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**Press Release**

Joint Master Programme in ***Marine Biotechnology -*** **Erasmus Mundus**

Τhe Agricultural University of Athens along with the European University ***EU-CONEXUS*** – concerning *Smart Urban Coastal Zone Sustainability*, upon the completion of the first one and a half year of its implementation, has fulfilled a great achievement, namely the planning and creation of a Joint Master Programme, entitled ***Marine Biotechnology***, amongst the eight (8) partners of that European Alliance. The particular Master Program has been sufficiently, certified by the European Approach pertaining to the Joint Programmes Quality Assurance. Indeed, the ambitious course in pursuit of the Joint Master Program is continuing to rise. The application made for the *Erasmus Mundus Program,* as far as its further recognition and funding is concerned, sets a perfect example of that upward track.

Besides, *the joint foreign-language Master Programme* - Erasmus Mundus was just recently, approved (on December 1 2021), being a high prestige Programme of Studies to be available by *EU-CONEXUS*. In addition, scholarships will be granted for the best Candidates for Master Programs worldwide specifically students, who wish to follow their MA studies in at least three (3) different *EU-CONEXUS* Countries. Such an accomplishment is about to offer opportunities for fostering the quality of Education, as well as strengthening the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area supporting the EU external action, too.

The beginning of the academic functioning of the foreign-language Master Programme is due to take place in September 2022.

It is worth mentioning that the *joint Master Program - Erasmus Mundus,* providing high quality academic education and professional competences in the area of Marine Biotechnology meeting all the challenges from a global perspective, aims at ensuring that Students will acquire on the one hand, substantial interdisciplinary training on fundamental issues associated with Marine Biotechnology and the possibility of tailoring their Programme of Studies to their ambitions, on the other hand, by means of their professional practice (practical work experience), their individual research (academic research integration - ARI)  and the elaboration of their doctoral thesis.

As a matter of fact, the Master Program in Marine Biotechnology comprises multiple mobility choices in the Alliance framework and the methodology approach of such learning puts students at the heart of its interest and concern. Furthermore, it contributes to the incorporation into a multicultural study group inasmuch a professional network, offering a riveting learning system based on actions in the particular field.

With reference to the structure of the Joint Master Program, entitled *Marine Biotechnology*, it is composed of a two-year full time Programme of Studies, taught in English, which leads to the awarding of a joint Master Degree (Master of Science) in Marine Biotechnology, organised in the following courses/content and location:

**1st Semester:** Core Courses in Marine Biotechnology (30 ECTS) - UCV Spain.

**2nd Semester:** Core Courses in Marine Biotechnology (24 ECTS) - LRUniv France.

Internship available in any Company (6 ECTS) -In any Country.

**3rd Semester**: Specification Courses of the selected track (16 ECTS), including the Course entitled “Academic Research Integration- ARI”, according to which groups of students from different tracks are going to collaborate on joint research programs (14 ECTS) - in any *EU-CONEXUS* University Partners.

**4th Semester**: Master Thesis (30 ECTS) - in any *EU-CONEXUS* University Partners, namely: La Rochelle Université (France), University of Zadar (Croatia), Agricultural University of Athens (Greece), Klaipeda University (Lithuania),Technical University of Civil Engineering, Bucharest (Romania), La Universidad Catolica de Valencia (Spain), Waterford Institute of Technology (Ireland), and University of Rostock (Germany).

For more information, anyone interested in that *MA Program* can be informed by the useful material available on the following link: <https://www.eu-conexus.eu/en/marine-biotechnology/>.