ENHANCE European Universities of Technology Alliance

SUMMER SCHOOL ON SYNERGIC URBAN SYSTEMS

WARSZAWA 2026

online phase 6 – 24 July, onsite phase 27 – 31 July

BUILDING THE XXI CENTURY TOWN FOR THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE

200 years of Warsaw University of Technology

Handbook v.1.2

CONTENTS

MAIN GOALS

The ENHANCE Summer School on Synergic Urban Systems is being organised for the fourth time this year.

A team of teachers from Aachen, Berlin, Milan, Trondheim, Valencia, Warsaw and Zurich has developed and continuously refines a unique methodology to tackle the most pressing and inspiring urban challenges in the host countries.

With all ambitious learning goals, we are convinced that development of professional skills is most efficient in a vibrant international environment of academics and students.

But no matter what you learn, you're sure to always take away unforgettable memories of new cultural experiences, new friendships, local foods and just plain joy of students interactions.

The Summer School will focus on interdisciplinary planning methodologies based on co-creation of visionary strategies. The learning outcomes and competencies developed will include:

1. The development of integrative and interdisciplinary skills in urban planning and design
2. The application of adaptive planning methods to analyse synergies between different urban systems
3. The approach of a visionary progressive urban planning perspective
4. The development of site-specific urban planning proposals and development strategies by testing and comparing different spatial approaches and layouts
5. The critical reflection on the concepts of urban sustainability and resilience as multidimensional approaches analysing urban spaces
6. The development of key soft skills to react to trends and tackle challenges of urban transformation
7. The creative translation of urban concepts into spatial models

The neoliberal paradigm
has captured the imagination of European policymakers since the 1990s.

- The state of a permanent crisis reduced budgets and gave fuel for free-market approaches.
- Cities withdrew from active spatial policy, leaving room for private developers.
- City administrations in Western Europe, well organised during the age of „the welfare state" prosperity, try to adjust to the new economic environment.
- Planning systems were not abandoned here, but rather are being modified to become more adaptive, to accomodate nagotiative flexibility and effective resiliency at the same time.
- The goal of planning systems' reform has not been achieved yet, thus we keep searching for new approaches and solutions.

In some of post-communist states
where marxist ideology was rejected at the time of the neoliberal turn elsewhere, things are on a different track since the 1990s.

- Post-communist political forces decided to exchange political power with economic power – thus became major supporter for neoliberal solutions.
- Anti-communist political forces rejected central spatial planning as an inefficient legacy of the former regime – thus most of them supported neoliberal paradigm with no reflection on consequences.
- Cities, once underdeveloped during communism, faced rapid spatial development with no frames and order of egalitarian capitalism that was practised in the West after the World War II.

The planning system in Poland
has been highly decentralised and lost a hierachy of state – regional – local planning.

- Communes became „sovereign" in spatial planning decisions, though very weak when confronted to the free-market economy, avoid using spatial planning tools.
- Not disturbed by regional planning, compete for inhabitants and investors – especially these surrounding big cities. Result: urban sprawl escalation.
- Small rural communes are especially susceptible to economical pressure due to low budgetary incomes and a weak administration.
- Usually these are left with the „support" of experts who present spatial solutions sponsored by predatory developers as the only ones that can be imagined. The lack of knowledge and a capacity to create visionary alternatives is to be blamed.

