The European Virtual Seminar

on Sustainable Development

Joop de Kraker

31 January 2017, Maastricht

european
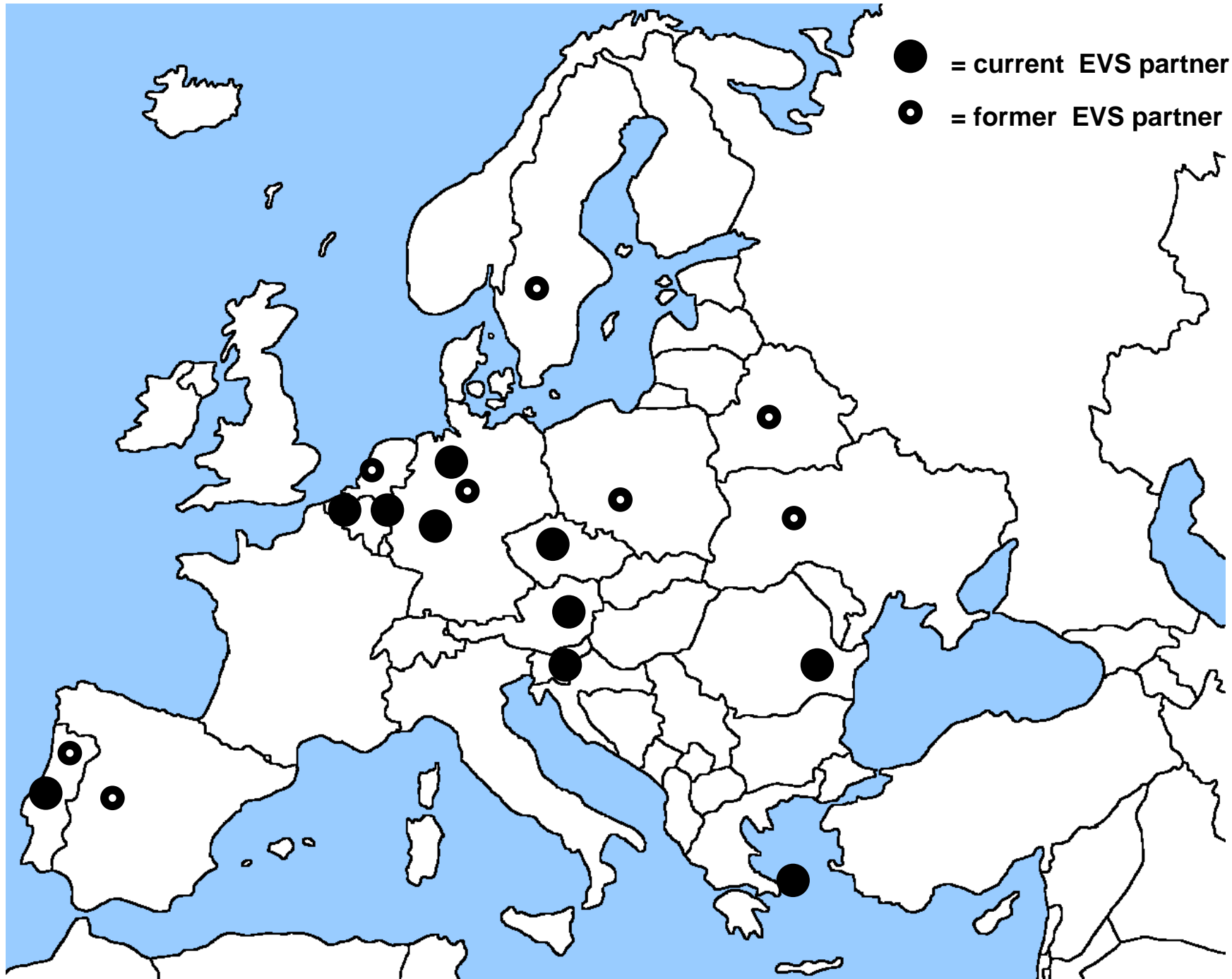V I R T U A L
seminar

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Presentation

- What is EVS?

