



REACHING SUSTAINABILITY IN URBAN PLANNING Continuing education course

Time: Autumn 2010

Coordinating University: Aalto University
School of Science and Technology,
Lifelong Learning Institute Dipoli

Partners: Asian Institute of Technology, University of
Nairobi, UN-HABITAT and UNEP

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Teaching language: English

Course Duration: 3 months

Credits: 5 ETCS

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Aim of the course: This web-based course is a continuance for the continuing education course on Sustainable Communities - Bridging the Gap between Research and Action (SC) organized by Helsinki University of Technology, the United Nations Human Settlements and Environmental Programs, Asian Institute of Technology and University of Nairobi in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

The course focuses on sustainable urbanization by giving practical examples and methods how to use city planning as a tool for sustainable development. The main thematic areas of the course are housing, transportation, energy and environmental management. The course aims to elaborate the lessons learnt from the previous SC courses and to identify the major obstacles for fulfilling sustainability in the planning process. The aim of the course is to provide in-depth understanding of planning procedures in different cultures, particularly in Asia and Africa, and to present the realities faced through practical case studies presented by the course participants.

Course Content: The course is structured by its on-line web sessions and assignments to exchange information between the participants and the lecturers as well as to enhance communication and professional networking between the participants. In the course the participants will present their own case studies about planning methods and obstacles faced. The aim is to follow-up the situation of the participant's case studies during the last years and to develop the case studies further collaboratively with the course participants.

The course uses on-line group discussions and working methods. It supports the already built networks of SC Alumni and initiates fresh networks among the participants. In order to achieve factual information from the field of urban planning in Africa and Asia, the course employs the participants of the course as information sources as well as mentors.

The course duration is three months. There will be organized online sessions every 2 weeks and between these sessions the participants will read their study materials, work with their case studies as well as the given assignments. The assignments are commented by the course mentors. The case studies are presented, discussed and analyzed in tailored on-line workshops.

Target group: The course is targeted for individuals from academia, local and sub-national or central government and civil society with experience in urban planning. Individuals who have participated in the Sustainable Communities course - Bridging the Gap between Research and Action - in 2007-2009 and PhD students will have the first priority.

Prerequisites: Participation in Sustainable Communities course or in-depth knowledge and practical experience in urban planning.

Study Materials: Case studies of the participants, selected literature and study materials.

Learning Methods: Reading materials, on-line group discussions and web-based written assignments

TKK Dipoli sets up a asynchronous learning platform for document sharing and informing and asynchronous communication. In addition, the course applies user-friendly conference web-tools, which are light and easily accessible via internet. Before the course takes place these web conferencing tools will be tested, as some participants may have problems. If there will be problems in their suitability, some alternative tools will be used.

Assessment: Grade 1-5. The final mark will consist of evaluation of the Web-based written assignments and on-line discussions.