

Press release

Thursday April 14th

Hamburg University of Applied Sciences has won together with CARPE-Network the Orange Carpet Award 2016

The Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW Hamburg) has won together with the "European consortium of universities of applied sciences" (CARPE) the Orange Carpet Award 2016 in the higher education category with its ESSENCE project. ESSENCE is a joint project involving the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, HU, as project coordinator, and three others European CARPE partners (Alcoi, Turku, Manchester) and three regional governments (Utrecht, Alcoi and Turku). The research project ESSENCE focuses on promoting the development of sustainable cities. The Orange Carpet Awards are an EP-Nuffic initiative aimed at sharing best practice in internationalization.

Launched in 2014, ESSENCE stands for "European Solutions for Sustainable Existing and New City Environments". As part of ESSENCE, the project partners have developed an innovative international course for students and professionals. The course design is an example of blended learning; an educational concept combining an electronic learning environment with "face-to-face" teaching, social media, video-conferencing and live streaming. ESSENCE also includes a practical project in the three participating municipalities involving groups of international students working on a sustainability issue and demonstrating their results in a competition.

"It is extremely inspiring working with international partners on the development of an educational programme that can be used by all five educational institutions. A total of 36 lecturers have been involved in it", says project coordinator Erlijn Eweg from HU. "Each of the partners approaches the issue of sustainable cities from a different perspective." Dipl.-Ing. (FH) Tessa Taefi, project leader of ESSENCE at the HAW Hamburg adds: "To me, the Essence course on smart sustainable cities is outstanding for three reasons: first of all, the course offers in-depth knowledge about how digital technology can support the sustainable development of cities, a hot-topic now and in future. Second, the course will enable students to develop a broad set of soft-skills, such as intercultural and interdisciplinary communication and teamwork; examining the effect of technical solutions within a complex context from different perspectives. Finally, the implementation in a modern, interactive, blended learning format offers a lot of flexibility and fun while learning."

In the coming decades important geographical, demographical and environmental changes will take place in the urban environment. The ESSENCE project follows the intention to develop integrated sustainable solutions for economic, social and environment problems in urban areas. To achieve this, a combination of co-operation between Higher Education Institutions and local authorities is needed, along with the need for a reinforcement of academic programmes that educate professionals in viable solutions for creating smart sustainable cities. The Essence project has been developed to facilitate such cooperation, and develop an interdisciplinary teaching programme in the process.

ESSENCE is an Erasmus+ project, working alongside the CARPE partners; Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW Hamburg), HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, Turku University of Applied Sciences, and the Universitat Politècnica de València.

Further information:

About ESSENCE: <http://husite.nl/essence/>

About CARPE: www.haw-hamburg.de/international/international-interkulturell/internationale-netzwerke/carpe-consortium.html

About HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht: <http://bit.ly/1U7iLPg>

About MMU Manchester Metropolitan University: <http://bit.ly/1HZFQOo>

Information in German: <https://www.haw-hamburg.de/news-online-journal/newsdetails/artikel/preis-fuer-internationales-kursprogramm.html>

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