Master CoDe News

31 January 2017

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Master CoDe Students and Team

Study tour to Szentendre | 12th November 2016

On 12th November 2016, the newest edition of Master CoDe – 2016/18 – at present completing their first semester at the Corvinus University of Budapest, went on a study tour to Szentendre. Szentendre is a riverside town near to Budapest. It is known for its museums (most notably the Open-Air Ethnographic Museum), galleries, and artists.

You can read about this exceptional experience in the following extracts taken from reports of the study tour written by two of the CoDe students.

A Tour to Remember at Skanzen:

Master CoDe 2016-2018's Epic Adventure at Szentendre

by Rhomir Yanquiling (from The Philippines)

The Skanzen (open-air museum) study trip at Szentendre, without exaggeration, is no doubt, one of the most wonderful and meaningful experiences we have had in Hungary during the last few months of our stay in the country. November 12, 2016 is indeed a date which deserves a bold space in our study mobility memoir.

The trip, which was organized by the Institute of Sociology in coordination with Master CoDe program, is a trip to remember. Spearheaded by the dynamic and energetic Vice-Rector of the Corvinus University himself, Prof. Zoltán Szántó, the trip added another vertical dimension in our cultural awareness reservoir as foreign students from distant lands, one which made us more appreciative of the distinctiveness of Hungarian culture.

First, the brief but informative Budapest city tour served as the appetizer of the trip as we were handed down a free tour guide in history, geography and culture of Hungary in general and of Budapest in particular.

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While we toured on board the bus, listening to some interesting historical and socio-cultural information regarding various landmarks of interest in Budapest such as the Citadella, Gellért Hill, Buda Castle, Fisherman's Bastion, Andrassy Avenue, Hero's Square and the Opera, to mention a few. Prof. Szántó and Prof. Tosza are, by the way, very informative tour guides.

Second, the Skanzen study walking tour in Szentendre is a walk to remember. It immersed us with some splendid and unforgettable experiences. It is interesting to note that Skanzen was in a festive mood in celebration of St. Martin's Feast. The observance of St. Martin's Feast in Skanzen, for lack of a better word, is definitely fantastic. Songs, wine, food and the rustic scenery. All these made the celebration a colorful and meaningful spectacle. The Skanzen village, if translated by a painter's hand, is a great masterpiece, a work of art which preserves the true, the good and the beautiful that is Hungary. It mirrors the old rustic scenery, the idyllic rural community and traditional rural life and culture. To share some of our experiences, we were able to observe and feel how the local Hungarians in Szentendre make use of geese feathers; learned how the traditional blacksmith shaped and moulded metal tools in the desired sizes and shapes using the old-fashioned but still useful equipment; listened to the colourful history and legends surrounding the tale of St. Martin; and joined a group of local Hungarians singing songs in unison and harmony.

Finally, the Skanzen study tour brought us to a new level of awareness.

In my point of view as a culture observer, the St. Martin's Feast is more than a celebration of harvest. It is more than a tradition of local songs and dances. It is a representation of life itself; it is an embodiment of the very rich culture and history of Hungary which keeps the flame of dynamism of this country burning and alive. It is an expression of men's gratefulness to the bountiful harvest and blessings given by Divine Providence. It is an ultimate acknowledgment that life is good notwithstanding the ordeals that life inflicts upon us. In a sense, it taught us to appreciate life's blessings and be always thankful no matter how hard the circumstances may be.

Of course, this study trip would not have been completed without us having eaten goose or tasted the local wine. It is a local belief at the St. Martin's Day Feast that "one who does not eat goose on this day remains hungry throughout the year." So we dashed immediately to the restaurant. The restaurant typical of a rustic architecture offers an array of sumptuous gastronomic options such as smoked goose breast, goulash, cabbage steamed with wine, roasted goose legs, to mention some.

I contented myself with a plate of potatoes, steamed cabbage and roasted goose leg.

