



EMME-CARE

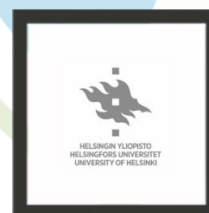
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Introduction

The CARE-C Centre of Excellence established on 1st of January 2020 under the Grant Agreement of the “**Eastern Mediterranean Middle East – Climate and Atmosphere Research**” Project (EMME-CARE, H2020 GA no.856612) provides scientific, technological and policy solutions through the establishment of a world-class Center of Excellence focusing on environmental challenges.

The Deliverable at hand, as per the GA, represents the “**Mid-term report on Leveraging Mobility Programmes to engage regional talents**”, outlining the status of the CARE-C CoE activities in regards to **Task 3.3** led by UHI, and more specifically:

- a. Attract high-level international students and support the marketing of the Cyl masters/doctoral programmes and scholarships.*
- b. Establish joint PhD scholarships (cotutelles) with Advanced Partners, allocated to WP5, 6, 7, 8.*
- c. Promote ERASMUS+ student and other staff mobility programmes.*
- d. Organize four international intensive courses with the Advanced Partners, and three other international intensive courses, to facilitate knowledge transfer and education of next generation scientists in the EMME region.*

Although the task at hand was the one heavily affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic, nevertheless, the Cyl Graduate School, CARE-C and the Advanced partners managed to attract international students to the programmes, to utilize the Erasmus+ virtual and blended mobility programmes effective and, to establish the Joint PhD program. On the other hand, traditional student mobility had to be cancelled due to travel restrictions, while plans to organize the first intensive course between Cyl and UHEL had to be postponed with the 1st EMME-CARE Autumn School being organized in October-November 2022.

In the next period efforts will be intensified in order to attract international talent , enhance collaborations and provide further opportunities for education and training.

1. Attraction of high-level international students and support the marketing of the Cyl masters/doctoral programmes and scholarships

1.1. Attraction of High-level international students

This activity relates to **“Subtask 3.3a. Attract high-level international students and support the marketing of the Cyl masters/doctoral programmes and scholarships”**. As already mentioned in the introduction, Task 3.3. was the one heavily affected by the global pandemic thus the attraction of high-level international talents and more specifically students during that period was a challenge.

	PhD total	PhD International	Master total	Master International
2020 fall	6	2	7	4
2021 spring	4	2	N/A	N/A
2021 fall	3	1	6	2
2022 spring	1	1	N/A	N/A
2022 fall	6	4	2	1
2023 spring	4	1	N/A	N/A
Total	24	11	15	7

Table 1. Numbers of enrolled students starting from fall 2020 in the PhD programme of Energy, Environment and Atmospheric Sciences (EAS) and in the Environmental Sciences Master.

In Fall 2020, the Cyl Graduate School has accepted 6 new PhD students in the programme of Energy, Environment and Atmospheric Sciences (EAS), including high-calibre international students. Two were registered in joint doctorates with CEA (Advance Partner). In the Environmental Sciences Master, 7 new students were enrolled, out of which 4 were internationals. It should be noted that due to Covid-19, all courses were delivered virtually and most of the new international students had not been able to travel to Cyprus due to the travel restrictions. However, the situation was rectified in the next semester. The Spring 2021 student enrolment included 4 new PhD students in EAS (2 international students, one of them is in joint doctorate with the Advanced Partner UHEL and 2 Cypriot students). The Fall 2021 Student Enrolment included 3 new PhD students in EAS (1 international student and 2 Cypriot students) and 6 new Master’s students (2 international students and 4 Cypriot students). As per the table above, the Spring 2022 student enrolment included one new international PhD student in EAS, who had previously been enrolled in the Master’s program. The Fall 2022 student enrolment included 6 new PhD students in EAS (4 international and 2 Cypriot students), among whom two are registered in joint doctorates with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (elaborated within the framework of the EMME-CARE Professorship Programme) and the University of Paris-Saclay. In addition, two students were enrolled in the MSc/MPhil Environmental Sciences (1 international student and 1 Cypriot student). The Spring 2023 student enrolment included 4 new PhD students in EAS (1 international and 3 Cypriot students).

As of February 2023, the total number of CARE-C PhD students is 20, of whom 14 are international, while the total number of Master students is 8, of whom 3 are international.

1.2. Cyl Graduate School Marketing Campaign

The Graduate School reviews the marketing strategy plan once a year before the marketing campaign begins, well ahead of the early application deadline. Every year the aim is to increase the visibility and intensify the marketing efforts towards that direction. Activities that are customarily part of our marketing campaign include:

- Attendance in educational fairs in Cyprus and abroad;
- Advertising our programmes on educational platforms that reach millions of students around the world;
- Advertising our programmes and scholarships on our social media;
- Production of promotional videos, advertising the Institute and our programmes, posting on various platforms;
- Informing our contacts through personal and professional networks about our programmes and scholarships;

The Cyl Graduate School has supported the efforts to appeal to high-level international students and the promotion of the Cyl masters/doctoral programmes. It has carried out two (2) Virtual Open Day events about the “The Cyprus Institute Graduate Degree Programs” in 2021 (09/04/2021, 17/06/2021). These webinars provided information on the Master’s and PhD programs under CARE-C, the application process and scholarship opportunities and included a short presentation and a Q&A session. The Education section of the Cyl web site has been upgraded with more information on student life, funding opportunities and testimonials from Cyl graduate program alumni. In 2022, the Cyl continued the promotion of the Cyl Master’s and PhD programs as well as the funding schemes through advertisements in educational portals and social media, organization of open days, participation in educational fairs (e.g. in Athens in December 2022), email campaigns etc.

