Master CoDe News

21 October 2016

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Erasmus Mundus Master Code Website
www.erasmusmundus-code.eu/

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GRADUATION

Master CoDe 2014/16

10 September 2016 | Budapest

Another successful edition of Master CoDe!

The 2014/16 edition of the program came to an end this September, at the Corvinus University Budapest with eight students successfully defending their Project Works in front of the Defence Committees consisting of representatives of the four partner universities.

On Saturday, 10 September 2016, two years of study and research were fulfilled with the awarding of the degree **Joint European Master in Comparative Local Development** to these successful young people.

The Graduation Ceremony of this 2014/16 edition of Master CoDe took place at the Corvinus University Budapest, attended by friends and family of the students as well as by students of the new 2016/18 edition.

*The **Welcome Speech** at the Graduation Ceremony was given by Prof. Zoltán Szántó, Vice-Rector of Corvinus University and Master CoDe EM Coordinator.*

*The **Lectio Magistralis** was given by Sinisa Zaric of the University of Belgrade.*

*The title of the lecture was **The Role of Crowdsourcing in Bettering the Local Governance.***

Scenes from Master CoDe 2014/16 Graduation

10 September 2016 | Budapest

NEW GRADUATES!!

These new Master CoDe graduates come from the following countries:
Bangladesh - Belgium - Ethiopia - Macedonia - Romania - Serbia - Uzbekistan

Graduation was followed by the International Academic Committee Meeting of Master CoDe, attended by the members of the Academic Committee of the four partner universities (Corvinus University of Budapest, University of Regensburg, University of Ljubljana, and University of Trento) .

OFFICIAL OPENING & INTRODUCTORY WEEK for the 2016/18 edition of EM Master CoDe

The new edition of Master CoDe together with the Academic Director, Prof. Péter Futó, Dr. Julianna Faludi, Executive Director, Prof. I. Trevisan (University of Trento) and Peter Haller (University of Regensburg)

September 2016 saw the **Official Opening** of the new Master CoDe edition 2016/18 at Corvinus University Budapest.

Julianna Faludi, Master CoDe Executive Director, (photo on left) opened the new edition officially with a welcome to all and an introduction of the Corvinus University to the new students.

During this introductory week, the students were given an overview of the institution, important information regarding their studies and the program, visited the library, and completed formal registration.

From 5 to 8 September, the new students presented their project work proposals, followed by discussions led by the Academic Director, Prof. Futó.

Prof. Futó (photo right) closed the introductory program with a lecture entitled "**What is Local Development?**"

Furthermore, during this period, representatives of the Partner Universities (University of Trento, University of Regensburg and University of Ljubljana) gave short introductions of their institution to the students.

Master CoDe 2015/17
Summer 2016 in Regensburg
or "Winter is here"
or "Summertime, and the livin' is easy"

It all began on a stormy, rather unpleasant day in the beginning of March 2016. Eighteen students arrived from the sunny town of Budapest. The train station greeted them with the charms of concrete and glass, a harsh and dull environment which they were forced into by the conductor.

Bags were unloaded, the burden of the journey written on the tired faces of the students. Realizing the one thing that took Game of Thrones six seasons to figure out: *Winter is here!*

Looking around, waiting, freezing, hoping the journey had come to an end, they were greeted by some friendly folk from the University of Regensburg. Peter Haller, the coordinator of the Master CoDe program in Regensburg as well as myself, Max Reisch, the tutor for the semester, had arrived, just shortly before at the train station, to accompany them to the dorm.

Once we figured out the room arrangements as well as the neighborhood of the dorm, we showed the students around campus. Soon after that, the full force of German bureaucracy came down on the small group. Network access to the university's internet, forms and papers regarding insurance, housing and migration as well as 30 pages long question forms with fun questions like: "*Are you a terrorist? Yes/No*" were testing the patience of all of us, but in the end nearly everybody had the Visa for Germany on the second day!

The days went by and the weather became much nicer. The first two months where filled with classes as well as other activities. Prof. Dr. Möller even organized a former employee / town guide to give the students a personalized tour which focused on the urban development of Regensburg.

A lot of students decided to travel in Europe for a time after the end of official classes.