Study Trip to Szentendre Skanzen Village Museum | 12th November 2016,

by Ismaila Ibn Is-Haque (from Ghana)

The team took off at the Whale Theatre at 09.45 am in the company of Professor Szántó, Prof. Tozsa, Professor Attila, Dr. Juliana and other notable professors of the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy.

North of the capital, Szentendre with its colourful houses, narrow alleys, and museums, we were told is the most frequently visited tourist centre along the Danube.

Prof.Szántó with students and staff members

The largest open-air museum in Hungary is located on the outskirts of the city which shows an authentic Hungarian village life.

Just some of our points of call:

Our first point of call was at a family house where feathers of geese were removed. These feathers will be used as stuffing for pillows, cushions, bedding, clothing, jackets, sleeping bags and other such items (see photo on right).

Next we visited the blacksmith shop where we witnessed the moulding of a snail from wrought iron or steel by forging the metal, using tools to hammer, bend and cut.

The team also visited the bakery house to acquaint themselves with traditional and modern bakery methods. Some team members took delight in satisfying their curiosity, and hunger, by buying some of the cakes.

It rained throughout the trip, and because of that we took shelter at the festival dinner ground to satisfy our hunger.

The team finally returned to campus (Corvinus University) in the afternoon

Prof.Tozsa and students

The Dimension of Local Sustainable Development
WORKSHOP
University of Trento | 18th November 2016

Master CoDe 2015/17 edition, alumni and professors at the workshop

Last November a workshop was organised by the Joint European Master in Comparative Local Development (CoDe), University of Trento, in collaboration with Corvinus University of Budapest, the University of Ljubljana, and the University of Regensburg.

Its focus was on the diverse aspects of **sustainable local development** in the various disciplinary frameworks.

The presentations were given by:

Péter Futó (Corvinus University of Budapest)
Assessing the local impacts of water management reform in Georgia

Julianna Faludi (Corvinus University of Budapest)
How do desktop technologies create a sustainable living?

Gratian Mihailescu (Master CoDe 2010/12)
EduCab (Education Capabilities in Rural Areas) and *Urbanize Hub*

Abu Sayed (Master CoDe 2010/12)
Masud Parves Library, Bangladesh (presentation via Skype)

Sinisa Zarić (University of Belgrade)
Local Sustainable Development & Public-Private Partnership: The Case of City Logistics Projects

Fanni Bársony (Master CoDe 2013/15 | Corvinus University of Budapest)
Grassroots Innovations and Sustainable Local Development: Cases from Hungary

Stéphane Jedrzejczak (Master CoDe 2010/12 | LIUC - Università Carlo Cattaneo)
The role of business incubation its contribution to sustainable local development

Marco Brusati (LIUC - Università Carlo Cattaneo)
The "System of Local Capabilities" as a new path in local development. The leadership of business community

Alumni News

The following article was sent in by Slobodan Ocokoljic, founder and editor of **Sigma Infty – problem solving pulsar.**
Slobodan is from Serbia, now resident in Imola (Italy) and a Master CoDe alumnus (2010/12 edition).
Read about Slobodan's vision for Sigma Infty *"to become a glocal think net of professionals that will make development ideas and projects work for the benefit of communities and business"*.

Sigma Infty: a problem solving think net

by Slobodan Ocokoljic

The idea

The first think net I took part in was a research team working on the project *National Policy Dialogue in the Social Science in Serbia, 2014-2016*. A team of six young researchers from different disciplines, cities, and sectors was purposefully brought together in order to provide unique **interdisciplinary and interterritorial expertise**.

One of the best moments was the first focus group we held back in May 2014: Twenty bright young researchers across scientific disciplines discussing the position of early stage researchers in Serbia. The energy, discussion and inputs were simply amazing. I remember thinking in that moment: it would be so inspiring if one could **work with the best people** he/she has met during his/her career.

Focus group on the position of the early stage researchers in the social science.