- Success factors of EVS

- Policy recommendations

What is EVS?

- An international Masters course: 9 countries in Europe

● = current EVS partner

◉ = former EVS partner

What is EVS?

- An international Masters course: 9 countries in Europe

- A jointly offered, 'networked' course: 10 universities

- A multi-disciplinary course: >5 disciplines

EVS Partnership

- *Open Universiteit*, **The Netherlands** - Environmental Sciences

- Karl Franzens Universität Graz, **Austria** - Geography

- Charles University Prague, **Czech Republic** – [...]

- University of Antwerp, **Belgium** - Environmental Science

- University of Bucharest, **Romania** - Applied Geo-biology

- University of the Aegean, **Greece** – Environmental Science

- University of Maribor, **Slovenia** – [...]

- *Universidade Aberta*, **Portugal** - Environmental Citizenship

- Universität Oldenburg, **Germany** – Water & Coastal Management

- *FernUniversität Hagen*, **Germany** - Environmental Science

AUSTRIA BELGIUM CZECH REPUBLIC GERMANY GREECE NETHERLANDS PORTUGAL ROMANIA SLOVENIA

What is EVS?

- An international Masters course: 9 countries in Europe

- A jointly offered, 'networked' course: 10 universities

- A multi-disciplinary course: >5 disciplines

- A course on Sustainable Development & Europe:
6 study topics, related to EU SD Strategy

- A collaborative learning course:
students work together in teams

EVS: Major goals

- Understand the concept of sustainable development and apply it to a major issue in a European context

- Collaborate with students from other disciplines, countries and cultures, using internet technology
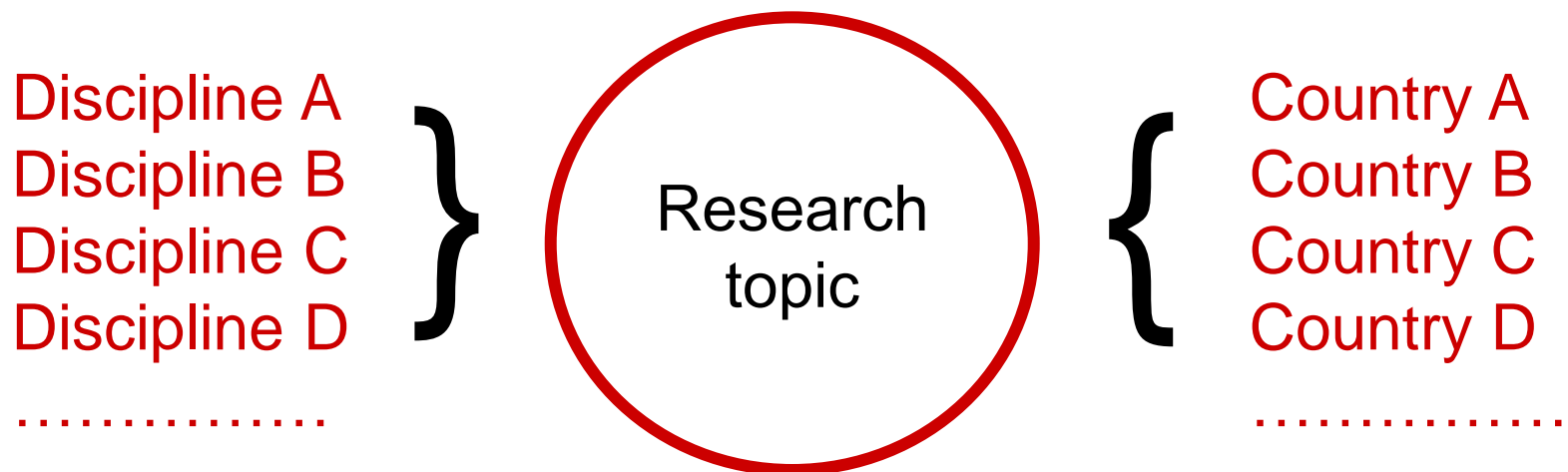
EVS: Structure

- Students chose from a list of topics in sustainable development

  - climate adaptation, nature conservation, waste management, etc.