For those who stayed for internships or other University classes, Regensburg was getting nicer every day. Summer sneaked up on Bavaria, and all of a sudden the nights at Bismarckplatz got longer and longer. One evening in June, Prof. Möller invited all the students over to his beautiful garden for a barbecue.

The photo shows it's true what Ella Fitzgerald was singing in the 60s: *"Summertime, and the livin' is easy!"*

By Max Reisch

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

of

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

"Tradition, Innovation and Reform in Local Development"

The Conference Proceedings of the International Conference **"Tradition, Innovation and Reform in Local Development"** which took place in September last year at the Corvinus University Budapest are now available.

The editors of the Proceedings are Dr. Julianna Faludi and Prof. Zoltán Szántó.

The Academic Reviewer is Prof. Péter Futó.

As the editors point out in the preface of the Conference Proceedings, an **interdisciplinary perspective** is needed in order to fully understand Local Development, i.e. "the interaction of a complex mosaic of measures, resources and actors".

The various sections of the conference (*Entrepreneurship and Governance; Social Dimensions of Local Development; Economic Structure and Local Development*, to name just some) tackled "this kaleidoscope of themes" that has evolved around tradition, innovation and reform.

From all the papers submitted, these proceedings contain a selection which embodies the variety of approaches and localities put forward.

The Conference Proceedings are available on the Master CoDe webpage (http://www.erasmusmundus-code.eu/) and can be downloaded free of charge.

My experience as a Mandela Washington Fellow and my encounter with President Barack Obama

by GELINE ALFRED FUKO (Tanzania),
Master CoDe 2010/2012

In mid June 2016, I started my journey from Tanzania to United States of America to attend the Mandela Washington Fellowship Program. The Mandela Washington Fellowship Program is a flagship program of President Obama's Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI). I spent six weeks in the US under the coordination of the Presidential Precinct which coordinates five other institutions, namely: the University of Virginia, College of William and Mary, Morven Farm, Montpelier and Monticello highlands.

While in the US, I spent three weeks in the University of Virginia and got to learn a lot on leadership. The theme of the first week was Community Building and Innovative Civic Leadership.

We reflected on our own leadership styles, explored the core qualities of effective civic leaders, and developed a strong sense of trust, spirit of cooperation, and group cohesion. We were also introduced to design thinking, a cutting-edge methodology for creative, human-centered problem solving that fuels innovation and the concept of social entrepreneurship.

I had an opportunity to spend some time with an American family and to get to learn about American culture and traditions but also to make friends. The way the session was designed allowed me to meet with American peer collaborators. With them we exchanged ideas and experience. For example, I met with the Executive Director of The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free of speech: it was great exchange.

Cont.

In the second week, we moved to the 3,000 rolling acres in Morven Farm where we focused on challenges in leadership, including effective communication and the thematic issues of gender, climate change and resilience, and religious and ethnic diversity. I had an chance to be in the home of the third President of the US, President Thomas Jefferson who is a father of the Declaration of Independence. We spent time in his home and learnt of his work and his life and how he shaped American values. Not only that, but also I had the privilege of visiting the house of former US President James Monroe, the 5th US President, and learn of his work.

After three weeks at the University of Virginia, the fellows moved to Montpelier, a county in the state of Virginia and spent a week in the home compound of President James Madison, the 4th US President. We were hosted by the Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution. While in Montpelier, I had an opportunity to learn more on constitution and constitutionalism, rule of law, and principles of democratic government. I participated in the constitution-making simulation session where I learned a lot on how to move from fraction to coalition as a country.

After a week of formal and informal classes, the fellows moved to Williamsburg and spent two weeks in the College of William and Mary. I had a series of sessions and the theme was on Approaches to Development, with an emphasis on community participation and transparency. Both the University of Virginia and the College of William and Mary are among the top best American Public Universities.

My time as a Mandela Washington Fellow in the US has exposed me to a number of networking events with US Government Officials, Legislators, Members of Judiciary, Non Governmental organizations as well as academicians. I attended a US-Africa Business Forum in Washington DC and met with top American Businessman and Investors. I spent about six hours with them during the forum and gain a lot on the business side and governance. I attended several sessions on community work and learned more on how a community can set structures to support community members who are in need.

