



QA Report on dissemination

Capacity-Building in the Field of Higher Education: INTENSE



Volume of QA Reports on Dissemination

INTENSE: Integrated Doctoral Program for
Environmental Policy, Management and
Technology

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Integrated Doctoral Program for Environmental Policy, Management and Technology / INTENSE

Project partners:

P1 Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMU)

P2 University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)

P3 University of Latvia (LNU)

P5 Odessa State Environmental University (OSENU)

P6 V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (KGNU)

P7 Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine (IECNASU)

P8 National University of Mongolia (NUM)

P9 Khovd University, Khovd

P10 Hanoi University of Science and Technology/TRUONG DAI HOC BACH KHOA HA NOI (HUST)

P11 Ho Chi Minh City University of Natural Resources and Environment (HCMUNRE)

Project aims and objectives

(1) To improve the practice of doctoral training and professionalise its governance by integrating PhD programs dealing with environmental policy, management and technology in 7 PCIs to 3 nationwide integrated doctoral schools (INTENSE NIDS), based on common Code of Operational Practices & research framework (COP & RF) adhering to the principles of the EHEA, and consolidating these schools into the INTENSE International Network.

(2) To enhance doctoral training provision by integrating and upgrading existing learning contents that can be used for doctoral provision (total 80 ECTS by M48), infrastructure for accessing the courses and setting & monitoring flexible research training trajectories and their progression (INTENSE open education platform, including sustainable mechanisms for its development and maintenance) and shared access to research facilities.

(3) To build the capacity of PhD students to improve their published output, through a strengthened multidisciplinary approach to doctoral training, aided by facilitating access to global and EU research networks (including facilitation of academic mobility), development of transferable skills, promotion of joint research/supervision arrangements and interdisciplinary and practice-oriented thesis topics.



WP5: Quality plan

A principal aim will be to provide support in exploring an appropriate range of approaches to ensure the quality of project implementation and outputs, with the overall approach adopted from the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (QAA, 2014).

WG5.3 helps the vice-coordinator and the Steering Committee to oversee QA of staff development, IT deployment & dissemination. The WG will collect information about mobility streams and analyses it against the set training and development targets. For this an on-line system will be set-up, and all the PIs will be requested to submit to it information about the envisaged mobility at least in 3 days before the start of travel arrangements, and if no objections are raised by the coordinator or vice-coordinator, PIs may continue with travel arrangements; within a month after completing the mobility the PIs will be requested to submit supporting documents, and to post in the system a brief overview of the achieved objectives. WG5.3 will be tracking the progress in upgrading and deploying the IT systems against the project plan. WG5.3 will also oversee the implementation of the dissemination plan, checking the relevant deliverables against the timeline and milestones set in the INTENSE business plan.

The deliverables include:

- Setting-up an on-line system for monitoring travel for training and development purposes; deploying the system
- Setting an on-line system for monitoring staff time; deploying the system;
- Tracking the progress in upgrading and deploying the IT systems against the project plan;
- Overseeing the implementation of the dissemination plan (set-up in the INTENSE business plan), checking the relevant deliverables against the timeline and milestones set in the plan.



Quality assurance of dissemination

INTENSE web portal and social media publications.

Launching of the INTENSE web portal

Dates: January 2018 - September 2020

Coordinator: Odessa State Environmental University, Ukraine.

Web portal, hosted by P5, was launched on January 2018. The INTENSE project web portal <http://intense.network/> is available in English, Ukrainian, Mongolian and Vietnamese, and is under constant administration by OSENU team. Information on the performed activities is regularly updated.

QA measures and conclusions: QAT team organized the discussion of the web portal. ToRs for the website have been omitted from the ToR development plan, because the web portal has been launched earlier on the project timeline, and was getting improved following the partners' feedback. All partners noticed that the current version of the portal was useful and well organized.

INTENSE promotion plan

Dates: August 2018 - September 2020

Coordinator: Odessa State Environmental University, Ukraine.

The developed Promotion plan ("INTENSE Dissemination Strategy"), encompassing a range of activities increasing the visibility of the INTENSE and its deliverables, is available from the project web-site <http://intense.network/results/dissemination/>.

QA measures and conclusions: QAT team organized the discussion of the draft promotion plan. After receiving the feedback from partners and making minor amendments, the Promotion plan was accepted at the Steering Committee Meeting of 6 August 2018.