THE PROJECT SITE

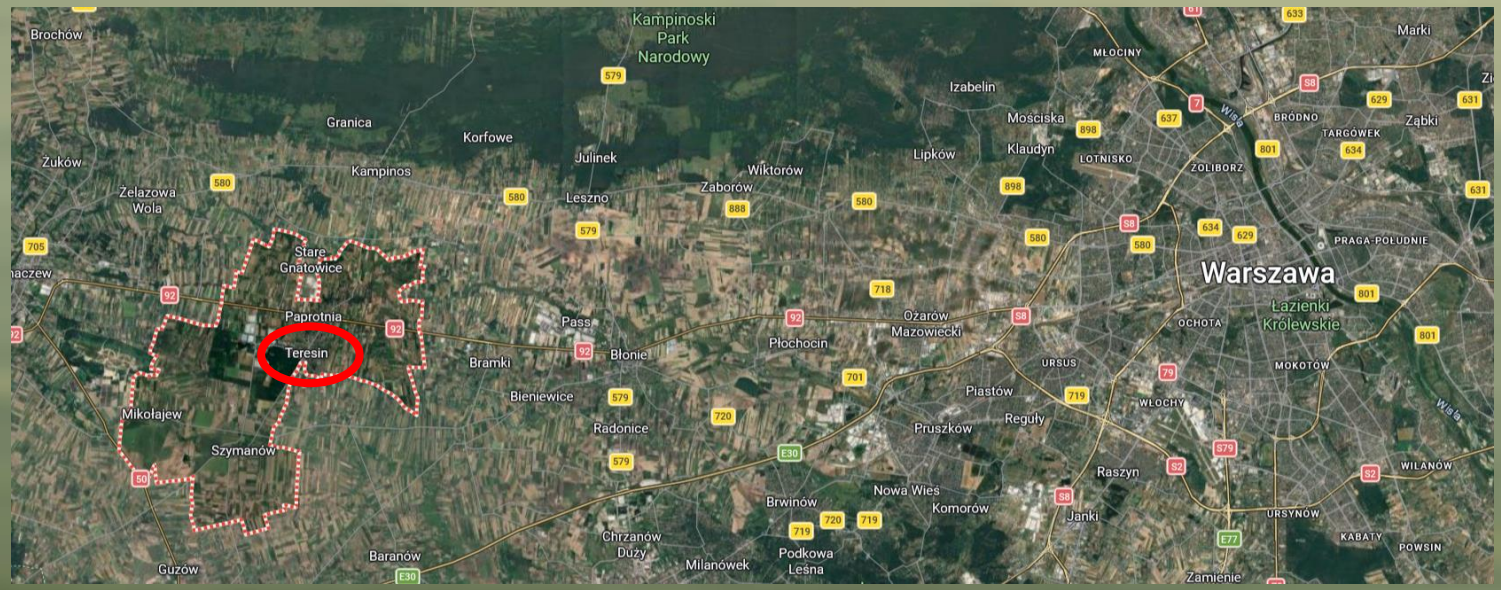
Teresin is located 40 km west of Warsaw. The village is a seat of communal authorities. The commune is inhabited by 11 thousands people and covers 88 sq km of mainly rural areas.

Despite its minor size and significance in the neighbourhood of adjacent towns, it has got quite impressive history and heritage.

One of the most significant is the Franciscan monastery founded and built by St. Maksymilian Maria Kolbe in 1927.

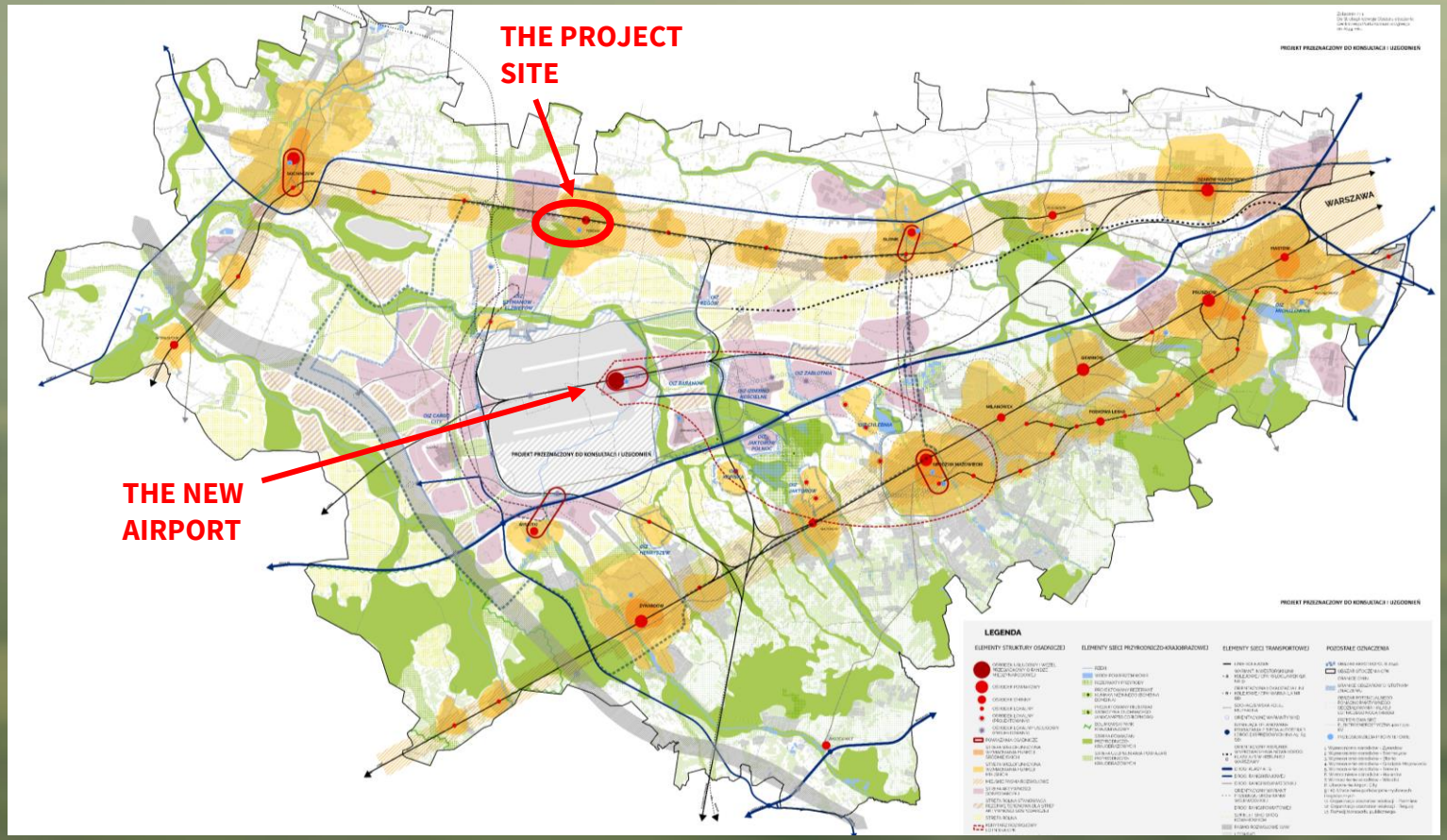
Now Teresin village itself inhabits 2.700 people and the adjacent village of Paprotnia – 1.600.