- Students (4-7) are grouped in multidisciplinary, international teams

- Each (virtual) team is supported by a tutor and a topic expert

- Each team:

  - Determines a research question

  - Develops a research proposal

  - Conducts research (case study approach with mostly secondary data)

  - Writes a research report

  - Prepares a PPT presentation

- Period: October – March (5 months), 5 EC

Project-based learning

- Sustainable development issue

- EU SDS and policy goals (climate, nature, waste, …)

- Performance member states, best practices

- Recommendations

Exploiting student group diversity in knowledge & views

Discipline A
Discipline B
Discipline C
Discipline D
……………

}

Research
topic

{

Country A
Country B
Country C
Country D
……………

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- A collaborative learning course: students work together in teams

- A web-based (virtual) course: social network platform

EVS Platform - Home

Messages: 91   Log out

Announcements Members Groups Contacts Pages Folders Files Blogs Photos GoogleDocs Skype Doodle

Welcome Insa Puchert

european
V I R T U A L
seminar

News

Announcements:
EVS The
End!
Joop de
Kraker 4
days ago

Search box

Search   Go

Latest images

Members

Newest   Most popular   Logged in

Featured groups

1 2 Next »

	COM2 - Communication Strategies for Sustainable Development 2	closed group / 8 members
	STR2 - Sustainable Tourism and the Region 2	closed group / 7 members
	EVS staff	closed group / 24 members

Latest activity

Ana Mendonça updated their profile (12 minutes ago)

Nikoleta Mihailidou has posted a new comment on this discussion topic | final assessment of your report

Thank you Viktoryia! It was great to 'expertize' us.(Anke is a hero indeed). I hope in the near future, to be able to travel in Minsk! Kind regards
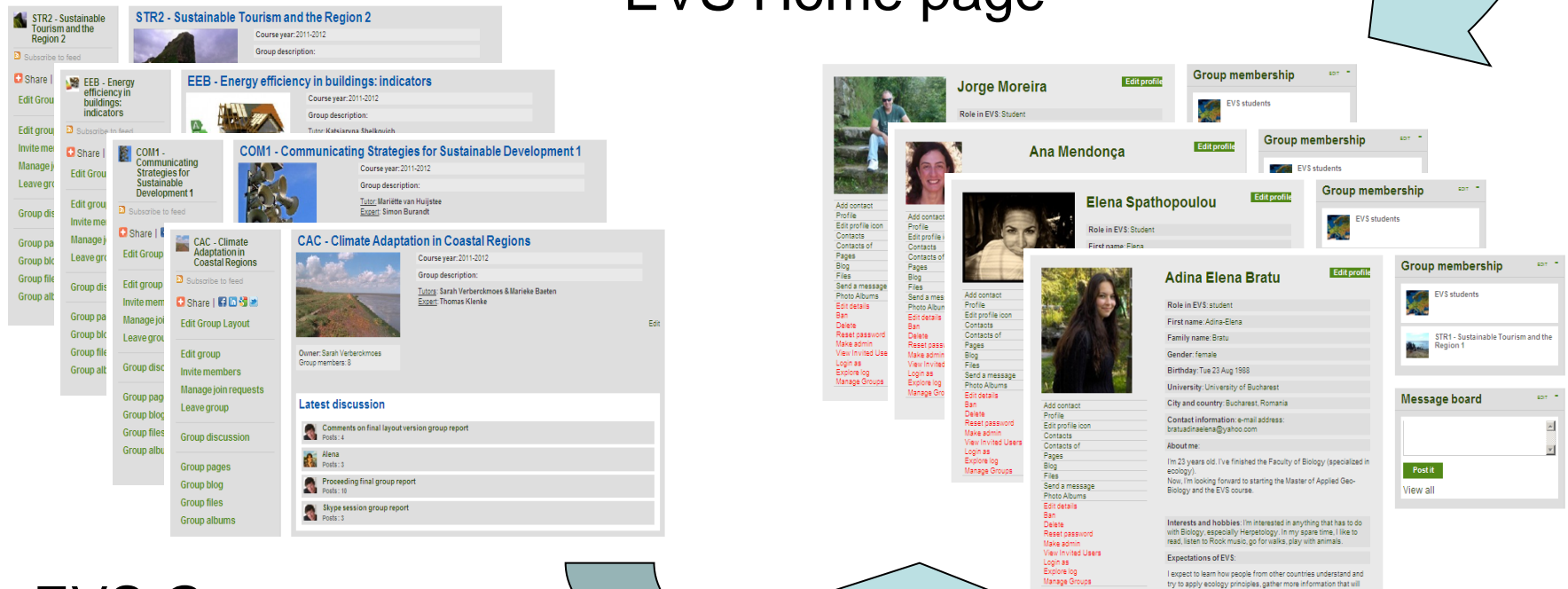
(40 minutes ago)

