

11th european VIRTUAL seminar



*“An international, multidisciplinary dialogue
between geographically distributed students”*

The **aim** of the European Virtual Seminar on Sustainable Development (**EVS**) is to foster an international, multidisciplinary dialogue on sustainable development among students from all over Europe. The EVS confronts students directly with divergent peer views on sustainable development issues, and their implications for a societal shift towards a more sustainable Europe.

After participating in EVS, the student should be able (**learning objectives**) to:

- describe and operationalise the concept of sustainable development
- analyse sustainable development issues from a European perspective
- link local, national and European policy-related issues to sustainable development
- cooperate with students of different nationalities and different disciplinary backgrounds
- use the computer-conferencing system effectively for collaborative learning

The **didactic concept** of EVS is that of collaborative learning. During the seminar the students work in a small heterogeneous group on a case study, doing research and writing a group report and policy summary. Each group is coached by a tutor and can get advice from an expert.

Tentative topics of case studies (students should indicate their 1st and 2nd case study preference):

- **COM**: Communicating Strategies for Sustainable Development
- **CAC**: Climate Adaptation in Coastal Regions
- **DEC**: Decoupling of Environmental Pressure from Quality of Life
- **EEB**: Energy efficiency in buildings: indicators
- **GEO**: Geoconservation in Hateg Country Dinosaur Geopark
- **RED**: EU position and action on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
- **STR**: Sustainable Tourism and the Region

At the EVS website there is more information about the case studies (<http://www.ou.nl/evs>)

To **participate** in EVS we expect that students will:

- be interested in sustainable development issues
- be keen to perform group work
- be able to read and write English
- be able to spend 8-10 hours a week on the course
- have access to a computer with internet connection

EVS starts 22 October 2012 and ends 29 March 2013. The study load is 120 hours (5 ECTS). Register before **10 October 2012** by sending your details to the EVS coordinator at your university.

More information and **EVS contact person** at your institution:

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<http://www.ou.nl/evs>
<http://www.vcse.eu>

