

The Rector of the University of Bologna welcomes the WACOMA students.

On Tuesday, Sept 17th 2019 the Rector of the University of Bologna, Prof. Francesco Ubertini, welcomed the students of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Water and Coastal Management (WACOMA) in via Zamboni 33, the historical address of the prestigious Italian University.

The Rector highlighted the value of the prestigious Erasmus Mundus Programmes, and was grateful to the European Commission for funding the Wacoma Program; he also underlined the commitment of the University of Bologna to promote students and staff mobility, and support the dissemination of EHEA principles. Then the students of the 2nd cohort were invited to introduce themselves one by one, providing some notes on their background and on the Country they come from (19 students were present from 15 different Countries) receiving some questions and a warm welcome by the Rector. Eight students from the Wacoma 1st Cohort also participated to the event, and went to the podium to present the topics of their thesis work. Wacoma is at the second year of activity; 23 students were enrolled in 2018/19 and 20 students are starting their path in 2019/20. Altogether, they represent almost 30 Countries, and 5 Continents. In the audience - in Sala Ulisse, Accademia delle Scienze, were also present Unibo professors and external scholars, several representatives of Associated Partners, administrative units of the University of Bologna. Prof Irene Laiz (institutional Coordinator for the University of Cadiz) described her University and its involvement in international Programmes. She also underlined that Erasmus Mundus Programmes offer extraordinary opportunities to young excellent students around the world that may concretely change their life. The Coordinator of the Programme Prof. Elena Fabbri illustrated the main features of WACOMA, focused on marine and coastal management and in particular on risk management and use of resources, mitigation and adaptation to global changes. Closing remarks were addressed with gratitude to the individuals and Partner institutions or companies who collaborated with Wacoma during this first year, and to the teams of the three Universities providing the Diplomas, Bologna, Algarve and Cadiz.