With a view of future development, authorities want to apply for city rights and consider to demarcate the city boundaries that will inhabit in the future 35.000 people.



UNCERTAINTY IN PLANNING

Since the new motorway has been built 16 km to the south, the commune expiriences rapid development of logistic hubs that provide services for Warsaw.
The new shift in development was brought with the announcement of construction of the new airport for Warsaw, partially located on the southern strip of Teresin commune.
The regional planning authority that is responsible for coordination of spatial and socio-economic development in the new airport's surroundings, makes efforts to prognose future needs and distribute transformation process in the sake of spatial order and sustainable development. Yet, any foresights may be not accurate. Free-market forces depend on global changes, so planned developments may not find enough of investors. Neighbouring communes will compete for them and may occur to be more attractive.



The Teresin commune may face different kinds of development pressure from: industry and logistics, intensive housing, tourism and recreation, extensive urban sprawl. The scale of developments may vary and change over time. The new shape of Teresin and its centre needs to be resilient to such uncertain future and be easily adapter to different functional and spatial demads.

THE CHALLENGE

Main objective: Development of conceptual ideas for the transformation of Teresin village into XXI century town in the airport ecosystem of the new „Solidarity Transport Hub” near Warsaw.

Can we imagine a transformation of an extensive village into a vibrant and dense urban space that attracts inhabitants, investors and entrepreneurs?

Can we draw limits and phases of such a transformation to prevent green-field consumption and provide compact developments favouring pedestrian access and public transport?

Can we develop a strategy that will be resilient to the uncertainty and will adapt the transformation process to the fluctuating market trends?

LEARNING METHODS AND TASKS

The Summer School activity will be divided into two phases: the online phase will be conducted via Microsoft Teams and the on-site phase will take place at the Warsaw University of Technology.

During **the online phase** students will learn about planning approaches, about the project site, and will analyse conditions and perspectives for development of each urban system. ENHANCE professors and experts will give cross-cutting lectures on urban planning theory, the history, governance and evolution of the project site, as well as on wider background of local culture and heritage settings. Students will also have access to the Online Library with the selection of recorded lectures, specifically introducing topics of all discussed urban systems.

Preparing Task 1 students will be divided into groups of 6 to 7, mixing their expertise and home universities, and will work with assigned tutors on a specific urban system.

