



Essex Business School is part of an international consortium under an Erasmus + project with the aim of contributing to waste management education in Sri Lanka.

The Techno-Economic-Societal Sustainable Development Training in Sri Lanka (TESS) is co-financed by the European Union under the Erasmus + Capacity Building in Higher Education program.

(see <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplus-project-details/#project/609925-EPP-1-2019-1-NO-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP>).

This project seeks to make an important contribution to the waste management education in Sri Lanka. This area requires urgent attention and new courses at bachelor and master levels are instrumental. By developing new interdisciplinary programmes and redesigning existing programmes, the Sri

Lankan HEIs will offer up-to-date, student-centred programmes with increased focus on employability.

The project is coordinated by the University of South-Eastern Norway together with the University of Essex and two more European universities, five Sri Lankan universities and a non-profit organization. Other than Thankom Arun and Pawan Adhikari from the University of Essex, the key collaborators are Chamara Kuruppu (PI, University of South-Eastern Norway), Dayananda Ambalangpodge (University of Oatewardenepura, Sri Lanka), Maria Reis (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal), M. Narayana (University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka), Thusitha Sanjeewa L.W.Gunawardana, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, Seyed Soheil Mansouri (Technical University of Denmark), D N Subramaniam, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, N.L.B.Oshadie, University of Vocational Technology, Sri Lanka and Demitha Samarakoon, Janathakshan (GTE) Ltd, Sri Lanka.

One of the long-term objectives of this project is to educate a new generation of students capable of addressing challenges in waste collection, waste management and waste disposal. The institutions involved in the project strive to be a catalyst for transforming Sri Lanka into a society that moves toward a “circular economy” with more emphasis on sustainability, improving local people’s living standards and health. Similarly, this project aims to increase the number of employees in municipalities with a graduate degree, and the number of technical staff in municipalities with at least a bachelor’s degree. In addition, by focusing the attention of waste management and treatment on more sustainable approaches, TESS aims to facilitate new business models and new waste management systems that could open up new possibilities for public and private sector growth and to generate new job opportunities.