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**ERASMUS + K2 –”Higher Education Innovation in Plant Diversity: flexible learning paths for emerging labour market- HEI-PLADI”**

**MOBILITY FOR**

**“PLANT TAXONOMY” PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES**

**Call for applications to 5 GRANTS**

**Academic Year 2016/17**

**DEADLINE: 6 February 2017 –5 p.m.**

The “Higher Education Innovation in Plant Diversity: flexible learning paths for emerging labour market - HEI PLADI” – is a pilot course financed by ERASMUS PLUS KA2 - Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices Strategic Partnerships for higher education program and it involves Universities of Molise, Cagliari, Lisboa, Malta, and Sofia, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, and the Polish Academy of Sciences Botanical Garden-Centre for Biological Diversity Conservation.

The program aims at:

1) stimulating the internationalization of Europe’s higher education systems and provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills in the field of plant diversity;

2) attuning higher education curricula to current and emerging labour market needs. Equip the young generation with “transversal skills” in the emerging labour market where plant diversity resources can offer an extraordinary opportunity to realize innovative benefits;

3) allowing students to inter-relate and learn from scientists coming from different backgrounds in an European context;

4) encouraging processes of international exchanges, integration and cooperation.

Within the HEI-PLADI pilot course students from each of the partner universities are allowed to participate to short-term training activities on “Practical Plant taxonomy” organized at the University of Molise.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

1. **Aims**

The training will be focused on practical activities related with the theoretical knowledge gained from the e-learning Plant taxonomy course. In particular, the practical activities will aim to develop skills for:

* Describe and identify a living plant using botanical terms
* Recognize large and common families of European and Mediterranean non flowering and flowering plants;
* Identify the most common plant species using dichotomous analytical keys, interactive or traditional, based on macroscopic and microscopic morphology
* Exhibit basic knowledge in anatomical approaches applied to Systematics
* Prepare a representative collection of plant specimens
1. **Course organization**

The course is organized at UNIVERSITY OF MOLISE - DEPARTMENT OF BIOSCIENCE AND TERRITORY (<http://dipbioter.unimol.it/eng/>)

Address: Contrada Fonte Lappone (86090 Pesche (IS)-ITALY).

Date: March -13th-18th 2017

Maximum number of participating students: 25 (five per university partner)

Contacts for course information: Prof.ssa Paola Fortini, e-mail fortini@unimol.it

1. **Assessment methods**

Assessment of practical activities will be by means of a written report where the aims of the activities carried out together with the methods and results obtained will be described and discussed.

It is required:

 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding;

 Emphasize students’ understanding of activities and their ability to conduct them;

 Ability to connect various topics with current issues

1. **Awarded ECTS**Students participating in the Practical Plant Taxonomy activity earning positive result on the written report will be awarded with 5 ECTS.

**STUDENTS’ APPLICATION**

The course is open to participation of undergraduate and post-graduate students (master/PhD level) of all relevant disciplines with genuine interest in gaining new competences in plant biodiversity management and conservation issues.

The positions per University are as follows: University of Molise (5), University of Cagliari (5), University of Malta (5), University of Lisboa (5), University of Sofia (5).

1. **The selection criteria for the participants are:**
* Good level of English (at least C1 or B2- testified by any language certificates such as TOEFL, IELTS, other). In absence of certificate, the level of English will be evaluated by an interview);
* enrolment in the virtual Plant taxonomy course of HEIPLADI pilot program and have satisfactorily completed the activities of study and passed the examinations earned positive results on the exam;
* basic knowledge on Botany and/or Plant taxonomy certified by the exams taken, the ECTS awarded and marks obtained.
1. **How to apply**

The signed application, drafted using the template available on the internet at

<https://dibt.unimol.it/HEI-PLADI/home/>) accompanied by :

* a short CV including the necessary information concerning the above mentioned criteria for the selection (Max length 2 pages);
* a motivation letter as cover explaining briefly why it is relevant for taking part in the Practical Plant Taxonomy activity (Max length 1 pages);
* copy of the identity card

must be submitted by:

1. students from University of Molise to prof.ssa Paola Fortini, University of Molise- DiBT, Contrada Fonte Lappone (86090 Pesche -IS)-ITALY e-mail: fortini@unimol.it
2. students from University of Lisbon:
3. students from University of Cagliari to Prof. Gianluigi Bacchetta, University of Cagliari, Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity, Viale Sant’Ignazio da Laconi 13 (09123 Cagliari) – ITALY email: heipladi.erasmusplusunica@gmail.com
4. students from University of Malta:
5. students from University of Sofia: to Lyuba Pencheva, University Botanic Gardens, Sofia University, Moskovska str., 49, Sofia, e-mail: ubg\_sofia@abv.bg

 **C- Deadline for applications**

The application should be submitted by February 6th 2017 at 5 p.m.

**D) Communication of selection results**

The selection of the students will be made accordingly with the selection criteria (See section **A** STUDENTS’ APPLICATION) by a committee of professors involved in the HEI-PLADI project.

The accepted students will be contacted personally by e-mail from the end of second week of February 2017.

**ORGANISATION AND FUNDING**

The course is free of charge. The HEIPLADI project is funded with support from the European Commission-ERASMUS PLUS program accommodation arrangements will be made by the organizers and costs of travel and subsistence will be reimbursed up to the maximum budget provided by the project

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| Student From | To | Travel cost reimbursement | Individual support |
| University of Molise | University of Molise | 0 € | 0 € |
| University of Cagliari | University of Molise | 275 € | 330 € |
| University of Malta | University of Molise | 275 € | 330 € |
| University of Sofia | University of Molise | 275 € | 330 € |
| University of Lisboa | University of Molise | 360 € | 330 € |

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE PROJECT WEBPAGE**:

 **https://dibt.unimol.it/HEI-PLADI/home/**