In-depth tutor groups on urban systems:

- MOBILITY & CONNECTIVITY
- BLUE-GREEN INFRASTRUCTURES & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
- SOCIAL LIFE & COMMUNITY
- URBANITY & DENSITY
- RESOURCES & CIRCULARITY
- CULTURE & HERITAGE

During **the onsite phase** in Warsaw the new set of six student groups will be formed. Representatives of all urban systems will join their forces to synergically integrate their resilience planning concepts and perspectives developed in Task 1.

Within the Task 2 they will create and implement a long-term vision for the transformation of the selected site with a focus on an area chosen by them for development of the future city centre.

THE OVERVIEW

TASK 1 - online

Task description

In TASK 1, students will work within thematic groups dedicated to one of the discussed urban systems (mobility and connectivity, blue-green infrastructures and ecosystem services, social life and communities, urbanity and density, resources and circularity, culture and heritage). Students of each University will be distributed among groups to create an international environment of co-operation.

Each group will analyse the project site through the lenses of their assigned urban system. Current trends will be considered with a focus on the uncertainty of prognoses for the future. As a result, a future vision for the project site will be created in the form of recommendations for planners of the sustainable, resilient and adaptable urban system.

Method

TASK 1.1 consists of:

- a general analysis of the Teresin commune with its external dependencies
- a SWOT analysis of the project site that includes existing conditions and possible future trends

TASK 1.2 consists of:

- recommendations for development of the urban system within the site
- a strategy to deal with uncertainties of the future
- a future vision of the site with a perspective of the particular urban system – a graphical scheme with a special concern for the location of the future city centre according to the urban system's demands

LEARNING METHODS AND TASKS

GROUPS' COMPOSITION

ETH	NTNU	POLIMI	RWTH	UPV	TUB	WUT
7 students	4 students	6 students	5 students	7 students	10 students	6 students

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6
mobility & connectivity	blue-green-infrastructures & ecosystems	social life & communities	urbanity & density	resources & circularity	culture & heritage
7 students	8 students	7 students	8 students	7 students	8 students

TASK 1 - online

Deliveries

- a SWOT analysis covering the pilot site + surroundings 1:5.000
- additional maps and illustrations on identified trends
- a graphical scheme of recommended development of the assigned urban system

The SWOT analysis will be a subject to the Mid-term Review on the 16.07.2026. The final results from TASK 1 are to be presented in the Final Presentation on the 23.07.2026.

- presentations of 20 min. + 10 min. discussion

Lectures during online phase

During the online phase three kinds of lectures will be given:

- lectures on the project site conditions and the local background
- lectures on the methodology of the summer school, resilience and adaptive planning
- recorded lectures on urban systems and their cross-cutting topics from the summer schools of Valencia 2023, Milan 2024 and Berlin 2025.