Viktoryia Misiuchenka has started a new discussion topic titled: final assessment of your report

Dear students! I congratulate you with finishing of EVS seminar. Thank you for your hard and successful work. I am sure that completion of EVS connected first of all, with
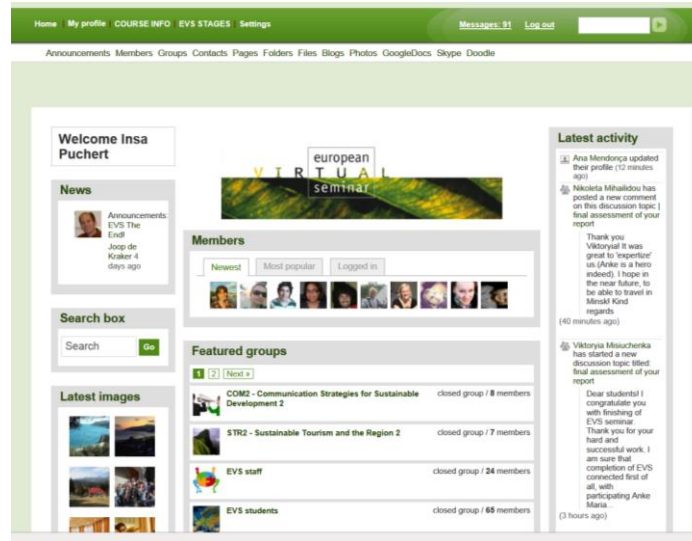
EVS Home page

EVS Group pages

EVS Student pages

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- A web-based (virtual) course: social network platform

- A successful course: >15 years (running since 2001) 60 students enrol per year, 600 graduates

Success factors EVS

- Real added value
- Smart organisational model
- Trust & friendship
- Continuous revision and innovation
- Institutional support + accreditation

Added value of EVS

- **Students**
  - Access to expertise at other universities
  - Truly international and multidisciplinary learning experience
  - Development of new (collaboration) competences
- **Staff**
  - More attractive and higher quality course
  - Knowledge exchange, research, innovation
  - Reputation building (best practice)
  - Gateway to funded projects
- **Institutions**
  - More attractive and higher quality study programme
  - Reputation building (accreditation)
  - Cost-effective production & exploitation

EVS students

Owner: Joop de Kraker
Group members: 64

"The collaboration in EVS is a small example of the collaboration which is needed in Europe." (student)

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EU Projects with EVS

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EVS organisational model

- **Distributed responsibilities**
  - Local selection & enrolment
  - Local accreditation (credits can vary)
  - Integration in degree programs (compulsory or optional)
  - Joint teaching
  - Joint student grading and course evaluation

- **Sharing resources**
  - Students, staff time, staff expertise
  - No dependence on external funding

- **Flexible partnership with stable core**
  - No need to participate each year
  - Participation level may vary

