



Harvard University in Tuscany

Sustainability Challenges for Rural Landscapes.

The course will be offered as a distance course, with weekly sessions

How can residents of rural landscapes prosper from a sustainability paradigm? Harvard University Extension is offering an open enrollment course **Sustainability Challenges for Rural Landscapes** -Evaluating American versus European Practices and Policies from Tuscany (ENVR E-143) through its Sustainability and Environmental Management (SEM) masters degree program. The course will meet weekly online starting 27 Jan 2015, then in residence for a twelve-day intensive learning experience, 26 April - 9 May, at Spannocchia (www.spannocchia.com), an historical Tuscan estate property near Sienna (photo: Prof. Mark Leighton, course coordinator).



- Application (due November 15): www.extension.harvard.edu/courses/24236.

The Cyprus Institute as MENA regional node for Future Earth



Our partner **The Cyprus Institute** has recently been selected to become the MENA regional node for the Future Earth program, the global research platform providing the knowledge and support to accelerate our transformations to a sustainable world. In this function, The Cyprus Institute is going to play a major role in defining and implementing a research agenda in line with Future Earth's main goals and objectives with partners in the MENA region.

- More information: www.futureearth.org

7th Euromediterranean Dialogue on Public Management

An important occasion to share projects, experiences of public management and governance



On October 9, 2014 **MED Solutions** was presented at **MED7, the 7th Euromediterranean Dialogue on Public Management**, which this year was held at the University of Tor Vergata in Rome. In his speech, entitled "The Mediterranean SDSN and the Challenge to Climate Change: from Cradle of Civilization to Cradle of Sustainability?".



Professor **Simone Borghesi** (University of Siena) presented the main features of **The network**, the results obtained so far and the prospects for the Future at the MED Institutional Platform (chaired by professor Robert Fouchet, University Aix-Marseille).

Call for contributions at the EMNR Working Paper Series

MED Solutions partner **LUM Jean Monnet** launched the call for the Economics and Management of Natural Resources (EMNR) Working Paper Series. The EMNR WP Series will actively contribute to knowledge advance in the area of SDG 10, "transform governance for sustainable development. The deadline for submitting papers regarding this topic is January 31, 2015.



- More information: www.lum.it/ita/p/166/emnr-working-paper-series-issn-2385-068x

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The University of Siena and the Spring of the Tunisian Constitution



This is a crucial moment for **Tunisian society**. Following the approval of a new Constitution in January, in fact, the Tunisian Institutions are increasingly committed to consolidating the system and democratic structure provided for by this fundamental Charter. On October, 26th the first legislative elections of the new democratic era will be held, while a Presidential election will be held at the end of November. Thanks to its particular geographic position in the Mediterranean, and to its own constitutional experience, Italy can play a decisive role in fostering and reinforcing dialogue between the two countries.

In this context, the conference **“Tunisia: The Constitutional Spring”** will be held on Friday 7th November 2014 in the University of Siena’s Aula Magna, from 9.15 am.

The event is organized by the **University of Siena**, in the framework of its activities as **Mediterranean coordinator of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**, and represents the conclusion of the project “Activities to support the constituent process and affirmation of decentralization in Tunisia”, carried out as part of the Region of Tuscany’s international activities and in particular those of the Steering Committee for the Mediterranean. This project, which is also backed by the Province of Siena, has seen the involvement of the **Universities of Carthage and Sousse** as partners and has developed through a series of legal training and advisory activities, mainly dedicated to the topic of decentralization, aimed at university students, officials, public administrators, and representatives of civil society. The University of Siena’s activities in Tunisia are related to the issue of social sustainability, including the protection of human rights and participation, as part of a strategic approach that is at the very centre of the University’s attention, focusing in particular on

The Tunisian Institutions are increasingly committed to consolidating the system and democratic structure provided for by this fundamental Charter.

the Mediterranean area. The day will be divided into two sessions. The morning session, chaired by professor **Massimo Toschi** (the President of the Region of Tuscany’s delegate for international cooperation), will include the presentation of six reports providing in-depth analysis on various issues of general interest. These will concern, respectively: the Tunisian Constitution within the framework of global constitutionalism (Prof. **Tania Groppi**, University of Siena), key points and actors in the constituent process (Prof. **Chawki Gaddes**, University of Carthage), the account of a member of the National Constituent Assembly (**Fadhel Moussa**, who, as well as being a member of the ANC, is also the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Carthage), the form of government (Prof. **Marco Olivetti**, LUMSA University, Rome), the constitutional catalogue of rights and obligations (D. **Irene Spigno**, University of Siena-Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila) and decentralization (Prof. **Lotfi Tarchouna**, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Sousse). The afternoon session, chaired by Prof. **Valeria Piergigli** of the University of Siena, will instead be dedicated to an in-depth look at individual issues. More specifically, the topics will be: the historical background (Dr. **Leila El Houssi**, University of Florence), the principle of secularism (Dr. **Pietro Longo**, University of Naples “L’Orientale”), the principle of gender equality (Prof. **Eleonora Ceccherini**, University of Genoa), public participation in the constituent process (Dr. **Tania Abbiate**, University of Siena), a comparative view of territorial organization (Dr. **Giammaria Milani**, University of Siena), independent constitutional authorities (Dr. **Stefania Spada**, University of Bari) and, lastly, the Constitutional Court (Dr. **Nicola Vizioli**, University of Siena).



