

Transdisciplinarity for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Caucasus Region | CaucaSusT

Newsletter 1

CaucaSusT Introduction and Activities in September 2016 – January 2017

Introducing CaucaSusT: The role of science and research in addressing challenges in the field of sustainable development and the link of academia to policy and practice need to be strengthened in Armenia and Georgia. Progress in this respect depends on innovating university practices, including by introducing transdisciplinary approaches to teaching and research practices. CaucaSusT will enable the project partners to address real-life problems of sustainable development - focusing on tourism development - in cooperation with the local population and other stakeholders. On a wider scale, the partnership aims to facilitate coordination of academic activities and integration of research outcomes into public policy in the field of tourism development in the Caucasus region, via cooperating with the regional Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region (SNC-mt).

Project duration: 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2020

The CaucaSusT Partnership

Armenia: Armenian State Pedagogical University (ASPU)

Austria: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) – **Coordinating partner**
IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems (IMC FH Krems)

Georgia: Tbilisi State University (TSU)

CaucaSusT Activities: Project Development to-date

- Project presented at all partner Universities; lecturers and students informed and recruited;
- Pilot communities selected in Armenia (Aghavnadzor and Marmarik villages) and Georgia (Borjomi-Bakuriani and Kazbegi); needs analysis initiated in the communities;
- Teachers selected for teacher trainings in Armenia and Georgia;
- Analysis of introducing change in academia drafted by the partners;
- PhD candidates from Armenia and Georgia selected, and their applications submitted.

The CaucaSusT webpage is available in English, and soon will be updated to Armenian and Georgian - visit it for more information, partners' contacts, regular project updates and photos:

www.caucasust.boku.ac.at



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CaucaSusT Activities: Meetings and Events

- The **Kick-off meeting** of the project took place in September 2016 in Abastumani, Georgia
- Armenian, Austrian and Georgian teams presented the project and conducted a participatory workshop during the **International Summer School «Research for Development»** in Abastumani, Georgia. *More information can be found at www.caucasus-mt.net/events/*



- The CaucaSusT project was presented at the **First Caucasus Mountain Forum 2016**, organized by the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region on November 28 – December 1, 2016 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The CaucaSusT partners co-organized a workshop **Research for Communities and/or Research with Communities: Transdisciplinary research and teaching in sustainable mountain development and tourism**, where several projects were presented, and participants worked in groups on challenges of transdisciplinary research and teaching in the Caucasus region.



- The ASPU CaucaSusT introduced the project at the **38-th Plenary Session of the UNWTO Affiliate Members**, which took place in October 2016 in Yerevan, Armenia
- The ASPU team took part in the training seminar **Simulation for a modern Community**, and in the conference **National policies of the implementation the European Landscape Convention, challenges and opportunities**, where the CaucaSusT project has been presented



Upcoming Events: Teacher Workshops

- The **First and Second Teacher Workshops** will take place respectively on April 24-26, 2017 in Armenia, and on July 10-12, 2017 in Georgia.