After six weeks of learning, I had an chance to attend a **Presidential Summit** in Washington DC from 1st to 3rd August, 2016 and met with the President of the United States of America, President Barack Obama who in his speech recognized my work of setting up an Online Public Database on Constitutional Resources and providing free access to public.

I am a lawyer and a Human Rights Activist working with a local NGO called Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in Tanzania. At the moment I work as a researcher to run the first and only Tanzania's Online Public Database on Constitutional Resources as well as Information Centre on Constitution issues. This project was introduced in order to increase public access to constitutional resources. Available at the following url http://katiba.humanrights.or.tz

Geline Alfred Fuko **gfuko@humanrights.or.tz**

The Legal and Human Rights Centre and other information

Legal and Human Rights Centre, Tanzania
The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) is a private, autonomous, voluntary non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit sharing organization envisioning a just and equitable society. It has a mission of empowering the people of Tanzania, so as to promote, reinforce and safeguard human rights and good governance in the country. The broad objective is to create legal and human rights awareness among the public and in particular the underprivileged section of society through legal and civic education, advocacy linked with legal aid provision, research and human rights monitoring.
http://katiba.humanrights.or.tz

YALI – Young African Leaders Initiative
https://yali.state.gov/

Mandela Washington Fellowship
https://yali.state.gov/washington-fellowship/

IREX is a nonprofit organization that builds a more just, prosperous, and inclusive world by empowering youth, cultivating leaders, strengthening institutions, and extending access to quality education and information.
https://www.irex.org/
https://www.irex.org/people/geline-alfred-fuko

Presidential Precinct
http://presidentialprecinct.org/

The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Speech
http://tjcenter.org/

President Obama at August Summit:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWzRXmwfYT4

In the January 2016 edition of Master code News, we published an interview with **Gratian Mihailescu (Master CoDe 2010/12)** where he told us about his project: that of creating a global network of people who are passionate about the field of urban development.

That project is now becoming a reality! But there is still a lot of work to be done. Read what Gratian can tell us about **URBANIZE HUB**.

Urbanize Hub is an aggregator of ideas, opinions, projects and news about smart cities, urban planning and development and urban regeneration.

In the short term, our intention is to operate as a communication tool in order to disseminate information about projects, ideas, policies and expertise related to sustainable urban development. The long-term objective of the platform is to create a worldwide community by bringing together responsible citizens, designers, architects, academics and experts interested and involved in the discussion around future cities.

The following categories of subjects will be discussed on our platform:

- **Urban Regeneration:** issues of housing, social inclusion, architecture and design, civil society actions.
- **Future Cities:** subjects related to technology and innovation; green cities.
- **Community Ideas & Opinions:** where experts and specialists in various fields can contribute ideas and solutions for future cities.
- **Projects & Cities:** projects that have been implemented or that are being planned in various cities and could become good examples for others.
- **Renewable Energy:** how it can be used practically and creatively to make a city more sustainable.
- **Waste Management:** an important industry for the future of the planet.

The platform will be fresh, friendly and easy to use; the articles short, easy to understand, and some focused around multimedia content like photos and videos.

Some articles revolve around niche areas of expertise, especially in the Community Ideas and Opinions section, but most of the subjects are accessible to anyone in terms of format and language.

In the past six months a lot of work has been done offline on a voluntary basis and based on the passion of our members. We've worked hard to optimize the content of the articles.

Cont.

The design and the logo also required a lot of work, as did the structure of the platform. It contains information about many areas of interest around urban development, but they can be easily accessed due to the friendly structure of the website.

We want to offer information that is easily understood by everyone, in order to have as many readers as possible and we will try to have a variety of themes and categories in order to attract as many readers as possible.

This will require intense activity from both readers and contributors. This activity will include frequent article writing (2 or 3 articles per day) and high involvement and exposure in social media (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn).

It is a unique platform in this sense, because it brings an integrated and comprehensive approach to the concept of urbanization, with attention given to the issues of social inclusion, technology and innovation, architecture and design, urban art, transport and environment.

In order to increase its impact, it needs two things: **consistency in publishing articles** and **attendance of networking events** like conferences or seminars held in various European cities.

