

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT UNIBO WITH WACOMA STUDENTS

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I am oceanographer and geographer and I have been working and teaching on Coastal Zone Management in Brazil as well as in some countries in South America, Africa and Europe for more than 30 years. My fields of study are regional and urban planning in coastal areas as the use of urban indicators for coastal management and governance. Actually I am teaching at the University of Vale do Itajaí – UNIVALI, Universidad de La Republica in Uruguay and in the State University of Rio de Janeiro – UERJ.

Coastal Zone Management is a dynamic process in which is necessary a coordinated strategy in order to develop and to implement in it for the allocation of environmental, socio-cultural, and institutional resources to achieve the conservation and sustainable multiple use of the coastal zone. WACOMA is actually one the most important Master Degree programmes all over the world that the brings theoretical and practical experiences in CZM for early career students. It also provides an important exchange between students and teachers of different countries in order to share the sense to understand of how coastal and ocean areas structured and function - not only as a natural system, but as well as the challenges to manage it taking into account technical, administrative, legal and institutional aspects.

The Program is responsible not only for offering all institutional and administrative support for teachers with all the necessary security and logistics, but also for making the institutions that receive teachers and academics as part of their own teaching and research institution in a way friendly and comfortable. The possibility of making practical classes with field trips in the coastal environment of the countries integrated into the Program represents a milestone in the productive experiences of students and teachers, because in addition to the experience in research institutions and their researchers, it is also possible to understand the challenge of management and coastal governance according to different social and economic realities. Since coastal management and governance is a kind of art which requires imagination and creativity for its execution considering the rigid process of the political cycle necessary to change reality - the course today represents an important step to take pure and applied science in a way smart and strategic for decision makers and society.

Thus, WACOMA consolidates itself as a course that must have permanent institutional support from the European Community, since the resources allocated are an example of a multiplier effect of excellence.

The WACOMA Program is consolidated in an efficient and effective way in its structure and functioning. The number of students is correct for the programmed activities, as well as for this interaction to be mature enough to exchange personal and professional experiences. The course development period is sufficient for academics to bring their knowledge baggage brought at the undergraduate level in the most diverse areas of knowledge. This leads to an important inter and transdisciplinary - and especially cultural - approach that flows into the synthesis necessary for the management and governance of coastal areas and hydrographic basins synthesized in the word integration. This becomes a passage between basic studies for an important step in

the life of all academics, which is the path to follow later - which can be academic life, private initiative or the business itself. The course has the characteristic of opening this view and leading to new perspectives on life.

After finishing my classes, I had the return of most students, however this return initially occurred during the classes taught. All academics were kind, caring, fun and respectful. Countless people got in touch to evaluate their ideas on the theme to be presented in the final work, as well as telling their experiences in Italy, Spain and Portugal. The enthusiasm of each represents the success of this Program, as well as its multiplying effect not only among students, but above all in what it may represent in the countries that will receive its young researchers in coastal management and governance, as well as in the possibility of other young people of all the represented countries come again for new Editions of the Program.

The opportunity to be in secular and world-renowned universities was extremely productive. The professors and researchers at the University of Bologna - Italy and the University of Cadiz - Spain were generous and we were able to assess the need for this integration to be continuous and long-term - opening up possibilities for integrated research projects between the Institutions.

The impact of COVID was immense with regard to the possibility of living with students in the classroom, as well as the possibility of developing field classes. Coastal management and governance becomes much more interesting with the experience of reality through case studies, as well as in understanding the problems and conflicts that occur in the coastal zone. The places where the course is developed are rich in examples for coastal management. Thus, the key word in this process was adaptation, as well as resilience. These can be considered as starting points for the development of the classes taught. I believe that the classes took place with great effectiveness and efficiency and quickly universities found answers to the problem generated by the pandemic. It is also a time to reinvent processes and bring new forms of teaching through creativity and innovation.

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