

# Strengths

- **All studies** in the University of A Coruna **have been successfully adapted** to the standards of the *European Higher Education Area*
- This experience has allowed the **human resources** to identify and **solve the main problems** that appear during the adaptation process
- **Large number of research groups** and departments teaching courses related to **Environmental Sciences**, (*e.g., Earth Sciences, Environmental Chemistry, Hydrology, Urban planning or Ecology*)
- **Versatile human resources** with experience in EHEA, the Bologna process and Environmental disciplines
- An existing **Masters degree on Environmental Science and Technology** comprising a wide range of disciplines (*e.g. Environmental law, Atmospheric pollution, Soil quality*), and an **International Masters degree in Water Engineering**
- **Three PhD Programs** related to Environmental Sciences:
  - *Environmental Science and Technology*
  - *Forestry and Agriculture*
  - *Fundamental and Environmental Chemistry*

# Weaknesses

- Interdisciplinary approaches underexploited
- **Lack of coordination** between experts scattered in different faculties and schools
- **Excessive bureaucracy** that slows down the modifications of the curriculum
- Low number of **private enterprises** involved in the education system
- Some of the **staff is skeptical** about the success of the EHEA
- **Low** researchers and professors **mobility**

# Opportunities

- Capability to **host international students**
- **Growing environmental awareness** in the society
- **Internationalization is being encouraged** by the institution management
- **Increasing available funding** for mobility of students and professors

# Threats

- **Decreasing public funding** for higher education due to economic crisis
- Chronical **low involvement of private enterprises** in higher education
- **Decreasing number of students** due to low birthrate
- **Governmental policies** difficulting the development of new or innovative studies
- Current **funding schemes prioritizing** disciplines with **fast return** and more **profit-oriented** that limit the development of the field
- **Lack of social prestige** of experimental sciences