The project has already been promoted in Brussels at events such as H2020 Info Day in September and European Week of Regions and Cities in October 2016. It will also be promoted at the Smart City Conference in Bucharest in November, and in the United States during the Global Leadership program in San Francisco in December.

Urbanize Hub will be present in San Francisco together with entrepreneurs from Google, Facebook and Apple.

The project will be launched in **October 2016** and it can be accessed at www.urbanizehub.com.

For this project to grow it needs to attract experts, academics and specialists in the fields we write about, people who could help empower and legitimize the information we publish.

If you are interested, and especially so Master CoDe Alumni and Students, you can contact me:

My e-mail is gratianmihailescu@yahoo.com.

My Skype address is **gratianmihai**

Facebook: you can find me on **Gratian Mihailescu**

and of course, on **Urbanize Hub**.

Master CoDe students meet the LADDER project

by Ana Maria Suciu (Master CoDe 2014/16)

As generations of Master CoDe students graduate, our alumni community becomes a resource for the newcomers.

In the opening week of Master CoDe in September 2016, I had the pleasure of presenting a project to the new students: a project in which I, myself, one of this year's graduate students, am involved in as part of my new job.

On behalf of the ENNA -- European Network of National Civil Society Associations, I introduced the LADDER project, an initiative which aims at enhancing and increasing the action of Local Authorities in EU DEAR policies. DEAR policies refer to development education and awareness raising. The students were able to see how a project promoting local development works in practice.

Funded by EuropeAid and implemented by ALDA together with 25 partners and 20 associates coming from 18 EU and 17 non EU-countries, LADDER is one of the ambitious projects that tackles development education through building capacity of the main stakeholders: local authorities, citizens and NGOs.

In my presentation, I briefly explained the complexities of LADDER -- Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education and Raising awareness.

For more information, visit http://www.ladder-project.eu/.

As students in Comparative Local Development, Master CoDe students often write essays and research papers on the themes the LADDER project explores. Some have taken the opportunity within the project and have become part of a citizen journalists' network, publishing their articles on the project website. To read their contributions, visit http://www.ladder-project.eu/?page_id=14658.

More about ENNA at www.ennaeurope.org. If interested in doing an internship with ENNA within the LADDER project, please contact me.

My Email: **ana.suciu at ennaeurope dot org**.

Ana Maria, after her presentation (on far right) with students and professors

NOTICE BOARD

MASTER CODE WORKSHOP at the University of Trento

Within the framework of the Joint European Master program (EM Master CoDe) the University of Trento (Department of Economics and Management), in collaboration with Corvinus University Budapest, University of Ljubljana and University of Regensburg, is organizing a Workshop entitled:

The Dimension of Local Sustainable Development

to be held in Trento on **Friday, 18 November 2016**.

Master CoDe 2015/17 students at present in Trento for the 3rd semester of the program will be attending as well as representatives of the Partner Universities.

CoDe Alumni who may be in Trento on that date are obviously most welcome to attend!

For information, contact: master-code@unitn.it

Call for Applications

for Erasmus Mundus Incoming Scholar Fellowships in the Framework of the Joint European Master in Comparative Local Development Academic Years 2016/18

The call is designed for **international Scholars** to participate in the didactic and research activities of the Joint European Master programme. The following universities offer the Joint programme: the Corvinus University of Budapest (coordinator, Hungary), the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), the University of Regensburg (Germany) and the University of Trento (Italy) in collaboration with the Russian State Social University (Russia), the University of Belgrade (Serbia), the Tshwane University of Technology (South Africa) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA) with the support of European Commission.

The duration of the programme is ***2 years*** (120 ECTS).
The official language of education is **English**.

The call can be downloaded on: http://erasmusmundus-code.eu

For the latest on the MASUD PARVES LIBRARY, Satkhira (Bangladesh), visit the FaceBook page (**MASUD PARVES LIBRARY**) and website : **http://www.masudparveslibrary.com/**

Master CoDe students and alumni have a Facebook group of their own:

Have a look at:

COMPARATIVE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (CoDe)

Erasmus Mundus Master Code Website
www.erasmusmundus-code.eu/

Master CoDe Newsletter
mastercode.news@gmail.com

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

Next edition of the newsletter: end JANUARY 2017

Please send in your contributions by 10 January.

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