Report circulated on August 2018.

Monitoring and promotion of the project media coverage

Dates: October 2018 - October 2021

Coordinator: Estonian Life Science University (EMU), Tartu, Estonia

Monitoring and promotion of media coverage is maintained at the web-page:

<http://intense.network/intense-in-media/>.

QA measures and conclusions: QAT team collected the feedback from partners in order to improve the visual representation of the media coverage at the project web-site.

INTENSE FB group and Twitter account

Dates: December 2017 - October 2021

Coordinator: Odessa State Environmental University, Ukraine.

FB and twitter accounts were set up and are constantly updated:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/INTENSE.Doctoral/> (203 participants),

<https://twitter.com/INTENSE2017>.

QA measures and conclusions: The use of the twitter account has been suspended following a survey circulated to project participants. All partners make posts comments in the project FB account, which is moderated by OSENU and EMU team.



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INTENSE booklets and leaflets are created and distributed

Dates: October 2018 - September 2021

Coordinator: Odessa State Environmental University, Ukraine.

INTENSE promo materials: a leaflet, a poster and a banner, are developed and collected at:

<http://intense.network/results/dissemination/>.

QA measures and conclusions: QAT team collected the feedback from partners in order to improve quality of the promo materials. The final versions were highly appreciated and widely circulated.

INTENSE business plan.

Development of the INTENSE exploitation and dissemination strategy

Dates: June 2018 - May 2020

Coordinator: Odessa State Environmental University, Ukraine.

The INTENSE exploitation and dissemination strategy encompassing the range of dissemination and exploitation activities during the project lifetime to ensure the post-project sustainability was developed by a work group led by P5. The strategy is available from

<http://intense.network/results/dissemination/>.

QA measures and conclusions: QAT team organized the discussion of the draft strategy. The strategy was circulated to partners and made openly available by July 2018. After receiving the feedback from partners and making minor amendments, the exploitation and dissemination strategy was accepted at the Steering Committee Meeting of 6 August 2018.

Report circulated on August 2018.

Development of INTENSE business plan for post-project operations

Dates: May 2020 - January 2021

Coordinator: Estonian Life Science University (EMU), Tartu, Estonia

The draft business plan has been circulated in May 2020, and the final version (with feedback by partners integrated) was made available in January 2021.

The final version of the business plan is available from http://intense.network/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/intense_business_plan.pdf

QA measures and conclusions: The development work was subcontracted to ensure an “outsider perspective” and have advantage of experience not available in the project consortium. A note on the draft business plan was circulated at the Steering Committee meeting of 12 May 2020.

Report circulated on January 2021.

INTENSE research conferences.

Organisation of the 1st INTENSE conference in Lviv

Dates: 7-9 November 2019

Coordinator: Institute for the Carpathians' Ecology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (IECNASU), Lviv, Ukraine.

Open Science Conference ‘Smart Green & Smart Blue: exploring nature-based solutions and ecosystem services approaches in environmental management, planning & policy’ took place in Lviv, Ukraine, on 7 – 9 November 2019. The conference was organized by the Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine under the Erasmus+ CBHE INTENSE project with support from Lviv City Council, and in cooperation with Estonian University of Life Sciences, Kharkiv V.N. Karazin National University and Odessa State Environmental University.



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The event was attended by the academic staff from Austria (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna), Estonia (Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu), Latvia (University of Latvia), Mongolia (National University of Mongolia, Khovd University), Vietnam (Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Ho Chi Minh City University for Natural Resources and Environment) and Ukraine (Odessa State Environmental University, Kharkiv V.N. Karazin National University, Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians of the NAS of Ukraine, Lviv Polytechnic National University, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukrainian National Forestry University), as well as representatives of the City Planning Department of Lviv City Council.

On 7 November 2019, a milestone event – the signing of the national and international agreements on establishment of the Doctoral School in Environmental Policy, Management and Technoecology – took place. On 8 November 2019, the conference continued and the INTENSE Coordination Meeting was held to discuss the state of development of e-learning courses and MOOCs on sustainable development, as well as organizational issues.

The Lviv conference website with the programme and the book of abstracts available is accessed via <http://intense.network/open-science-conference-in-lviv-2019/>, and the report is at <https://intense.network/open-science-conference-smart-green-smart-blue-in-lviv-ukraine/>.

