How to strengthen the research and action capacities of key actors and contribute to the development of Southern Countries

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Abstract

Within the Think Tank Academy Spring Conference (25 and 26 May 2023 – Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania), the specialized Master in Risk and Disaster Management in the Age of the Anthropocene coordinated by Uliège and Unamur will be presented as a tool to strengthen the research and action capacities of key actors and contribute to the development of Southern Countries.

This 1-year Master is sponsored by ARES (Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur) from 2022 to 2027, who is implementing its program "Fair partnerships for quality higher education and research in favor of the Sustainable Development Goals" within the framework of a partnership with the Belgian Development Cooperation. This program supports partnerships for quality teaching and research in Belgium, Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean.

The ARES scholarships offer the candidates the opportunity to follow a one-year specialized master's degree program within a higher education institution of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation in Belgium. For this, candidates need to be a national of an ARES partner country (South Africa, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cuba, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Guinea, Haïti, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Ouganda, Peru, Philippines, RD Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Vietnam or Zimbabwe), have a higher education degree (a diploma comparable to a graduate level degree – 300 credits ECTS – from Belgian university studies for advanced masters), and have a professional experience (ossess relevant professional experience in a ARES partner country of at least two years after graduate studies).

The main objective of the specialized Master is to strengthen research and action capacities by key actors from developing countries on risk and disaster management; before, during and after crises. This training clearly contributes to a whole series of sustainable development objectives in the countries of the Global South. "In the Age of the Anthropocene" stands because the specialized Master's proposes a training combining "present world" and "world of tomorrow", considerating stress anticipation, within a (in)-habitability context of a threatened Earth.

Teaching activities are focused on multi-disciplinary approach relating to risks and disasters in the Age of the Anthropocene; analytical, preventive and risk and emergency management tools; disaster management (from emergency to resilience); and a 2-month multi-disciplinary field research with thesis (https://www.programmes.uliege.be/cocoon/20222023/formations/bref/S3RISQ01.html).

The target audience are the key actors from Southern countries in risk and disaster management (priority if experience, or even professional anchoring) in the areas of risk assessment, prevention, land use planning, education, awareness, communication, implementation of contingency plans + areas related to crisis management or post-disaster adaptation and resilience policies.

The employability is oriented towards Southern capacity building, orientated towards current and future global issues. Future jobs are usually in such institutions: university, consultancy, research institute, NGO, international institution, territorial development agency, administration, ministry.

During the specialized Master, students are encouraged to publish so that they can return home with a diploma but also with an enriched Curriculum Vitae. The list of papers or abstracts of communitations in international conferences is provided hereafter for the 2020-2022 period.

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