**Global Study Programme (GSP) 2017**

GSP is a yearly organized international collaborative learning course between Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences (SeAMK) and Chiba University (ChibaU) students and teachers. The topic changes yearly and is always multidisciplinary in nature, so that students from all fields of education can participate. The course is organized every other year in Japan and every other year in Finland. The aim is to tackle the issue on the course topic together by using the students’ own experience and disciplinary knowledge.

In 2017, the main part of the programme is organized as an intensive course from 18th until 28th of September 2017 in Seinäjoki Finland. The participants will be selected during the spring and they will start working on the course online with some preliminary assignments during the summer.

**Title:** City Development: Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive City

**Research question:** How can we envision a fruitful development of city center by realizing inclusive and sustainable conditions for all people involved on the site?

**Course description:** The process of planning and implementing city centre development plans affects all fields of science, from citizen wellbeing and environmental perspectives to engineering, cultural services and providing businesses good opportunities for thriving in the city. The City of Seinäjoki is involved in the course as the authority demonstrating the current development plans of Seinäjoki city centre development and presenting the course assignment to the students.

Key aspects for successful and sustainable city development and urban planning include:

* mastering multidisciplinary cooperation with stakeholders of the process, including city hall and tourism board representatives, businesses, enterprises and service providers, universities, etc.,
* involving citizens in the decision-making processes, e.g. by using special participatory methods,
* knowing how to integrate various needs and perspectives into one plan:
  + visitors and tourists
  + different age groups: families, elderly, youth
  + immigrants
  + cultural and sports events, conferences
  + technology and engineering
  + encouraging people to move by foot, bicycle or public transportation
  + services
  + safe, healthy and green living environments
  + efficient use of land area

By active participation in this intensive course, the students have the opportunity to develop their skills on the following topics:

* sustainability
* city development perspectives relevant to their field of studies
* user-friendliness and participatory methods
* multidisciplinary cooperation
* project management
* problem-solving skills
* intercultural communication
* presentation skills