

Meet the STOREM project team at UPD in Colombia

The **Development and Planning Unit (UPD)** is a social enterprise based in Santa Marta, Colombia, that aims to empower communities, institutions and NGOs on sustainable development issues. UPD implements courses in planning, development and management of projects while also fostering international cooperation between European and Colombian institutions. UPD project activities are focused on the themes of sustainable development, environment, indigenous rights and cultural preservation, as well as peace and human rights. In the STOREM



project, UPD has a strategic role in bridging the gap between communities, industry and academia, offering insights and practical knowledge about the communitarian contexts, territorial issues and Internal Displaced Population (IDP) and vulnerable population problems in education and labor market inclusion.

UPD with the Colombian HEI partners have designed a strategy for IDP and vulnerable population inclusion in Higher Education and labour markets, and will identify enrolled IDP and other vulnerable students and alumni to participate in the new STOREM masters. The selected participants from these vulnerable groups will take part in the different training activities and STOREM Master courses, enhancing activities of their wider community in the field of sustainability.

Matteo Bellinzas has an MSc in Development Planning at UCL London, worked at CRENoS from 2004 to 2011 as a contract researcher and project manager, as well as at University of Cagliari as a contract researcher and privately as a consultant. In Italy, he participated in different European projects - such as ESPON and FP6-FP7 - as well as planning at regional and urban levels. Matteo has a long experience in monitoring and evaluation in Stakeholder Management, and represents a connection between the University of Cagliari and University of Magdalena - helping to understand the different educational contexts - and the civil society, especially for cooperation and development actions. Matteo teaches classes on Planning and Development in Santa Marta, Colombia and designs sustainable development projects with the communities and local institutions. He has a strong experience with actions involving displaced and marginalised people



in conflict regions in Colombia. In the STOREM project, Matteo is responsible for sustainability research and strategies on IDP and vulnerable people inclusion in Higher Education and Labour Markets.



Lisa Presciani has a Degree in Statistical Science and Cooperation, Development and Human Rights at University of Bologna (Italy). She is specialised in Peace and Human Rights, has a strong experience with victims of the conflict in Colombia and stakeholder management with different Colombian communities. Lisa Coordinates the projects at UPD, where she is responsible for training activities and internships. She has experience in monitoring and evaluation for special courses in Planning and Development at University of Magdalena, leading also the training activities and field work. Lisa has a long experience with actions involving IDPs and marginalised people in conflict regions in Colombia. In the

STOREM project Lisa is responsible for the development and management of the advisory board for IDPs and vulnerable populations and has a strategic role in bridging the gap between the communities and public and private institutions, involving them in sustainable development projects.