

Context

Rural sectors in the Andean Region and Mesoamerica face large challenges to economic and social cohesion as well as in protecting the natural environment: insecurity of smallholders' incomes; rural poverty; weak institution-building; overuse of natural resources; low ability of rural households to react to effects of climate change – to name a few of them.

These challenges call for high-quality transdisciplinary research, functioning knowledge exchange between academics and practitioners and problem-based trainings for facilitators of change.

SERIDAR aims to contribute to these goals by institutionalising a high-quality research, education and training network for sustainable rural development, natural resources and agricultural value chains which is integrated internationally, regionally and locally.

Thereby we support stakeholders' efforts to direct changes towards a balanced and equitable socio-economic development and environmental protection.

Objectives

- Advance within a joint EU-LA Competence Centre the academic and non-academic, local and inter-regional knowledge exchange as well as research and education activities in the field of rural development.
- Create a permanent structure for the exchange of knowledge and experience and intensify collaboration between LA partner universities and local stakeholders
- Improve accessibility of higher education for multipliers of knowledge, especially those from the most vulnerable groups.
- Generate within the Competence Centre innovative opportunities for doctoral qualification in the field of rural development.
- Create new offers for undergraduate and graduate students to apply their knowledge and develop professional skills in "real world" problem-based team research or consultancy projects.
- Integrate partners and associates in international academic networks, both within LA and between LA and the EU.

Find us online:
Seridar.chapingo.net

Project Partners



Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales Sede Ecuador

FLACSO



Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales Sede Costa Rica

FLACSO



Universidad Nacional de Colombia



Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, Mexico



Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua



Universidad de Cordoba, Spain



Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany



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SERIDAR Rural Society, Economy and Natural Resources - Integrating Competence in Rural Development -

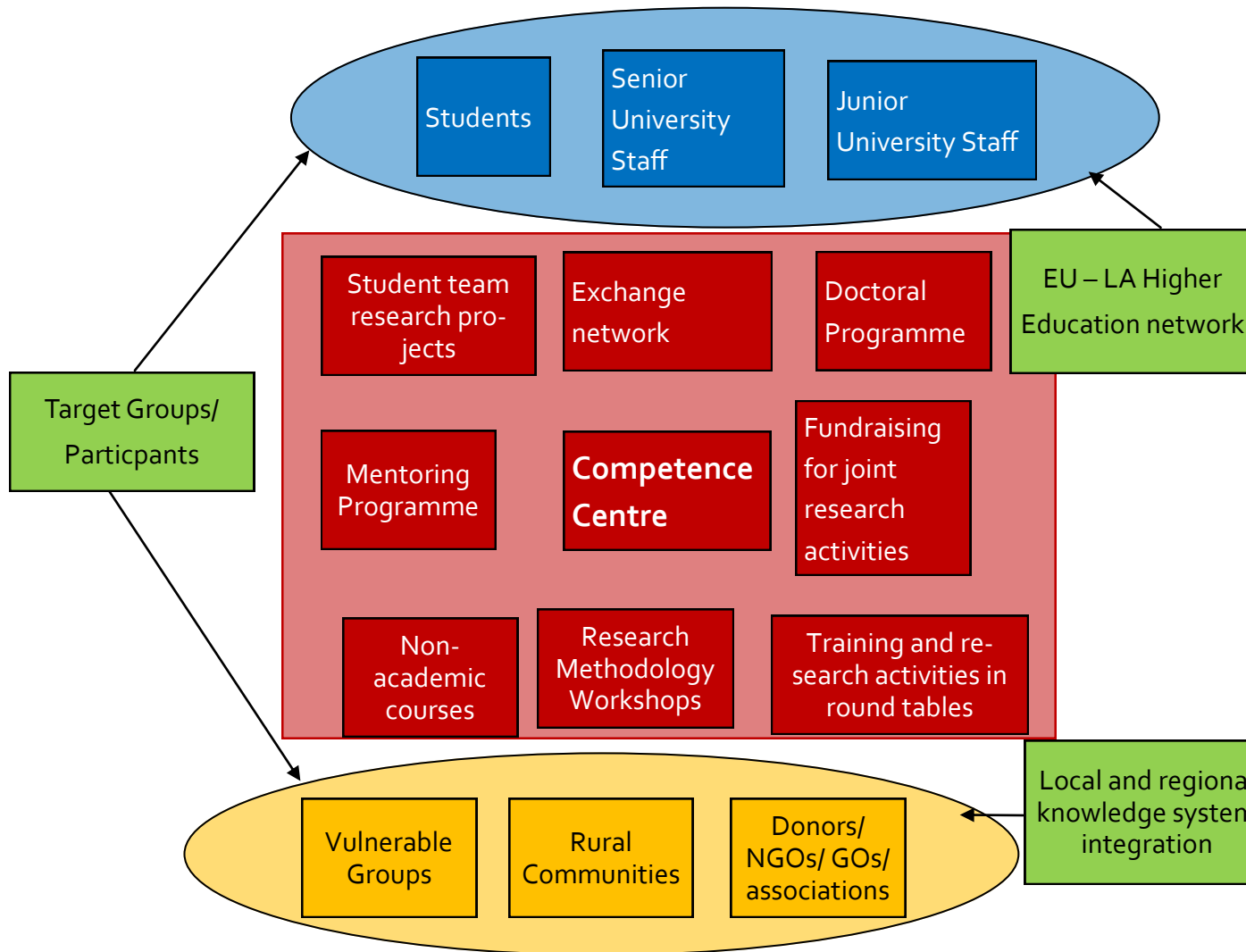
- Project within the ALFA III programme of the
European Union -



"We take decisions all together. Participation is possible all the time."

"I got to know the most democratic organization of a cooperative project."

Activities and Target Groups



Competence Centre

The setting-up of institutions and facilities of the competence center as well as the development of a quality assurance scheme and a stakeholder participation strategy guarantees the sustainability, visibility and efficiency of our network.

Local Stakeholder Network

We establish liaison offices and participatory working groups; realize round-table workshops and network events and install a mentoring programme for candidates from vulnerable groups.

Doctoral Programme

We elaborate a concept and a regulatory framework for doctoral courses as well as research frameworks. We will prepare and implement the first round of the doctoral course by 2012.

Research competency development

Joint Methodology Workshops upgrade research capacities of young staff and doctoral students, and lay the foundation for research in the Doctoral Programme and student team research projects.

Problem-Based Student Team Research

Staff trainings in didactics of problem-based student team research enable staff to conduct problem-based student team research. The student trainings develop students' team work and problem-solving skills as part of their qualification for the labour market.

Project coordination, management, visibility and evaluation

To guarantee that the project will reach the results and objectives proposed, we realize continuous management and evaluation.