in tariffs can follow households as well. Secondly, neighboring regions can refuse to accept Moscow's garbage. Still, Federal government has lots of triggers to force neighboring regions to favor the capital. Moscow city and oblast produces altogether almost 20% of all municipal solid waste in Russia according to Greenpeace statistics. The Russian Federation occupies huge territories. These facts make the possibility of scenario 3 most realistic under the current political and economic conditions in RF.

Garbage incineration which is offered by **scenario 4**, is affordable, less costly than building recycling plants, can make income by producing the energy after incineration, will not increase the amount of stored waste. In the long term, the investments of building incineration plants will pay off and be more profitable compared to transporting waste to other regions on a permanent basis. The major disadvantage of this scenario is ecological output. Even the most modern and expensive plant pollutes with heavy metals and dioxins. That can increase health issues and lead to raised level of cancer among local inhabitants, especially due to the enormous waste amounts needed to be handled.

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Essay by Maksym Koltunov

Scenario number 5 I consider to be the best. I will dedicate the following pages to the benefits of scenario 5, obstacles and possible solutions to overcome . The reasons which make this scenario the best are:

- One can save more territories by recycling the waste instead of storing it.
- Recycling creates more workplaces for locals especially for low skilled workers.
- Complete recycling as counted by Russian Greenpeace organization can reduce waste amount by 75-80%, which will considerably decrease pressure on the environment.
- Recycled materials can bring money and recycling plants are economically proven businesses.
- Waste recycling will increase self-responsibility and trust among Moscow citizens.
- Example of the capital city will, no doubts, induce other Russian cities to follow the same sustainable path.
- Extra funds taken from recycling can be used to reduce the damage made by previously stored waste. For instance, by initiating landfill mining practices.

The construction cost of recycling plants is about 300 million USD each. Moscow needs 4-5 such plants. Funds can currently come from two sources: the federal budget or private investors. In addition, 19 sorting stations need to be built for those plants be able to operate. How to find funds if no investors are found? Local government can raise taxes for that purpose. Since Russia is an authoritative state, local authorities don't need to ask voters about possibility of a tax increase, which simplifies and accelerates this process dramatically.

The second and the bigger challenge is to make the recycling system work. For that, both federal and local governments must first create the law basis since current laws do not enable the waste management business to be profitable.

What can local authorities do?

1. Oblige the specific department in city municipality to cooperate with Moscow oblast government to create a sustainable plan for a new waste management system in Moscow city and oblast until 2030.

2. Improve building codes by including the requirement of collaboration between construction company and developer company, which will operate after construction is complete. The building code must also prohibit the construction of garbage chutes inside the houses.

3. Outsource to private companies and NGOs: environmental education in schools as *extra curriculum* classes; sustainable recycling workshops for house owners and cooperatives; and city events dedicated to these topics. Publish articles in city media on topics related to waste management and sustainability issues.

4. Oblige, after public hearings with house owners, developer house managing companies to lock the access to already existing garbage chutes. For those houses ruled by state managing companies, a directive can be issued.

Cont.

5. Create tax incentives for big construction companies to build waste sorting stations. Local authorities can establish rewards for building of ecological housing and publicize this in the media.

6. According to new tariffs provided by new laws or directives, hire the waste sorting and transportation operators on a competitive basis.

7. Increase tariffs for waste storage in landfills. But at the same time make newly created recycling business more competitive and benefitable.

8. Privatize storing and recycling facilities if built by funds from local budget.

An important precondition for market sufficient working is to wait half a year from the time the new regulations are issued till the new policy starts working (regulations about new tariffs for consumers and waste storing on landfills, new building codes). During this period the notification campaign about changes in rules should be conducted. That step can keep the trust of citizens and businesses in local government, and can even enhance it.

In Russia, a recycling program will require high costs of monitoring and implementation. Therefore, the outcome of step number 3 is crucial for the success of the program.

The program implementation is a long term process.

