

# Who we are?

## Partner organisations of TowardsLCS

### University of Eastern Finland (UEF)

With over 15,000 students and almost 2,600 members of staff, the **University of Eastern Finland** (previous University of Kuopio and University of Joensuu) is one of the largest universities in Finland. The University of Eastern Finland is a multidisciplinary university, which offers teaching in more than 100 major subjects. The university comprises four faculties: the Philosophical Faculty, the Faculty of Science and Forestry, the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies. Since launching its operations in 2010, the University of Eastern Finland has appeared frequently, indeed annually, in several rankings listing the world's leading universities.

The framework for the research and teaching in the UEF strategy 2015-2020 is based on the global challenges: Aging and health, Learning in the digitized society, Cultures' encounter, mobility and borders, and Environmental change and sufficiency of natural resources. Among the top-level and strong research areas of UEF mentioned in the strategy are Forests, global change and bioeconomy, Borders, mobility and cultures' encounter, Sustainable governance of natural resources, and Learning in interactive environment.

The **Department of Geographical and Historical Studies** offers undergraduate and postgraduate education in Geography, Human Geography, Environmental Policy, Finnish History and General History. Research in the Department of Geographical and Historical Studies is focused on the mutual impacts of space, time and the environment. The research themes are marked by socio-cultural, as well as spatial characteristics, and regularly reflect transnational and comparative approaches. Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, including geoinformatics and geospatial methods, are used to achieve the goal of multi-disciplinary research. Three core areas are: border and peripheries, environment and sustainability, and well-being of society. Environment, sustainability and their governance processes are aspirations for research at the department. By focusing on mining, forests, land use, food, human-animal relations, climate change, and renewable energy, the most important focus of research is the interconnections and resilience of human societies and natural systems.

### Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland

**Parks & Wildlife Finland** is a unit of Metsähallitus, a state-owned enterprise that provides services related to Finland's natural resources (<http://julkaisut.metsa.fi/julkaisut/show/1925>). Parks & Wildlife Finland provides public administration services which are largely financed from the national government budget. It manages national parks, strict nature reserves, wilderness areas, national hiking areas and most of the state-owned public waters of Finland; protects and manages species, habitats and cultural heritage in state-owned protected areas; provides outdoor recreation services for hikers; and sells permits for hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. Parks & Wildlife Finland is committed to sustainable nature tourism: <http://www.metsa.fi/web/en/sustainablenaturetourism>

### Regional Council of North Karelia

The **Regional Council of North Karelia** (RCNK) is a public regional authority specified in the Regional Development Act (national law) in charge of economic development, regional planning and the creation of knowledge infrastructure. The goal of the Council is to promote regional development initiatives and regional balance, as well as environmentally sustainable development in co-operation with the state and local governments, businesses, universities, research institutions and non-governmental organizations.

The Regional Council of North Karelia is regional, politically guided, municipal coalition for the development and interest supervision in the region. It is responsible for regional planning and general coordination of regional development programs related to national and EU structural funds. The Council oversees the interests of the people, municipalities, organizations and enterprises and speaks on their behalf regarding both national and international questions. The work

of the Regional Council is intersectoral; it cooperates between different administrative sectors, organizations, business life and inhabitants. It outlines regional development targets, key projects and measures through the regional planning system that consists of the regional development plan, the regional strategic programme and the regional land use plan. Regional Council is also in charge of international activities of the region in its fields of activities.

## Adam Mickiewicz University

**Adam Mickiewicz University** is one of the largest academic centers in Poland. In addition to its facilities in Poznań, it has campuses in Gniezno, Kalisz, Piła and Ślubice. With the staff of around 3000 lecturers and 52,000 students, AMU ranks among the biggest academic center in Poland. Nearly 1,800 members of supporting staff ensure the smooth functioning of AMU. The University has fourteen faculties organized into institutes and departments, offers instruction in well over 100 disciplines and specializations, as well as several degree programmes to choose from. AMU has well-developed foreign relations and co-operates with about 350 universities across the world under bilateral agreements.

The **Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences** is closely connected with the tradition and history of Adam Mickiewicz University. The Faculty authorities especially cherish the memory of its most prominent academics and their achievements. While we do not forget the past, we also think of the future. It is a matter of deep concern for us to make our educational offer and research meet the requirements of European and world standards. That is why one of the Faculty's priorities is the development of strong international cooperation in the fields of education and research. The Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences is divided into several Institutes: Institute of Geoecology and Geoinformation, Institute of Physical Geography and Environmental Planning, Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Institute of Geology, Institute of Tourism and Recreation.

The Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences offers both, BA and MA full time study programs as well as extramural study programs, in: Geography (major field of study: Socio-Economic Geography, Hydrology, Meteorology and Climatology, Geoecology, Forming of Natural Environment, Geoinformation), Spatial Management (major field of study: Spatial Planning, Regional Development, Spatial Management, Development and Renewal of Cities, Towns and Rural Areas), Geology (major field of study: Stratigraphic and Prospecting Geology, Mineral and Water Resources Management, Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology), Tourism and Recreation (major field of study: International Tourism). Additionally, the Faculty offers PhD degree in Geography and Geology. There are also English-language courses in the areas: Geography, Environmental Sciences, Geology and Tourism. More than 3000 students study at the Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences and about 80 PhD students. At the Faculty are working 27 Professors (ordinarius), 33 Professors and tenured doctors (doctor habilitatus), 122 Doctors and 5 MA lecturers.

The tasks of the Institute of Physical Geography and Environmental Planning are carried out by the following departments: Department of Cartography and Geomatics – cartographic research methods in environmental planning, topography with reference to geomatic, geovisualization and history of cartography. Department of Climatology – issues of climatology with particular consideration of the relations between the atmospheric circulation and the values of meteorological elements and the occurrence of extreme phenomena. Department of Hydrology and Water Management – changes in the water cycle caused by natural factors and the increasing human impact, the conditions of groundwater circulation, the effect of anthropopressure on lakes. Department of Hydrometry – developing mathematical models of hydrological and hydrogeological processes, describing the migration of contaminants, measuring hydrogeological parameters based on column tests. Department of Integrated Geography – the integrated approach to man-environment interactions with respect to environmental and landscape management. Department of Soil Science and Remote Sensing of Soils – directional reflectance from soils and vegetation, digital processing of its images and hydraulic properties of soils.

## Miejska Pracownia Urbanistyczna

The City Studio for Urban Planning in Poznań, i.e. **Miejska Pracownia Urbanistyczna** (MPU) continues to follow the guidelines established by prof. Władysław Czarnecki in 1931. In its current form, the unit operates under the Resolution by the City Council of Poznań No. XXXIX/180/91 of 9 July 1991 as an organisational unit of the City of Poznań and the oldest such municipal unit in Poland.

MPU builds on the expertise of over 70 people. The results of its activities include, e.g. zoning plan for Poznań adopted at the end of 1994, land use plans for Poznań of 1999, 2008 and 2014. The unit's team has developed over 189 valid zoning plans which cover approx. 42% of the city's area. The next 152 plans covering approx. 28% of the city are being worked on. Over twenty years of its operation, MPU has established standards of working on such plans, aiming at reliable design and coherence of zoning plans in Poznań. Therefore, next to project teams, MPU has a standardisation team, review team and a technical board in place, comprising experts from outside the unit. The correctness of the plans is also supervised by the legal team, which assures effective protection of planning documents in court proceedings.

The main purpose of the unit, apart from drawing up the land use plans and zoning plans for Poznań, is handling procedural matters related to the plans. The unit also develops other specialised reports, such as environmental impact assessments, financial forecasts, transport studies etc. The unit's major strategic purpose is to improve the procedures of drawing up zoning plans and the team's ambition is to prepare as many plans in a year as possible. Professionalism and transparency of procedures is the basic objective of MPU's development strategy. The primary purpose of this strategy is to meet the needs of the residents of Poznań, demonstrated by the dedicated programme of public consultations. To date the unit's employees have carried out over 220 consultations, thanks to which the residents of our city may actively participate in drawing up the zoning plans.

## Zakład Zagospodarowania Odpadów w Poznaniu sp. z o.o.

**Zakład Zagospodarowania Odpadów (ZZO), Waste Management Plant**, is a small size enterprise specified in execution of tasks related to waste management of Poznań Agglomeration Area. In all the activities, Zakład Zagospodarowania Odpadów emphasises the protection of environment. This comes evident for instance in waste treatment as well as in bio-energy production. ZZO actively cooperate on many levels with the residents of Poznań Agglomeration Area. The company works with schools, kindergartens and municipal entities through organising educational events. Additionally, Zakład Zagospodarowania Odpadów works with students from colleagues and higher education, allowing them to complete internships and collect data for master theses. Thanks to its environmental friendly activity, ZZO contributes to improvement of human well-being and protection of natural resources.

