



1st CDS Training

‘Transforming Higher Education through Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and (Community) Service Learning.’

5-6th October 2021, Hybrid Format

On behalf of the AURORA alliance, I am pleased to invite you to the 1st Capacity Development Support (CDS) Training event organised by the South-West University ‘Neofit Rilski’, Bulgaria, in collaboration with the Aurora CDS Task Team at Palacky University and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. The two-day training event will take place in hybrid format:

- **online** via [Zoom Link](#)
- **face-to-face** at [South-West University Centre in Bachinovo](#)

This event is part of a series of six awareness raising and training sessions organised in the framework of the Aurora CDS Programme. The aim of these events is twofold: 1) strengthen the capacity of the Aurora associate partner universities in key innovative domains of internationalization and social engagement; and 2) support them in establishing regional hubs for sharing best practices emerging from the experiences of the Aurora Alliance and the broader CDS Network.

In this first Aurora CDS Training event, the associate partner universities and representative of the broader CDS Network will gain deeper insight and discuss joint collaboration on two Aurora outputs deemed to be of high relevance by the involved universities in Central-Eastern Europe and Neighbouring Countries: Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and (Community) Service Learning.

Tuesday 5th October: Service Learning

- Brief introduction to the Aurora Alliance and the Capacity Development Support programme
- Introduction to Service learning and pre-announcement of AURORA co-creation event (February 2022)
- Service-learning: state-of-the-art and introduction to the Aurora Service Learning Toolbox
- Service-learning in practice: experiences from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Palacky University
- Reflection/brainstorm session: contextualisation of Service Learning knowledge and experience by training participants; ideas for joint collaborations on Service Learning

Wednesday 6th: Collaborative Online International Learning

- Introduction to COIL/Virtual Mobility: what is it; terminology & definitions; elements & characters
- Institutional context for COIL: key factors (internationalization; intercultural communication; soft skills for the 21st century)
- Benefits of COIL for teachers, students and institutions
- COIL in practice: teachers share COIL experiences and best practices
- How to structure COIL from both an institutional and academic perspective
- Practical advice: when to do a COIL; how and where to find a partner; tools for cooperation; pedagogical styles; use of surveys
- Reflection/ brainstorm session: contextualisation of COIL by training participants; planning of COIL courses

The event is open to academic and non-academic staff of the Associate university partners and members of the broader CDS Network involved in teaching, students' mobility, internationalization of study programmes and university social engagement.

In particular, the COIL training could be of relevance for the following staff:

- Academic: deans/vice-deans' education from the interested faculties, academic programme coordinators, study programme leaders who want to internationalize their curricula, heads of MA programmes that include elements of internationalization, course-holders who teach in foreign languages, course holders of Erasmus courses; and
- Non-academic: heads of academic innovation offices at university or faculty level, international office staff supporting Erasmus courses offer, IT support staff.

Please register to the event via this [ONLINE FORM](#). **Registration is open until 1st of October.**

We would also like to inform you that the training sessions will be video-recorded at the benefit of those who will not be able to attend.

Finally, we kindly encourage you to share this invitation with other colleagues who may benefit from this initiative.

Kind regards,

Capacity Development Support (CDS) programme

www.aurora.upol.cz/associate-partners
www.alliance.aurora-network.global