Since some of the researchers were living outside Belgrade, we coordinated our efforts by monthly Skype conferences, a joint SPSS database, simultaneous gDocs editing, joint pursuit of designers, catering, and finally holding joint presentations. Tasks were clear, communication was efficient and research team members became friends. As the project continued, it became obvious that our synergy was much more than the sum of all the parts and that our team had a **strong gravitational pull for sustainable and innovative solutions**. Therefore the name: *Sigma Infty*: *Problem Solving Pulsar Think Net*.

Cont.

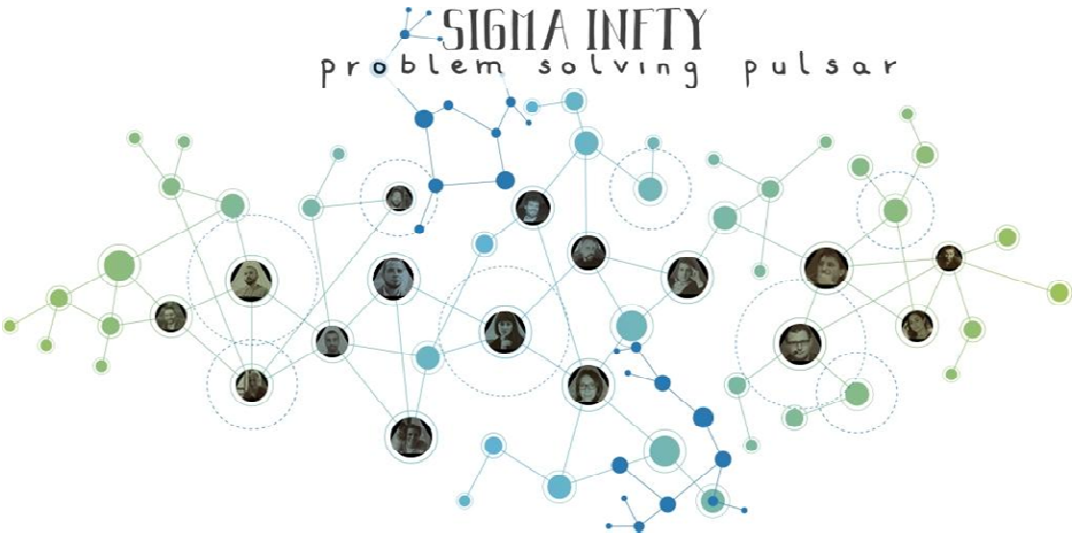
Sigma Infty: a problem solving think net
by Slobodan Ocokoljic

The people

Sigma Infty is a platform fostering business initiatives, public and civil society organisations, and local communities by applied research, project management, business investment consultancy for the Western Balkans, and translation and interpreting.

Members of this think net are definitely the smartest folks I have met along the way. People who have inspired me with their dedication, vision, skills, great personal values and integrity, and people I am happy to work with. Four out of 16 members of our **think net are Master CoDe alumni,** namely Dragisa Mijacic, Ilija Stojanovic, Milos Cavic and myself.

Since we are offering various services, the members are also experts from different fields. Consequently, we are a network of managers, business evaluators, researchers, marketing experts, translators, designers, lawyers, HR experts, economists, fundraisers, etc.. The **common denominators** for all members are proactiveness, dedication and problem solving attitude.



You can discover more about our members on http://www.sigmainfty.net/network/

Learning by doing

We have all learned a lot by making the website and blog functional. We have reached this goal with almost zero funds invested but with a lot of **enthusiasm**. People from all over the world gave us a helping hand. *Gratian* from the *Urbanize Hub*, Aleksandra Stojkov from *Ela language studio*, *Chiara Salce* and many others gave their contribution as well.

In order to work efficiently across time zones we follow the principles of task fragmentation and result-oriented management. After the first months our **achievements** are only a few, but they are important milestones for the future activities. We are proud on the functional and SEO optimised website and blog, established coordination and management mechanisms, created social networks profiles, 3 published articles and another 3 scheduled for January 2017.

Cont.

