

WP6- NA6: WP “Integration, outreach, and sustainability”
Deliverable D6.9: Comprehensive training course on techniques, outreach and integration to improve running a network-2, Month 13

Pilot course on scientific outreach and international partnership

March 29 – May 2, 2012

University of Helsinki, Finland

The aim of the course was to give an overview about several aspects of carrying out international research projects, and practice skills by a project done in student groups. The scope of the course was on EU FP7 projects. 21 students completed the course.

The content of the course included:

- University organization and funding
- International networks
- Research policy (scope on EU level)
- Preparation of an EU call
- Building up a research consortium
- Research evaluation
- EU project management
- Reporting
- Public outreach, policy contribution

The course consisted of a set of lectures in the beginning of the course, a visit to a meeting of the environmental committee of the Parliament of Finland, and group work demonstrating building and managing a large EU project.

The group work was done as a “role game”, where each student was given a role as an institutional representative for a consortium aiming to participate in a FP7 call. The students’ task was to build three consortia (7 students / institutes each) taking into account the boundary conditions and aims set by their institution (given as part of the role). The group work was evaluated, and feedback was given to the students.

As the course was given for the first time, and the technique of role play as a major learning method was also used for the first time in our community, the course was decided to be given locally as a pilot course, to be extended to other ACTRIS partners on the following years.

The course was intended for doctoral students to be included in their general PhD studies (transferable skills).

The key persons giving the course:

- Dr. Antti Lauri (course manager; regional funding mechanisms; doctoral training networks)
- Mr Ari Asmi (course assistant, role play coordinator)
- Dr. Marjut Kaukolehto (research infrastructures)
- Ms Anu Kolari (preparing and carrying out an EU project - lawyer’s aspect)
- Prof. Markku Kulmala (building international networks)
- Dr. Hanna Lappalainen (EU project management)

- Dr. Sanna Sorvari (national funding mechanisms; EU research policy)
- Dr. Tanja Suni (public outreach, policy contribution)
- Ms Satu Väisänen (preparing and carrying out an EU project)