LENNE (Landscape Education for a New Neighbourhood of Europe) is a three year TEMPUS Curriculum Development Project, which borrows its acronym from a pioneer of landscape architecture education in Europe, Peter Joseph Lenne. The key task of LENNE Curriculum Development Project is to develop the structure and modular content for a new two year Master Programme in Landscape Planning and Management. The new programme is aimed in particular at responding to the needs of public administration in Serbia for the education of specialists able to support the introduction of and compliance with recent and forthcoming European environmental legislation. In addition graduates of the new course will also be in an ideal position to make a significant contribution to the improvement of the quality of life of the people of the region on a broader basis. New programme should respond to the current shortcomings identified in the country’s university education system within the discipline and meet the international requirements of the Bologna Process.

LENNE borrows strongly from the structure of the LE:NOTRE Project, being built around the subject areas of nine of its 12 working groups. Each of these is developing a series of building blocks consisting of different course unit outlines, which can be assembled into a new masters programme when the new Serbian legislative framework and accreditation regulations for ‘Bologna’ degrees have become clear.

Subject areas are: Cultural Landscape, Landscape Planning, Landscape Management, Landscape Design, Theory and Methodology, History and Conservation, Urban Open Space Planning, Infrastructure Projects and Vegetation establishment and Plant material. This structure will form the basic framework for the joint development of new teaching and learning material relating to each of the subject areas by building on the experiences of six European Union universities in close collaboration with academic staff from the region and by individual experts, representatives of European and national professional organisations and representatives of ministries and government agencies from Serbia.

LENNE is being carried out by a consortium of six EU universities and three Serbian faculties and is developing a new masters programme in landscape planning and management to be implemented at the Universities of Belgrade and Novi Sad. The project was initiated because Serbia is not an ‘eligible’ country as far as the ERASMUS Programme is concerned, which prevents Serbian colleagues from participating fully in the LE:NOTRE Project, despite the fact that landscape architecture education was established at the University of Belgrade as early as 1960. However, the decade of international isolation led to an acute need to update teaching programmes, to acquire computer equipment and literature and to restore international contacts. These are the main tasks being undertaken by the LENNE Project. The new masters programme is also aimed at attracting professionals who will be able to support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, which Serbia is preparing to sign. Not just the project structure, but also the six EU consortium members are familiar from the LE:NOTRE Project. These divide into four Central and South-East European members: Bratislava Technical University, Corvinus University Budapest, University of Ljubljana and Vienna University of Technology as project coordinator, and two from North-West Europe: Manchester Metropolitan University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp. Each EU university has together with the universities of Belgrade and Novi Sad a joint responsibility to develop teaching packages for: Cultural Landscape, Landscape Planning, Landscape Management, Landscape Design, Theory and Methodology, History and Conservation, Urban Open Space Planning, Infrastructure Projects, Vegetation establishment and Plant material.

This significant interface between LENNE the LE:NOTRE Project results in potential synergies for both projects. For example: the work on defining subject specific competences for the working group fields within LE:NOTRE provides an important starting point for LENNE, while the much smaller and more focused working groups in LENNE can shape those in a more concentrated way in the direction of specific course units. These, can, in turn, provide a possible model for developing the Tuning Project into a more process orientated activity within LE:NOTRE.

Together with the three Serbian faculties (Forestry and Geography at the University of Belgrade and the Agriculture Faculty at the University of Novi Sad), the Central and South East European universities form a geographic cluster which has the potential for a longer term regional cooperation beyond the end of the project in August 2008.