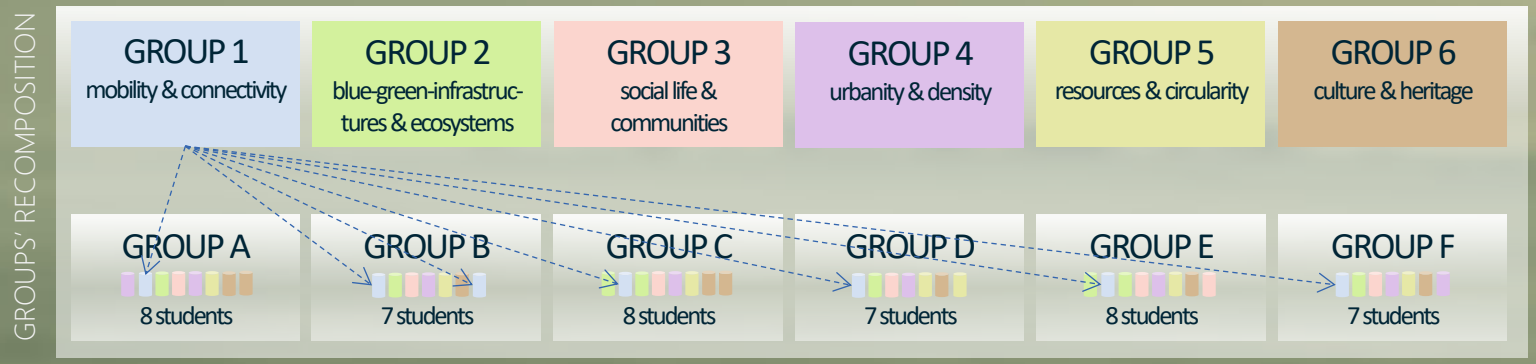
LEARNING METHODS AND TASKS

GROUPS' TUTTORS

GROUP 1 mobility & connectivity 7 students	main contact:	Christian Larisch	RWTH	larisch@staedtebau.rwth-aachen.de
		Christa Reicher	RWTH	reicher@staedtebau.rwth-aachen.de
		Tomasz Dzieduszyński	WUT	tomasz.dzieduszynski@pw.edu.pl
GROUP 2 blue-green-infrastruc-tures & ecosystems 8 students	main contact:	Stefano Salata	POLIMI	stefano.salata@polimi.it
		Juanjo Galan Vivas	UPV	juagavi@urb.upv.es
		Anna Kaczorowska	NTNU	anna.kaczorowska@ntnu.no
GROUP 3 social life & communities 7 students	main contact:	Lina Naoroz Bråten	NTNU	lina.n.braten@ntnu.no
		Luca Lazzarini	POLIMI	luca.lazzarini@polimi.it
		Philipp Kerschbaum	TUB	philipp.kerschbaum@tu-berlin.de
GROUP 4 urbanity & density 8 students	main contact:	Julia Deltoro Soto	UPV	judelso@urb.upv.es
		Elisabet Quintana Segui	UPV	elquise@urb.upv.es
		Anna Maria Wierzbicka	WUT	anna.wierzbicka@pw.edu.pl
GROUP 5 resources & circularity 7 students	main contact:	Alena Cohrs	TUB	a.cohrs@tu-berlin.de
		Jan Polivka	TUB	jan.polivka@tu-berlin.de
		Anna Nowak	WUT	anna.nowak@pw.edu.pl
GROUP 6 culture & heritage 8 students	main contact:	Martina Schretzenmeyr	ETH	schretz@ethz.ch
		Mrudhula Soe Koshy	NTNU	mrudhula.koshy@ntnu.no
		Maciej Lasocki	WUT	maciej.lasocki@pw.edu.pl

TASK 1 - online

LEARNING METHODS AND TASKS



TASK 2 - onsite

Task description

In TASK 2 students will work within new groups made of at least one student per each urban system with the international mixture as a rule.
Task 2.1 - groups will create 6 competitive strategies of transformation of the project site. These strategies will include a decision about the exact location of the new city centre.
Task 2.2 – groups will design the model of the new city centre. The idea of transformation will be visualised in detail.

Method

the thematic recommendations from TASK 1 are overlapped to create integrated spatial strategies covering all urban systems for the project site.
Each group can choose a different focus area, also overlapping with other group's areas.
Each group will explore small scale solutions to find design strategies and principles to transform the focus area to the city centre.

TASK 2 - onsite

Deliveries

For the masterplan in the model of resilience each student group will contribute:

- interventions representing the spatial and conceptional elements of resilience to deal with the trends for the entire pilot site – sketches and schemes, scales 1:5000
- a detailed spatial design of the focus area for the future city centre – model, scale 1:1000 + presentation slides with details
- the final presentation – each group presents the vision of the future city centre of Teresin in oral 15 min. presentation

The model

The idea of a 3D model is to present the future vision of a small town of the XXI century that grows on the territory reclaimed from extensive and chaotic land use.
With use of simplified models of buildings students should define the intensity of urbanisation, scale and size of public spaces, character of architecture. The use of green spaces and recreational areas should also be presented.

More details maybe exemplified on the presentation slides with selected reference projects or own sketches.

SCHEDULES

1st WEEK (online)	MONDAY July, 6th	TUESDAY July, 7th	WEDNESDAY July, 8th	THURSDAY July, 9th	FRIDAY July, 10th
9:00-9:45 LECTURE TIME	Welcome and introduction to the Summer School and Task1 Maciej Lasocki, WUT	Introduction to the project site	Lecture 1	Lecture 3	Lecture 5
10:00-10:45 LECTURE TIME		The heritage and culture of the region	Lecture 2	Lecture 4	Lecture 6
10:30-12:00 SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING	recorded lectures recommended				
afternoons TEAMWORK	16:00 recommended time for the first meeting of groups and tutors	development of Task1.1 recommended consultation with tutors			

