

## International learning and teaching adaptive management in Eberswalde

**University lecturers from three Balkans countries visit the Centre for Ecomics and Ecosystem Management and Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development for an exchange about teaching adaptive conservation management.**

Dr. Ermelinda Mahmutaj, researcher with Tirana University, Albania (Faculty of Natural Sciences, National Centre of Flora and Fauna, Botanical Garden), Dr. Hesat Aliu, assistant professor with Tetovo University of the Republic of Macedonia, and Dr. Avni Hajdari, assistant professor with the University of Prishtina, Kosovo, actively participate in the module *Adaptive Conservation Site Management*, which is part of the curriculum of the Bachelor programme *International Forest Ecosystem Management*. This year's course is organised by Dr. Stefan Kreft, Lena Strixner and Daniela Aschenbrenner, Centre for Ecomics and Ecosystem Management.

Dr. Hesat Aliu and Dr. Avni Hajdari visit Eberswalde in the context of the EU project "Cooperative Transboundary Learning for Ecosystem Management and Sustainable Development in Sharr Mountains".



Dr. Avni Hajdari, Kosovo

The action is thought to improve teaching at the universities in terms of introducing new topics into curricula, such as application of geographic information systems or adaptive transboundary nature conservation in the context of nature conservation and sustainable development.

Another aim is enhancing students' skills in strategic project management by teaching topics in a project-oriented way.

In Eberswalde teaching adaptive conservation management was introduced in 2004 by Pierre Ibisch. Originally, it was based on the methodology *Conservation Action Planning*; later on, the NGO *Foundations of Success* supported the introduction of the method Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. The module is based on the analysis of and planning for a concrete region. This year, again, the scope is Barnim county, where the centre conducts a real-life project about landscape framework planning (in cooperation with the county's administration).



Dr. Hesat Aliu, Republic of Macedonia

The cross-border cooperation between universities will be promoted by joint courses as part of regular academic teaching activities in Kosovo and Macedonia. Students shall learn in real life situations working in an international team.



Dr. Ermelinda Mahmutaj

Ermelinda Mahmutaj joins the international team being funded in the context of a DAAD-funded ERASMUS mobility measure.



Adaptive site conservation management course, June 2016 (photograph S. Kreft)