SUMMARY OF COURSE PILOT

Course 1: Introduction & Methodology

In the dry run for *Course 1: Introduction & Methodology*, 14 HCMUNRE students and 3 to 5 students from each partner university took part in trialing the course over a four-day period at Ho Chi Minh City University of Natural Resources and Environment.

Led by Dinh Minh Thu (M.A – HU), Bui Van Bien (M.A – HU), and Nguyen Thi Tuyen (M.A – HU), the following topics were covered during the trial:

Topic 1- Introduction;
Topic 2 - Smart Sustainable City Model
Topic 3 - Indicators and Benchmarking;
Topic 4 - Welcome, let's get the project right!
Topic 5: Dive deeper, go out there!
Topic 6: Idea generation and concept validation

The dry run included lectures, Q&A sessions, group work discussions, a field trip, an expert talk, assignments, and course implementation, evaluation, and report. The course includes two assignments: a mid-course essay on SSVC concepts related to the local context and a final oral presentation of one SSVC problem and suggested solutions pertaining to the local context.

Participants in the dry-run provided feedback on the course. Overall, they reported the following successes:

- HU lecturers were well-prepared;
- HCMUNRE provided good supportive assistance;
- students participated well in the course;
- support was provided from European partners and managers;
- students' understanding of the problem in Tran Van Hai Market and possible solutions deepened;
- and smart companies were successfully involved in teaching students the concepts and practices of smart associations and companies.

As this was the first trial of Course 1, participants also noted a number of limitations, especially with the assignment submission. Late assignment submission resulted in difficulty in evaluation, and participants recommend that instructions should be clearer and address all students both online and offline. In addition, they recommend that facilities, such as internet and microphone, be improved; changes to the schedule, as some partner universities start lectures little late (although this could be due to technical reasons); the potential involvement of facilitators/lecturers in partner universities; and improvement in contact and response between students and facilitators/lectures.

Student presentation on their first concept of SSVC
- HCMUNRE, July 2nd 2018 -