

Prof. DSc. Raimonds Ernsteins
UNESCO, University of Latvia, Latvia

General information

Dr.hab.paed. Raimonds Ernsteins since 2002 is a professor on Environmental Science/Public Governance, having initially University Diplomas in both Physics (1980) and Environmental Protection (1991), as well as Doctor (1995) and Doctor Habilitus (1999) degrees in Environmental Governance Education from University of Latvia.

Fields of Research

Professor was initiating first steps for social-ecological systems approach based Environmental science as new inter-disciplinary branch of sciences development in Latvia and in 1993 established multi-disciplinary and cross-faculty based Centre and later being an Institute for Environmental Science and Management at the University of Latvia, and was directing it for almost 20 years. Following consolidation and unification of Environmental sciences related structures, programmes and specialists at the Department of Environmental Science of the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences (2013), professor is leading multi-disciplinary research group on Environmental and Sustainable Development Governance, working on Environmental Governance integration methodologies and practice based models, instruments and indicators, particularly, in local planning and multi-stakeholders pro-environmental behavior development, as well as integrated/sustainable coastal development/governance and communication research-and-development projects nationally and internationally.

Professional experience

Professor was establishing and *servng for 20 years as Director* of innovative post-experience/in-service and inter-disciplinary training Master studies programme (1993) - Environmental Science Master degree programme in Environmental Governance. During this time of environmental protection establishment in Latvia, fast 500 post-experience master graduates of this special programme have been successfully continuing their work at various decision-making positions of Environmental Protection ministry and its subordinated agencies/organizations, municipalities and municipal agencies, research/consultation and education institutions and also non-governmental organizations in Latvia. From its beginning in 2002 and for almost 10 years' professor was also *Director* of Environmental Science Doctoral studies sub-programme in Environmental Governance, while also supervising above 70 Master degree and 10 Doctor degree works.

Professor was initiating and methodologically developing inter-active, team- and project-work based training programmes and courses, and, subsequently, teaching university courses at various programmes and faculties on bachelor, master and doctoral studies level, e.g. Environmental System Analysis, Environmental Policy and Planning, Environmental Governance, Environmental Communication and Education, Integrated Coastal Management, Project Management etc.

Professor has been working as advisor and commissionaire at different national and international institutions/organizations (e.g. HELCOM, UNESCO, IUCN) and also serving on editorial boards for international agencies/networks and scientific journals, organizing and heading international networks and conference series in Environmental Science and Governance. Since 2001 professor was invited by UNESCO and until now is serving as Chairman of UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Coastal Development, established at the University of Latvia.

Research work

Professor is continuously actively involved and directing national participation at many international research and development projects in Europe and, particularly, Baltic sea region within the areas of Environmental Governance, Sustainable Coastal Development, Environmental Communication and also Environmental Pedagogy/Training, granted by different EU and other programmes, e.g. EU TEMPUS, BONUS, 6 and 7. EU RTD, LIFE, LEONARDO, INTERREG, also UNESCO, IUCN, Nordic Council, SIDA etc.