Waste Management Plant in Poznan deals with the implementation of tasks related to the management of waste by:

- conducting of municipal waste landfill,
- conducting of collection points of problematic waste,
- carrying out emergency cleanliness.

The Company conducts activities related to environmental protection in the field of waste management, relying in particular on:

- Management of waste landfill;
- Conducting of selective collection of waste, including dangerous waste;
- Collecting of electrical and electronic waste;
- Waste recycling;
- Processing of biodegradable waste;
- Conducting of collection points of problematic waste and large-size waste;
- Conducting of ecological education;
- Production and sale of organic fertilizer;
- Production and sale of electricity and heat produced from biogas.

## University of Girona

The **University of Girona (UdG)** is a public university devoted to excellence in teaching and research. It participates in the progress and development of society through the creation, diffusion and criticism of knowledge related to sciences, technology, humanities, social sciences and arts with modern system for Curriculum development. UdG is one of the primary economic and cultural motors of the region with vocation of openness to all cultures. UdG is a part of the Catalan public university system and was established in 1991. It consists of 5 faculties, 2 schools and 6 centers and it

has more than 15,000 students and 1,100 professors. UdG participates in the social and cultural progress of developing countries. In these centers, courses are taught leading to 38 different qualifications (degrees, engineering degrees, diplomas, advanced degrees, and degrees in architecture and technical engineering).

**Department of Geography** (University of Girona) is located in the Faculty of Arts (Campus Barri Vell). Students participating in the project will be from the Degree in Geography, spatial planning & environmental management & Masters in Policy and Planning for Cities, Environment and Landscape. We participated also in the Mater of Environmental Change, analysis and management. So the topics related to climate change and how we can promote a low carbon society are key topics for us. See more:

<https://www.udg.edu/depgeo/Eldepartament/tabid/13635/language/ca-ES/Default.aspx>

[http://www.udg.edu/tabid/10104/Default.aspx?ID=3102G0209&language=\[language](http://www.udg.edu/tabid/10104/Default.aspx?ID=3102G0209&language=[language)

<https://www.udg.edu/imasters/PPCEL/MasterinteruniversitariPPCEL/tabid/21228/language/ca-ES/Default.aspx>

<http://www.udg.edu/imasters/Canviambiental/Presentaci%C3%B3/tabid/19825/language/ca-ES/Default.aspx>

## Girona Provincial Council

The Girona Provincial Council (<http://www.ddgi.cat>) is a local administration endowed with certain administrative powers to the government and administration of the province of Girona. Our institution supports 222 municipalities of Girona with the aim that all citizens benefit from quality public services. Thus, the Council is a tool that, by supporting councils, help to improve the lives of citizens in the province, especially those most disadvantaged. The main function of the Environment Department is the promotion of environmental policy and sustainability at the local level, the campaigns of subsidies being one of the most used tools.

Among the main lines of the action we consider:

- a) Promotion of energy efficiency, renewable energy and emission reduction,
- b) Fire prevention, promotion of sustainable forest management and promotion of forest biomass use,
- c) Conservation and management of natural heritage,
- d) Co-management of the Natural Park and Biosphere Reserve of Montseny,
- e) Promotion and coordination of programs and activities of environmental education and
- f) Support to the agricultural sector.

## Landscape Observatory of Catalonia

The **Landscape Observatory of Catalonia** ([www.catpaisatge.net/eng/index.php](http://www.catpaisatge.net/eng/index.php)) is an advisory body of the Government of Catalonia and the Catalan society in matters of landscape. It is a centre for thought, study, documentation and action on the landscape that promotes landscape initiatives and projects with the complicity of the stakeholders and which, over its 10 years of activity, has become the meeting place for the Catalan Government, the local administrations, universities, professional groups and, in general, Catalan society for everything concerning the landscape. One of the Landscape Observatory's main activities has been to draw up the Landscape Catalogues of Catalonia, established by the Landscape Protection, Management and Planning Act 8/2005, and designed to be a tool for characterizing landscape in order to bring it into regional and sectorial planning ([www.catpaisatge.net/eng/catalegs.php](http://www.catpaisatge.net/eng/catalegs.php)). At present, one of the lines of work of the Observatory is 'Climate change, energy and landscape, according to the development of its roadmap 'Catpaisatge2020' ([www.catpaisatge.net/eng/observatori\\_2020.php](http://www.catpaisatge.net/eng/observatori_2020.php)).