Just step number 3 will need at least two years, because changing behavior cannot be fast. Additionally, building a recycling infrastructure takes a long time. So, designed in step number one plan, should be supported broadly by different political powers. A change of mayor or regional governor should not be allowed to freeze or collapse the program. That is a hard task for local authorities. Thus, support and control of implementation from the federal government is very important. In Russia, many major decisions are made upwards down, so local powers need the assistance of the federal in order to succeed.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY sent in by Sara Memo

EURECNA http://www.eurecna.it/

Based in mainland Venice, Eurecna is a multidisciplinary practice established in the late 80s as the international consultancy branch of *Confederazione Nazionale dell'Artigianato e della Piccola e Media impresa* (CNA), the leading association of SMEs in Italy which currently federates and provides services to almost 300,000 private SMEs.

Since then, Eurecna has gradually consolidated its position as a respected development co-operation player up to becoming the largest Italian contractor of EuropeAid technical assistance projects.

During the past 25 years, Eurecna has contributed to large technical assistance programmes in over 50 emerging and transition countries in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Oceania and Latin America.

OUR BUSINESS LINES

Eurecna's technical assistance activities cover five continents and four main thematic areas, namely:

- **Economic and Social Development**
- **Public Sector and Governance**
- **ICT**
- **Renewable Energy & Environment**

OUR VALUES AND HISTORY

We believe in integrity, transparency and social responsibility with complete commitment to meeting the needs of our clients. Our values include:

- Long-term sustainability of our activities;
- Knowledge sharing as one of the key development tools;
- Constant financial solidity and fairness to our suppliers;
- Concern for our clients and the final beneficiaries of our products and services;
- Care for the people and local communities where we operate;
- Respect for the environment and for the future generations.

OUR LEGACY

Our reputation for excellence, innovation and adaptability is built on twenty-five years of challenging projects implemented in Italy, in Europe and in a range of transition and developing countries.

Eurecna's mission is to implement innovative solutions that generate value for our clients by leveraging the multidisciplinary knowledge of our international network. We refuse the "one size fits all" approach. We prefer to build on existing knowledge and best practices to design tailored solutions for our clients responding to their specific needs.

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At Eurecna, we believe that human capital is the most valuable asset for sustainable development.

When planning and managing a new project, Eurecna is consistently committed to providing all the tools for keeping human capital growing after project completion. This is the biggest legacy we can offer.

Eurecna has recently been awarded a service contract by the European Union and it is currently looking for short term experts with **at least 5 years of working experience** in the following areas:

- Education;
- VET;
- Life Long Learning;
- Culture;
- Social Inclusion & protection;
- Health;
- Research & Innovation;
- Human Rights and Democracy;
- Rule of Law;
- Civil Society;
- Decentralisation;
- Migration;
- Conflict prevention and resolution;
- Peace & Security;

If you are interested in joining our expert database, please send an updated CV to the following e-mail address: FWC2018-Lot4@eurecna.it

Sara Memo (Ph.D, E.Ma Master) served as Law Tutor at the **Joint European Master in Comparative Local Development** (CoDe) at the University of Trento and Corvinus University in Budapest during the academic year 2010-2011.

Over the span of her career, she has been working as scholar and as practitioner crossing different dimensions of local development (economic and social rights, lifelong learning, vocational and educational training) both at scientific and empirical levels.

Since 2014, she has been serving as Independent Expert at the European Commission for Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation Programme.

She is currently working as Desk Officer for the Asia & Pacific area at Eurecna S.p.A. (http://www.eurecna.it/), an international consulting based in Venice (Italy) active in the field of development cooperation projects.

At Eurecna, she is in charge of developing international technical assistance through strategic partnerships, promoting the empowerment of local actors. She is also working as Senior Trainer in the following areas: Project cycle management; writing successful EU-funded projects proposals ; Monitoring & Evaluation methodology and tools; Impact Evaluation.

More Job Vacancies....

UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina is looking for qualified and interested candidates for the following position:
International/National Consultant for revision of local development strategies (7 positions) (Job# 78468)

Duty station: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Type of contract: Individual Contract (IC)
Application Deadline: 06 May 2018
Link : https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=78468

UNDP Republic of Macedonia ~~ Job Vacancies

For further information visit the link below:

http://www.mk.undp.org/content/the_former_yugoslav_republic_of_macedonia/en/home/operations/jobs.html

Thank you to all collaborators and contributors to Master CoDe News.

Next edition of the newsletter: end July 2018

Please send in your contributions by 15 July 2018.

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