In addition, the University of Helsinki has promoted over the last years the Cyl’s programmes/scholarships through various activities:

- Promotional material (flyers, posters etc.) has been posted at UH’s facilities.
- Information on the Cyl programmes and scholarships has been posted on the social media of the Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research;

Once the joint activities and programmes between Cyl and UHEL are well established, a joint advertising strategy will be devised.

2. Establishment of joint PhD scholarships (cotutelle) with Advanced Partners

This activity relates to **“Subtask 3.3b. Establish joint PhD scholarships (cotutelle) with Advanced Partners, allocated to WP5, 6, 7, 8”**.

As many as 30 doctoral scholarships are envisioned to be supported financially by the 7-year EMME-CARE project. Out of the 30 students, c.a. 10 will be co-funded on a 50/50 basis between the CoE and the Advanced Partners through a cotutelle scheme or through joint doctoral degree agreements.

Currently seven of the PhD students in Energy, Environment and Atmospheric sciences are enrolled or in the process of enrolling in joint doctorates between Cyl and an EMME-CARE Advanced partner (UH 4, CEA 3) related to scientific work being carried out within the framework of WP5-WP8 and more specifically:

- Experimental characterization of Organic Aerosol and Volatile Organic Compound sources the Eastern Mediterranean Region (WP5)
- Profiling Greenhouse Gases (CO₂ and CH₄) source emissions from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)/ (WP4/WP5)
- Contribution of light hydrocarbon tracers to the estimation of methane sources in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) region (WP5)
- Detection and quantification of the emissions of greenhouses gases and pollutants using satellite data across the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East region (WP6)
- Understanding of the behaviour of nanoparticles and atomic clusters suspended in gaseous media (WP4/WP8)

3. Promotion of ERASMUS+ student and other staff mobility programmes

This activity relates to “**Subtask 3.3c. Promote ERASMUS+ student and other staff mobility programmes**”.

From February 2021 to February 2022, a PhD student in Energy, Environment and Atmospheric Sciences and three members of staff of CARE-C implemented mobilities under the Erasmus+ Programme. The PhD student participated in a two-month mobility activity for training at Imperial College in London, UK. The traineeship entailed the study of the effects of climate change and water salinity on the biology of the mosquito by analysing various life history traits and understanding its influence on the microbiome. This mobility had considerable impact on the student and Cyl, as she had the opportunity to analyze the data she had collected in Cyprus at the laboratory of the hosting institution reinforcing the understanding of the effects of water salinity on the biology of the mosquito and its influence on the microbiome. In addition, the student investigated further opportunities for conducting research at the hosting institution.

In addition, a Post-doctoral Research Fellow implemented a traineeship at the University of Reading in the area of mineral dust measurements and sensors. The observations of Particulate Matter (PM) are considered valuable for reporting to EU regarding national air quality levels which contributes to the establishment of environmental laws and mitigation strategies. The collaboration with the University of Reading gave the participant the opportunity to develop new methodologies for analysing the data and expand her network on this area. In addition, the knowledge and expertise acquired will be applied in the upcoming intensive research campaigns of the Cyl and will lead to further exploitation of the results.

Furthermore, a Senior Project Officer implemented a 3-day mobility for traineeship at the Max Planck Institute of Chemistry (MPI-C) in Mainz, with the aim to explore processes, tools and methods used in the Institute Operation/Admin Departments. This capacity building visit allowed the expansion of cooperation (through new tools and financial possibilities) and offered an enriching international and intercultural learning experience to the participant.

Also, a Technical Research Specialist in Atmospheric Sciences participated in a 3-day mobility for training at the National Observatory of Athens with the purpose of acquiring training on mobile platform operations for monitoring atmospheric pollutants and greenhouse gases. This added value of this

mobility was that it allowed the extending of the geographic monitoring capabilities of CARE-C of Cyl and that will be used to assess the need for longer-term monitoring in specific locations in Cyprus and beyond.

Cyl has taken full advantage of the new Erasmus+ virtual and blended student mobility programmes which are promoted as an alternative to the traditional Erasmus+ mobility programme. With virtual mobility, the students can attend courses virtually from their home country. With blended mobility, the students have the opportunity to follow the courses virtually from their home country and then move to the country of destination or vice versa.

The Erasmus+ Office at the Cyl has received many applications from both students and staff members of CARE-C under the 2022-2023 Erasmus+ call, thus there is considerable interest in utilising the Erasmus+ mobility programme for the expansion and deepening the collaboration between EMME-CARE partners.

4. Organization of international intensive courses to facilitate knowledge transfer and education of next generation scientists in the EMME region

This activity relates to ***“Subtask 3.3d. Organize four international intensive courses with the Advanced Partners, and three other international intensive courses, to facilitate knowledge transfer and education of next generation scientists in the EMME region”***.

The first International intensive courses (planned for 2020/2021) had to be postponed due to the travel restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, after intensified efforts on behalf of the Consortium, the CARE-C in collaboration with the Cyprus Institute, organized the ***1st Autumn School on “Analysis of aerosols, air pollution and their sources in the Eastern Mediterranean” on 31 October–11 November, 2022*** in the framework of the EMME-CARE project. The course was organized in collaboration with the Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research INAR, of the University of Helsinki (UH), the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry (MPG) and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA). Fifteen students from Cyprus, EU and beyond participated in the course (see [course programme](#)), which awarded 5 ETCS. The participants were also invited to join the annual Climate Change workshop in the EMME area on the first course day.

The focus of the course was analysis of aerosol, greenhouse gas and air pollution data based on the long-term datasets gathered at the Cyprus Atmospheric Observatories (CAO) and other available data sets from the Eastern Mediterranean. The course was implemented by working in small groups using programming tools (e.g. Matlab) for statistical analyses and data visualization.

Testimonials from students participating in the course as well as results from the Autumn School are available on the EMME-CARE website [here](#).