



Károly Róbert  
University College  
Gyöngyös, Hungary



**IN THE YEAR OF 2013 ECOCYCLES, THE SUCCESSFUL ERASMUS INTENSIVE PROGRAMME WILL BE ARRANGED IN ITALY, JOINTLY WITH OUR HOST INSTITUTION, THE UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO**

*This Intensive Program aims to create an international educational platform in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy production (with particular emphasis on bio-energy, solar power, wind and geothermal energy), environmental protection, use of natural resources and rural development taking into account even economical and social factors.*

**The period of the programme:** from the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 until the 04<sup>th</sup> of August 2013. Detailed programme will be sent to all participants by the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. **Place:** University of Palermo, Viale delle Scienze 28. **Credits awarded:** 8 ECTS.  
Website: <http://www.unipa.it>

The deadline of the application for students is the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. Due this relatively short notice, the local coordinators at the participating universities are kindly requested to nominate their students and send the application forms electronically both to the project coordinator Dr. Sándor Némethy, ([snemethy@karolyrobert.hu](mailto:snemethy@karolyrobert.hu)) and Professor Carmelo Dazzi ([carmelo.dazzi@unipa.it](mailto:carmelo.dazzi@unipa.it)) your earliest convenience, but not later than the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2013.

Each participating institution may nominate not more than 6 students within the financial framework of the Intensive Programme. **The entry requirements for students** are the following: at least 120 ECTS or more from natural sciences, agriculture, economy, environment engineering or social sciences (knowledge in environmental sciences is an advantage), good skills in English (two years studies of English from Italian or English secondary school, TOEFL, Cambridge First Certificate, or any equivalent, internationally



recognised certificate, except for students from countries, where the language of tuition is English).

**The course: content and structure.**

The course consists of lectures, seminars, field work, laboratory exercises and project work. After an introductory week at the home institution, the intensive part of the course begins, and includes the following subject areas:

1. **Ecological cycles.** Natural and artificial cycle processes and their connections. Lectures and field work.
2. **Natural resources management, renewable energy.** The concepts management of natural resources the interactions between natural resources and societal changes and conflicts related to natural resources from a sustainability perspective, where environmental issues play a central role. Fossil and renewable energy production will be discussed.
3. **Sustainable agriculture and forestry.** The subject areas include crop production, forestry, animal husbandry and related industries, ecological (organic) farming and the problem of GMOs and the production of bio energy (forestry by-products, energy forests and othaer energy crops and biogas). We will create a particular module for viticulture and oenology.
4. **Sustainable regional and rural development, industrial structures and urban planning and built environments.** Resource audits, infrastructure, urban planning. Sociological and economical aspects. Case studies.
5. **Environmental protection, conservation.** Pollution, remediation technologies, prevention. Waste management. Avfallshantering. Life Cycle Assessment and Risk Assessment. Environmental legislation of the European Union. Conservation: protection of biodiversity and built environments.

Apart from the scheduled activities, students will have to complete a project work, an assignment from one of the subject areas, for the equivalent of 8 ECTS. The project works shall be sent in electronically both to the responsible teacher at the home university and the project coordinator by the 30<sup>st</sup> of September 2013.

We are looking forward to receiving your applications. Welcome to Ecocycles!  
With best regards:



Károly Róbert  
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*Némethy Sándor*

Sándor Némethy  
Project coordinator