The Impact of Climate Change in the Mediterranean region



At the **Policy Session on “Climate and Energy Policy in the Mediterranean Basin”**, organized by **ICCG, FEEM, and CCMC** in Istanbul last June 29th in the framework of the **World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists**, Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs pointed out that the Mediterranean region is one of the geographical areas most vulnerable to climate change, and that indeed climate change is already under way there. Among its most dangerous climate change impacts is the drying of the Mediterranean sea region, which will gravely jeopardize not only the entire ecosystem but also human dynamics. Some of the most important risks are: more frequent and intense droughts; more extreme storms and flooding; reduction of river flow (e.g. Nile, Tigris, Euphrates), with subsequent loss of hydroelectric power and drinking water; worsening of water quality, especially in dry seasons; and loss and changes in agriculture productivity, with serious consequences on food security. Another important consequence of climate change on the Mediterranean region is the growth of the potential for armed conflicts. All the previously mentioned impacts are very likely to create pressure concerning the appropriation of limited water and food resources, the worsening of human health conditions, and to provoke - although this has yet to be verified - unrestrainable migrations from countries characterized by more serious drought and storm conditions towards countries less affected by such events or better able to adapt to them. At the regional level there are a few strategy initiatives that could be undertaken, such as risk assessment; resilient actions in the sectors of agriculture, coastal protection, tourism, and public health; the modernization of regional energy and water infrastructure; and resilient urban development. **Teresa Ribeiro, Union for the Mediterranean**, called attention to the urgent need for adopting and implementing water and energy policies that are appropriate to regional needs, and for outlining an energy regulatory framework that is stable and harmonized. The creation of regional electricity and gas markets is fundamental both for

“Climate and Energy Policy in the Mediterranean Basin”. A report by **Isabella Alloisio, PhD, Scientific coordinator, ICCG and Researcher and Policy Analyst, FEEM.**

achieving a harmonized energy system and for guaranteeing minimum energy services to all, as well as enhancing political stability through energy cooperation. Dr. **Manfred Hafner, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei**, pointed out how energy cooperation has been a success story in the Mediterranean, especially in the gas market, where interconnections have been built from the northern to the southern shores of the Euro-Mediterranean region. Gas is still dominant, but renewable energies are gaining prominence in the energy plans of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMCs). Despite the global economic downturn and local political uprisings, investments in renewable energy sources have never stopped, and natural resources in the Mediterranean basin are still underexplored. So, the SEMCs renewable energy potential and the possibility for low-cost energy efficiency and demand-side management policies should be exploited for a sustainable energy transition in the SEMCs. This transition needs to find an appropriate financing structure which is well suited to the region and to stimulate public-private partnership agreements for renewable energy projects financing. The creation of a common Mediterranean electricity market could not only alleviate disadvantages linked to intermittent renewable energy supply, but also could encourage joint ventures among Mediterranean countries to share financing, technology, policy and political risks and therefore attract the needed private financial resources. In conclusion, a “Euro-Mediterranean Energy Roadmap” for a sustainable socio-economic development of the region is an urgent need.

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MED Solutions

MED Solutions welcomes 5 new partners on board!

Our new partners from the Mediterranean region!



Coastal and Marine Union (EUC)
Leiden, Netherlands

EUC is a civil society organization dedicated to conserving and maintaining healthy seas and attractive coasts for both people and nature. EUC advocates best practice by developing coastal and marine policies, mobilizing experts and stakeholders, providing advice and information, and implementing demonstration projects. It has expertise in responsible tourism, sustainable fishery and the use of renewable energy.



Forética
Madrid, Spain

Forética is a civil society organization operating as a business-led membership network and providing customized services to business on all matters related to sustainability management. Its expertise ranges from insights into how to develop a code of conduct, assess and report on materiality, valuing non-financial performance, social investment strategies, volunteering programs, training, awards to research and events aimed at raising awareness on sustainability issues.



Hellenic Pasteur Institute (HPI)
Athens, Greece

HPI is a research institute with strategic objectives in line with the current European Scientific Community requirements. Main objectives pertain to activities in: biomedical research to public health services, vaccines and biological agents production, and education of scientists. The HPI is dedicated to the fight of diseases and it can contribute to SDGs through this mission and its high research and humanist profile.



KEDGE Business
Marseille, France

KEDGE aims at developing managers' talents and supporting them throughout their lives. It trains innovative, ethical and socially responsible entrepreneurs, equipped to respond to companies' needs and contribute to their development. KEDGE is implementing several projects with other institutions based in countries from the South shore of the Mediterranean, focusing on the research clusters of • CSR and Sustainable Development • Territories, Well-Being and Public Health • Euro-Mediterranean Affairs, Finance and Common Good.



University of Tor Vergata
Rome, Italy

Tor Vergata University's Faculty of Economy has a Department of Studies in Corporate Governance and Philosophy, supporting international cooperation with other academic institutions on research and dialogue in the Mediterranean, especially on the issues of environmental sustainability, studies on sustainable communities at local and national level, CSR and social innovation.

Image from "The Allegory of Good and Bad Government", which is included in the famous cycle of frescoes painted in 1338-39 by Ambrogio Lorenzetti in the Palazzo Pubblico of Siena, contrasting the effects of good and bad government on society and the environment.

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