Sigma Infty: a problem solving think net
by Slobodan Ocokoljic

Plans for the future

Presently, we are trying to understand how **to create a community** that will foster innovation again and again, not only during isolated projects, and how to develop a task-force group that will help us to be the first to seize the opportunities. During the next 6 months we will be working on the establishment of an Advisory Board, translation of the website to Italian and Serbian, online marketing strategy, and defining personal and organisation KPIs.

Our biggest challenge is to maintain the starting enthusiasm and acquire first clients.
Once we establish a successful track record this will give a powerful momentum for growth and further **pursuit of excellence**. Yet, for full implementation of our vision, that is "to become a glocal think net of professionals that will make development ideas and projects work for the benefit of communities and business", we will keep relying on our distinctive characteristics, such as interdisciplinary solutions and flawless execution, and the results will follow.

For more information please visit our website www.sigmainfty.net or contact us on info@sigmainfty.net.

You can also visit the following websites:

Urbanize Hub http://urbanizehub.com/

Ela Language Studio http://www.elasombor.rs/

Chiara Salce, interpreter and translator http://chiarasalce.com/

UNECE | 8th session of the Team of Specialists on Public Private Partnerships

Geneva, Switzerland | 20-21 October 2016

by Celso C. Manangan (EM Master CoDe 2009/11)

UNECE identifies "People-first PPPs" to set out a clear statement that out of all the stakeholders, '**people**' should be the priority and main beneficiaries.

Celso: second from left

The focus of People-first PPPs should be on improving the quality of life of communities, particularly those that are fighting poverty and creating local and sustainable jobs. Projects should fight hunger and promote wellbeing, promote gender equality, increase access to water, energy, transport, and education for all, and promote social cohesion, justice and disavow all forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, creed and culture. People-first PPPs should increase very quickly in scale and spread. PPP projects should be labeled 'People first' only once they have met a number of the criteria, namely, "accessibility"; "equity"; "efficiency"; "effectiveness", "sustainability" and "replicability".

I was invited to speak and present a People-first PPP case study in the Philippines regarding the National Kidney and Transplant Institute Hemodialysis Project.

Below is a brief introduction of the case study.

Philippines / Bangladesh

Description: National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) in the Philippines and the National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology (NIKDU) in Bangladesh are virtually identical projects: Bangladesh followed the example of its counterparts in introducing through a PPP new dialysis machines for the treatment of renal failure. The problem in both countries was that neither could afford the latest machines and this was having severe repercussion for the health of patients who were sometimes dying as a result of lack of modern facilities to treat their condition.

Cont.

UNECE | 8th Session of the Team of Specialists on PPPs

by Celso C. Manangan

Outcome: Through a relatively simple and straightforward lease contract between the public entity and the foreign private technology provider, patients were provided with a vastly improved quality of life and a service that helped to save lives. The greater efficiency in the service in the Philippines attracted more patients and more revenues, which were used to pay for the care of patients who could not afford to pay.

Evaluation: The project improved access to an essential healthcare service and met the access criteria. The lesson is to develop standard models that can be replicated easily in low income countries so that real impact can be achieved. (Source: UNECE)

A number of case studies that illustrated people-first PPPs were presented and discussed which became part of an online library of cases and will supplement the earlier case studies presented during the International PPP Forum "Implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda through effective, People-first Public-Private Partnerships."

Prior to the meeting in Geneva, the introduction and presentation of the UNECE Work on People-first Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was held in UN ESCAP, United Nations Conference Centre Bangkok, Thailand, on 23 September 2016.

The Workshop on People-First PPPs included representatives from Armenia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, The Philippines, and Tajikistan.
Celso Manangan (for The Philippines) is 3rd from right.

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Local Living in Bosnia and Herzegovina

by Lana Pasic

Lana Pasic (Master CoDe 2009/11) recently started a blog exploring the possibilities and difficulties of living locally in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Local Living is a challenge for our consumption habits and search for local alternatives, while tackling a big question - can we truly live locally in a globalised world … and more importantly – should we? We live at the time of glocalisation – we are more connected, more exposed to other cultures, and having a better access to truly global products, yet at the same time we are more aware of the need for localising our life-styles, and the ways in which we can impact on our communities and economies.