QA measures and conclusions: The conference took stock of smart green and smart blue solutions for urban and territorial sustainability, with a particular focus on transfer and applicability of policy, management and technology innovation. QAT members had discussed the event with selected participants to receive their feedback about the process and the outcomes of the event. Participants stated that event was helpful and well organized. The overall impression was that the event gave many insights into research agenda of PhD students.

Report circulated on November 2019.

Organisation of the 2nd INTENSE conference in Tartu

Dates: 5-7 October 2021

Coordinator: Estonian Life Science University (EMU), Tartu, Estonia

Open Science Conference ‘Socio-ecological resilience across Eurasia: innovation for sustainability transition’ was held on 5-7 October 2021 online and on-site in Tartu, Estonia.

The conference was organised by Estonian University of Life Sciences under the project Erasmus+ CBHE INTENSE in cooperation with other partners of the INTENSE project. 37 participants took part in the conference in total. Keynote speakers: Raimonds Ernšteins (University of Latvia), Hans-Peter Nachtnebel (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria), Kalev Sepp (Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia).

To ensure the safety of conference participants, most of the conference talks were done online, only with a relatively small group present in the venue – representatives of the conference hosting institution (Estonian University of Life Sciences) and guests from nearby locations.

The Tartu / hybrid conference website with the announcement, program and the abstract book available is accessed via <http://intense.network/conferences/tartu2021/>, and the report is at <http://intense.network/open-science-conference-in-tartu-estonia/>.

QA measures and conclusions: The conference took stock of socio-ecological resilience across Eurasia, with a particular focus on transfer and applicability of environmental policy, management and technology innovation for sustainability transition. QAT members organized the discussion of the event. The overall impression was that the event was well organized and gave many insights into PhD research agenda.

Report circulated on October 2021.



INTENSE governance infrastructure.

Overseeing the activities of national INTENSE schools and the INTENSE International network by the Coordinator, vice-coordinator and a dedicated working group

Dates: March 2019 - October 2021

Coordinator: Estonian Life Science University (EMU), Tartu, Estonia

The Coordinator, vice-coordinator and a dedicated working group performed monitoring of the activities of national INTENSE schools and the INTENSE International network. The international and national schools were launched, and formal institutional arrangements were completed. Mongolian and Ukrainian school accepted 6 new institutional members.

Establishment and activity documents are available from the pages of schools at:

<http://intense.network/intense-school/>.

QA measures and conclusions: The activities of doctoral schools are reflected in the QAT report. Activity reports and plans for the current academic year by national doctoral schools (programs) are available from <http://intense.network/intense-school/intense-mn/>, <http://intense.network/intense-school/intense-ua/>, <http://intense.network/intense-school/intense-vn/>

INTENSE research training.

Overseeing INTENSE research training and development of appropriate curriculum contents

Dates: August 2019 - October 2021

Coordinator: Estonian Life Science University (EMU), Tartu, Estonia

The coordinating unit performed regular monitoring of INTENSE research training and development of appropriate curriculum contents, including the monitoring of accreditation processes, availability of teaching and learning materials and proper paperwork (including proper QA reporting).

QA measures and conclusions: Monitoring of the INTENSE research training by the coordinating unit is reported to the Steering Committee and the GAP meeting. The QA process completeness for research training is reflected in the QAT report.

Overseeing and supporting network learning opportunities, such as webinars

Dates: April 2021 - December 2021

Coordinator: Estonian Life Science University (EMU), Tartu, Estonia

The INTENSE international webinar series ToGo ran from 29 September 2021 till 29 December 2021. The webinar was held via ZOOM and webcast through the YouTube channel of INTENSE. The lectures were recorded to be available till the end of the academic year 2021/22.

Joint research seminar was launched by the Khovd State University jointly with Mongolian National University and Mongolian University of Life Science between April and December 2021. Venue: Khovd and Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

QA measures and conclusions: The information on the INTENSE international webinar series ToGo is available at <http://intense.network/webinar2021/>. The information on the INTENSE Mongolia webinar series is available at <http://intense.network/events/webinar-mn-2021/>. QAT team organized the discussion of the events. Participants remarked that webinars were helpful and well-organized.