



HELSINKI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Sustainable
Communities

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE

'BRIDGING THE GAP
BETWEEN RESEARCH
AND ACTION'
13th-24th August, 2007
Helsinki University of
Technology, Finland



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Espoo, Finland

The Sustainable Communities Course gives practical examples and methods how to use urban planning as a tool for sustainable development. Rapid and uncontrolled urbanization is one the biggest development problems of developing countries in local level. Sustainable urban planning can help societies to develop into well functioning environmentally, economically and socially. Well functioning infrastructure and healthy environment with reduced negative impacts of the transportation, energy production and major environmental issues facing the cities such as natural disasters, floods, drought and air quality are important factors in development.

What to learn?

The course aims to bridge the knowledge gap between academia, local and central government in the field of sustainable urban planning. Course is structured to enhance communication, professional networking nationally and internationally and exchange of information between the participants and lecturers.

The course is a combination of interactive learning techniques; keynote lectures, case study presentations, dialogue opportunities, field visits and group works, providing improved understanding and capabilities on sustainable urban planning – *know-why, know-what and know-how.*

Who should apply?

- Individuals with at least 5 years professional experience, with preferably a couple of years of experience in urban planning. Participants will preferably have a Masters or a Doctoral Degree.
- Participants coming from academia, local and sub-national/central government and civil society.

Invited countries are: *Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Thailand, Cambodia, China (Yunnan province), Croatia, Romania, Spain and Finland.* In addition there is free quota for six participants, from other countries.

What for?

Local authorities will:

- Learn how to use tools, working methods and planning measures for developing sustainable community.
- Improve understanding of the important input of civil society and participatory approaches.
- Improve understanding of the importance of co-operating with researchers.

National authorities will:

- Improve understanding of local level issues and working methods and develop fruitful contacts nationally and internationally.

Researchers and civil society will:

- Improve understanding on how to contribute to local governance in providing professional analysis of current urban problems.
- Have capabilities to present research outcomes in a user-friendly and pragmatic way.





The Course Content

1st week

- Day 1. Opening and introduction to the course with high-level panel of urban planning and sustainability. What are the obstacles for sustainable city planning? Different roles of researchers, local and central government in the urban planning? Role of environmentally, economically and socially well-functioning society for development and business investments.
- Day 2. City in layers: City, history and resources. The different presentations give understanding of multilayered character of the city and its administration.
- Day 3. Good governance for sustainable communities. What are practices for good governance? How to measure the quality of governance? How to protect the land rights of the vulnerable groups?
- Day 4. Risk and vulnerability reduction. What are environmentally related urban risks? How to reduce, prevent and manage them? How to mediate conflicts?
- Day 5. Sustainable City Planning and Fieldtrip. What are sustainable urban lifestyles, transport and logistics and energy?

2nd week

- Day 6. Workshop: Case-study presentations. What are the problems? And how planning can help to solve them?
- Day 7. Simulation: Successful stakeholder dialogue
- Day 8. Excursion Day: City of Helsinki. Special focus in energy, housing, energy production structure and combined heat and power generation.
- Day 9. Group work: Finding innovative solutions. The participants are divided into groups and case-studies are distributed allowing cross-cultural learning experiences.
- Day 10. Group work presentations and closing of the course. Awarding the best working group, handing over of course certificates and closing remarks.

The participants are provided a course certificate (7 ETCS) after the course.



When and where?

The course will be held in the Helsinki University of Technology in Finland. The course will take place in 13th–24th August, 2007. Prior to the course, the course databank with the pre-readings will open in June, 2007 and the internet pre-session for the participants will be held in the beginning of August, 2007.

How to apply?

The course enrollment is open from 15th of January till 16th of March, 2007. The enrolment form can be found from the internet <http://global.tkk.fi>. For the eligible application participants are expected to include a motivation letter, case-study, letter of recommendation and other references. The successful applicants are informed by 30th of April, 2007.

What is required for the Case-Study?

- The applicant has own practical experience on the case study.
- The case-study introduces practical problems and possible impacts.
- The case-study is from the area of urban planning and has interlinkages on climate change.

*TKK – University of excellence
in adult education 2007–2009*

About the Organizers

Helsinki University of Technology (TKK) is a leading technical university in Finland. The university was founded in 1849 and received university status in 1908. TKK has twelve faculties, nine separate institutes, 19 degree programs, 250 professors, and 15 000 under- and post-graduate students. Responsible unit of the Sustainable Communities Course in TKK is Lifelong Learning Institute Dipoli.
www.tkk.fi

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, established 1978, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. UN-HABITAT aims to accomplish this through policy debate, advocacy, tool development, capacity building, technical cooperation, innovative funding and strategic partnerships.
www.unhabitat.org

The United Nations Environmental Programme, UNEP, established in 1972, is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment. To accomplish this, UNEP works with a wide range of partners, including United Nations entities, international organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.
www.unep.org

More information

Please, visit <http://global.tkk.fi>