During January, I explore the ways of localising my consumption – from coffee, water, fruit, vegetables, dairy products, wine … to locally made cosmetics, household products and clothes. If you would like to accompany me on this journey, and learn more about how you can live more locally, follow me on: https://locallivingbih.com/.

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The following extract of one of Lana's blog articles appeared on 14 January 2017 and is entitled

"The Source of Life on Earth"

Living in Sarajevo has some amazing benefits – while the number of cars on the streets has been steadily growing, creating traffic jams, the city is sufficiently to walk to most locations you need, and a previously busy Vilson's lane has become a pedestrian area in the afternoons and during the weekends. If you would like to get out of the city bustle, you can even hike to Trebevic in a couple of hours, or visit Vrelo Bosne. Sarajevo is **surrounded by mountains and water springs**.

It is said that there are **over 1000 water sources in the Sarajevo area** – and if you walk up the mountains, you are likely to find numerous freshwater springs to fill up your water bottles. And let's be honest- water in Sarajevo tastes divine! For all Sarajevans travelling abroad, the moment of returning home and filling up a glass of this delicious liquid is equal to some form of enlightenment. And of course, it is said that a return to Sarajevo is guaranteed for all the foreigners who drink water from the fountains at Bascarsija.

Thus, it is curious how this important source of life that Bosnia and Herzegovina is so rich with **rarely makes its way to our homes** in the country's capital.

Over the past few years Sarajevo started having **water cuts** during the night. This means that as the clock strikes midnight, we all turn into Cinderellas … or pumpkins. Old pipes and deteriorating infrastructure cause so much water waste that only 3 of 10 litres going from the source make it to the households – which effectively means that **72% of water allocated for use is lost in transit**.

**Continue reading on: https://locallivingbih.com/2017/01/14/
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EMA General Assembly and Annual Conference
Lugano, Switzerland – 26-27 November 2016

The **Erasmus Mundus General Assembly 2016** was held in the beautiful city of Lugano in Switzerland, next to the glacial Lake Lugano on 26 & 27 November.

This year marked the **10th anniversary of Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association**, which was founded in 2006. Read the conference report on the following link:

http://www.em-a.eu/en/general-assembly/ga-2016-report.html

A note of special interest:

Apiyo Okwiri, a Kenyan national, and **graduate of Master CoDe 2007/8**, has been the President of the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA) since October 2015.

Read further on: http://www.em-a.eu/en/about-ema/steering-committee.html

The Forum of Inspiration:

To mark the 10th anniversary, the Association decided that the best way to celebrate this occasion was by showcasing a few select success stories of members and of EMA change-makers across the globe. These selected individuals (CoDe alumni included!) were given time to share their inspirational stories and experiences with conference participants.

Read further on: http://www.em-a.eu/en/general-assembly/forum-of-inspiration.html

Gratian Mihailescu, Geline Fuko and Stéphane Jedrzejczak at the EMA General Assembly

NOTICE BOARD

The Annual Report 2016 of the **MASUD PARVES LIBRARY** (Bangladesh) can be downloaded on:
http://www.masudparveslibrary.com/index.html

"Emerging Mega-Integration Blocs: Limits & Prospects"

by Miro Jovanovic

University of Geneva, Global Studies Institute

This major study can be downloaded on:

http://ssrn.com/abstract=2854161

Interesting links:

The global community for leaders
http://hive.org/

OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local Development
http://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/trentocentre.htm

European Institute of Local Development
http://www.eurolocaldevelopment.org/

International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization
http://www.itcilo.org/en

Master CoDe students and alumni have a Facebook group of their own:
Have a look at:
COMPARATIVE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (CoDe)

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

Next edition of the newsletter: end APRIL 2017

Please send in your contributions by the middle of April 2017.

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