

Sustainable Cities in the Nordic-Baltic Region

2019

5 ECTS

October 31st-November 3rd, 2019, Tallinn, Estonia

Sustainable Cities in the Nordic-Baltic Region is an intensive four-day course and competition focusing on multidisciplinary and practical urban planning and collaboration. The course brings together students, teachers, professors, practitioners and other leading experts from the Nordic-Baltic countries to share ideas and work together on a real-life planning case, taking on the challenge of developing sustainable cities.

Theme and perspectives

The themes of the Sustainable Cities in the Nordic-Baltic Region 2019 relate to green areas between block houses as a means for more socially and ecologically sustainable cities. Key words are mobility, well-being and seasonality. During the course the students will in teams create a plan to create sustainable solutions to meet the variable demands of Nordic urban settings and take part in inspiring lectures. The case is strongly anchored into existing concerns regarding urban development in Tallinn and both the city and the university are eager to hear the results of the case work and take the suggestions into account when working on the development plans. The case work also includes input from residents. The course will highlight the social-ecological approach of urban planning, which seeks to more closely integrate social and environmental considerations. The course encourages interdisciplinary thinking, which is why the students invited to the course represent various disciplines.

Model of work

The students will be divided into teams, in which they will work on the case assignment throughout the four-day course. The group work will be facilitated by doctoral students, all with different orientations around the urban planning issues. In addition, to give fresh perspectives and raise new questions for the case work, the course features inspirational talks from experts in the field. On the final day of the course the student teams will present their solutions to a wider audience, including planning practitioners from the city of Tallinn. Finally, a jury will evaluate the results and discuss the solutions with the teams. The course work also includes a written pre-assignment before the intensive course as well as a written report after the course on the learning experiences and case outcomes.

Participants

The participants in the course can be handpicked and invited by leading professors in the field or can apply to the course individually. The competition will bring together 25 of the brightest student minds from different disciplines dealing with urban development at Nordic-Baltic universities.

Why attend?

The course gives the students in-depth knowledge and practical experience in actual planning work. The course enables the students to deepen and develop their knowledge with new perspectives from other disciplines and Nordic-Baltic frameworks. With the case work the students have a possibility to create sustainable solutions with real societal impact. Most of all, the course emphasizes interaction and co-creation of knowledge and gives the students the chance to build vital new networks both with fellow-students as well as with experts and practitioners within the field.

What does it cost?

The course is free of charge. The students' travel expenses to Tallinn from the capital cities, accommodation (2 persons/room) and meals will be covered by the organizers. Note that participants living outside their countries capital or travelling elsewhere than Nordic/Baltic countries will have to pay for these travels themselves. Also travels to/from airport or harbor are not covered by the organizers.

Learning objectives

The aim of the course is to give the student a chance to experience a real-life planning case in an international and collaborative environment.

After the course the students should:

- have become acquainted with sustainable urban planning issues, particularly related to the development of the specific case area
- have gained a deeper understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of sustainable urban development and new insights into the social-ecological approach in urban planning
- have a deeper understanding of the realities, different actors and interest groups involved in practical urban planning
- have acquired new skills in how to co-create and communicate in an international and multidisciplinary team
- have improved their problem-solving skills, analytical and critical thinking as well as how to express and present arguments and solutions

Course requirements and evaluation

To complete the course the student is required to finish all the pre- and post –assignments of the course, and actively participate in all activities during the intensive course, group-work and discussions. Attendance in all parts of the intensive course is mandatory. Course work will be evaluated by the course leaders and the jury based on activity of participation in the course, as well as on the quality of the completed case assignment written and oral presentation.

Preliminary program

Thursday 31.10

13.30 Check-in

14.00 Welcome to Sustainable Cities in the Nordic-Baltic Region

15.00 Networking, getting to know each other, pitching skills, meeting your team mates, going through the pre-tasks (some afternoon snacks available)

15.45 Introduction to the case

16.00-17.00 Inspirational talk and discussion:

18.00-20.00 Dinner

20.00-22.00 Networking and leisure

Friday 1.11

8.15 Travel to case area

9.30-10.15 Case presentation

13.00 Lunch break

14.00 Meeting the stakeholders

15.30 Transportation back to course venue

16.00-19.00 Case work start in own teams (snacks available)

19.00 Dinner and networking

20.00-22.00 Networking and leisure

Saturday 2.11

7.00-> Breakfast

8.30 Inspirational talk

9.30 Case work (tutoring available throughout the day)

10.30 Coffee and fruits available

10-12.25 Case work continues

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Case work in teams continues

15.00 Coffee break

Case work continues

19.00 Dinner and networking at Wohlert

Sunday 3.11

7.00 -> Breakfast and check out

9.00 Preparing for presentations, writing short summary (max 200 words).

10.00 Team presentations to jury and external guests

Case solutions presentation (15 min/group, comments 5 min/group).

12.30 Coffee and something sweet

13.00 Comments from the jury and award ceremony

13.30 Group picture

13.45 Reflection on the case work

15.00 Late lunch aka. "lunner"

17.00 Goodbye

Why do we arrange the course?

The purpose of the course is to enhance the knowledge and skills of the students in the field by giving them a chance to work with a multidisciplinary, collaborative and international approach to urban development. We also hope to get an international student perspective and good ideas for the development of city planning in Tallinn. Finally, we want to create interaction and close networks between the students and other actors within sustainable urban development in the Nordic-Baltic countries. The course is financially supported by Nordplus Horizontal 2019-2021.

Selection criteria and how to apply

To ensure an equal participation from all the Nordic countries and different disciplines, we kindly ask you to make a preliminary sign-up for the course. Write a short motivation letter on why you would like to be chosen. Please remember to ensure with your professor/responsible teacher that you'll get 5 ECTS at your home university prior to applying to the course. The application can be made here: [APPLICATION FORM](#). The form opens Wednesday July 3rd and closes on September 8th.

Participation quotas: The course is offered to 25 Nordic-Baltic students and approximately 3 places per country will be given. If there are not enough eligible applicants from all Nordic-Baltic countries additional places can be given to other countries.

Travelling: Note that participants from Iceland and Finland will be expected to travel from Helsinki with Tallink Silja line ferry on October 31st at 10.30 am and back on November 3rd at 7.30 pm (arriving 9.30m pm). The Icelandic participants will travel to Helsinki already the day before and stay one night in each direction in Helsinki, so they will be back in Iceland during November 4th. The organizer will cover these costs.

Participants from Norway, Denmark and Sweden will travel with Tallink Silja from Stockholm on Wednesday October 30th at 5.30 pm and back on November 3rd at 6 pm (arriving 10.15 on November 4th). Participants from Oslo and Copenhagen will travel by train to Stockholm during November 30th and back on November 4th. The organizers will cover these costs.

Unfortunately we cannot cover for travels occurring other times or ways than the above described.

Questions? Organizers and contact information:

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