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Trust & friendship

- Annual EVS Staff Meetings

Continuous revision and innovation: VLE
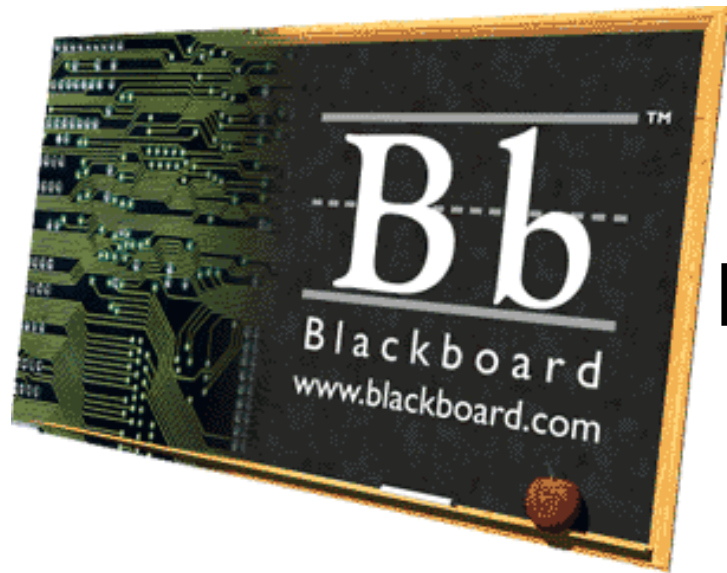
Continuous revision and innovation: LA
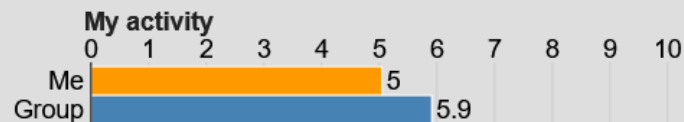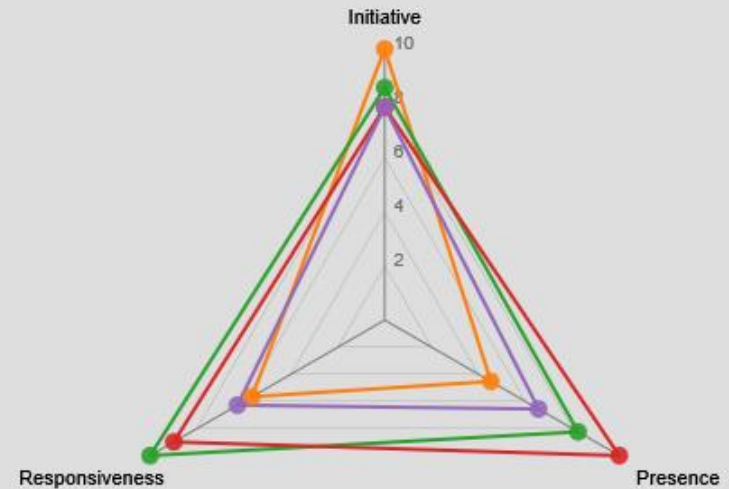
Institutional policy (recommended)
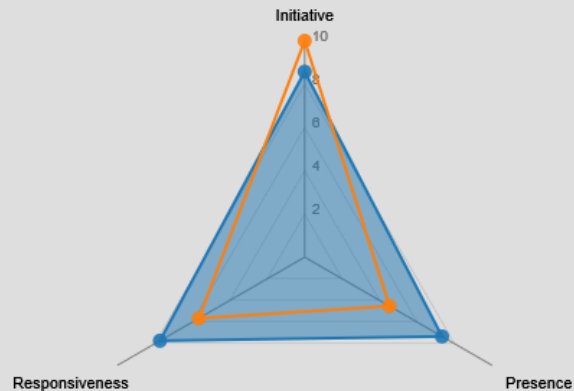
- Acknowledgement of added value international course

- Accreditation & incorporation of international course

- Subsidiarity as leading organisational principle

- Rooted in known needs of teachers & students

Thank You!

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