



# TRIANGLE Knowledge Alliance

The programme “Tourism Research, Innovation And Next Generation Learning Experience” (TRIANGLE) is creating a knowledge alliance of higher education institutes and businesses across Europe, delivering a sustainable tourism training system for tourism destinations and their SMEs.



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# Joining the TRIANGLE Knowledge Alliance



## Who we are

Within the framework of the EU's Erasmus Knowledge Alliance programme, the *ECOTRANS Network for Sustainable Tourism* has teamed up with leading European universities - *University of Algarve* (Portugal), *Eberswalde University* (Germany), *Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University* (France) and *MODUL University Vienna* - and businesses with core ICT and tourism interests (*Eau de Web* and *Forum Anders Reisen*) to create a collaborative online learning system for higher education institutes, based on innovation and cooperation that will offer quality

training on tourism sustainability. This training system is addressed to students, destination administrators, SMEs and workforce individuals linked to tourism activities in Europe's protected areas, green destinations and urban developing areas working towards sustainable development.

## Our aims

- ▶ Provide students with online and in-situ learning experiences, and marketable sustainable tourism certification and auditing skills at national and European levels;
- ▶ Create a continuously updated tourism sustainability database offering contents for quality course delivery to students;
- ▶ Cut the cost of tourism sustainability course material production and updating for higher education institutions;
- ▶ Offer market-relevant strategic information to SMEs wishing to engage in sustainable consumption and production.



## Who we are looking for

We are looking for higher education institutes wishing to deliver high-quality, market-relevant sustainable tourism development courses and willing to join our European-wide knowledge alliance.



# Benefits and Conditions of Membership



## Benefits for higher education institutions

- ▶ Access to specific responsible tourism management professional work tools including:
  - A tourism certification quick finder
  - A best practice browser
  - A travel Green Europe Mapping App
- ▶ Access to specifically designed courses and contents:
  - A *Sustainable Tourism Development* online course and handbook (potentially awarding ECTS points)
  - An online course in *Competence in Sustainable Responsible Travel and Tourism Certification*
- ▶ Access to a European internship destination and business network for students in the field of sustainable tourism;
- ▶ Privileged contributor access to an international sustainable tourism knowledge open access database (visibility opportunities).

Students can access blended learning experiences that involve both online learning environments and in-situ internship opportunities. Furthermore, these courses provide students with market-relevant skills, hence increasing employment opportunities after graduation.

## Conditions of membership

- ▶ Appointment of a contact person for your institution to deal with the alliance network management;
- ▶ Responsibilities for one or more knowledge base topics (according to specialisation) to administer the information work-flow;
- ▶ Becoming licensed to run the online courses (fee-based system) for students and professionals in the field;
- ▶ Awarding ECTS points to successful participants for both face-to-face and online courses;
- ▶ Taking part in the European-wide internship programme.

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## What project partners say about the TRIANGLE Knowledge Alliance

### Algarve University

Algarve is known as a mass tourism destination which makes it vulnerable to a variety of positive and negative impacts. Therefore, sustainability has become a priority for both academics and tourism stakeholders. The University of Algarve is integrating such issues in different master's programs such as "Tourism Economics and Regional Development" and "Sustainability in Rural Areas". These programmes aim to prepare students for entering tourism industries, improving their skills and connecting theory to practice. The TRIANGLE project - with its focus on sustainability and certification and using an innovative online teaching format - provides our students' curricula with a complementary set of skills.

### MODUL University Vienna

'In our MSc programmes, we have already integrated a number of courses addressing sustainability. The modules embraced by TRIANGLE will not only add additional content, but also provide an online learning environment of great value to our students. They will benefit from the blended learning approach using the TRIANGLE online resources that enrich classwork. They will also benefit from a wide network of industry partners across Europe allowing them to apply their theoretical knowledge in internships. It is also appealing to our faculty that learning content is continuously updated by international scholars and experts who bring an international perspective to the sustainability topics.'

### Eberswalde University

'We have a M.A. programme called "Sustainable Tourism Management" in which we already teach some of the topics embraced by TRIANGLE. For instance, we have a module entitled "CSR in Tourism" that covers certification. We closely cooperate with the tourism industry, and internships are a part of our curriculum. However, our material, our contacts and our best practice examples are, of course, limited. Much of it relates to Germany. So, we hope that with the TRIANGLE network we can greatly enrich our courses and expand our network into other parts of Europe, thus offering our students a truly European Master's programme.'

### Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University

'For a tourism institute such as IREST, located in a major urban destination facing important social and environmental challenges for its tourism products, sustainability is a key preoccupation of our students. Thanks to specifically designed tools, the TRIANGLE resources and network will encourage students to actively reflect on sustainability-related issues while pursuing their tourism studies, thereby better preparing them for responsible action in the workplace after graduation.'

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