SCHEDULES

2nd WEEK (online)	MONDAY July, 13th	TUESDAY July, 14th	WEDNESDAY July, 15th	THURSDAY July, 16th	FRIDAY July, 17th
9:00-10:30 SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING	recorded lectures recommended				Lecture 7
any convenient time TEAMWORK	development of Task1.1 recommended consultation with tutors			11:00-14:00 MID-TERM REVIEW TASK 1.1	development of Task1.2 recommended consultation with tutors

3rd WEEK (online)	MONDAY July, 20th	TUESDAY July, 21st	WEDNESDAY July, 22nd	THURSDAY July, 23rd	FRIDAY July, 24th
9:00-10:30 SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING	recorded lectures recommended				
any convenient time TEAMWORK	development of Task1.2 recommended consultation with tutors			11:00-14:00 FINAL PRESENTATION TASK 1.1 & 1.2	recommended travel to Warsaw

SCHEDULES

4th WEEK (onsite)	MONDAY July, 27th	TUESDAY July, 28th	WEDNESDAY July, 29th	THURSDAY July, 30th	FRIDAY July, 31st
9:00-13:00 TEAMWORK	Welcome and introduction to the Task2 Maciej Lasocki, WUT	Visit to the project site at Teresin Workshop begins Task 2.1	Working session at WUT with tutors Task 2.1	Working session at WUT with tutors Task 2.2	Working session at WUT with tutors Task 2.2
13:00-14:00 LUNCH TIME					
14:00-17:00 TEAMWORK	Working session at WUT with tutors Task 2.1	Workshop at the Teresin Library continues Task 2.1	MID-TERM REVIEW	Working session at WUT with tutors Task 2.2	FINAL PRESENTATION TASK 2.1 & 2.2
evenings SOCIAL TIME	SOCIAL EVENT AT WUT				SOCIAL EVENT AT WUT

TEACHERS

Lina Naoroz Bråten

Assistant Professor, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim

Sociologist and urban planner. Her PhD research explores how temporary space interventions can foster social interaction in public spaces in Nordic urban neighborhoods, focusing on democratic participation, accessibility, and experimental planning approaches such as tactical and temporary urbanism. Part of the NTNU Health program.

Role in the Summer School:
Tutor online and onsite

Alena Cohrs

Research Associate, Technische Universität Berlin

Urban Planner and Ph.D. candidate focusing on the mix-used, productive city and climate-adaptive urban spaces in researching and teaching.

Role in the Summer School:
Lecturer, tutor online and onsite

Julia Deltoro Soto

Associate Professor, Technical University of Valencia

Architect, PhD in Urban design and planning. Her research interests focus on urban design and planning, urban history and morphology, sustainability and economic and industrial areas. Associate editor of the international research journal VLC arquitectura.

Role in the Summer School:
Lecturer, tutor online and onsite

Fabio Bayro Kaiser

Research Associate, Chair and Institute of Urban Design at the Faculty of Architecture, RWTH Aachen University

Architect and urban planner researching and teaching urban design, global urbanisation, and geospatial analysis.

Role in the Summer School:
Lecturer and tutor onsite

Tomasz Dzieduszyński

Adjunct, Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology

Areas of research interest include digital tools supporting architectural and urban design, including data collection, processing and visualization, neural networks, database building, and design visualization in the form of interactive electronic and mechatronic models. His PhD is in the use of neural networks in processing compositional contexts in architecture and urban planning.

Role in the Summer School:
Tutor online

TEACHERS

Juanjo Galan Vivas

Associate Professor, Technical University of Valencia

Ph.D. in Regional and Landscape Planning. His research and teaching focus on Landscape architecture, Landscape and regional planning, Sustainable urban and regional planning, Circular metabolisms, Green infrastructures, and socio-ecological systems.

Role in the BER Summer School:
Lecturer, tutor online and onsite

Anna Kaczorowska

Professor in urban planning, Department of Architecture and Planning, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim

Urban planner and designer focused on sustainable urban transformation, decision-support tools, and socio-ecological, cultural, and infrastructural planning perspectives.

Role in the Summer School:
Lecturer, tutor online and onsite

Maria Kaczorowska

PhD candidate, Doctoral School of the Warsaw University of Technology

Architect. Her research covers regional architecture and the concept of critical regionalism in contemporary architecture. She conducts a comparative analysis of these phenomena in rural areas of Sweden and Poland, focusing on architectural details.

Role in the Summer School:
Tutor onsite

Philipp Kerschbaum

Research Associate, Technische Universität Berlin

Master thesis on the combination of transformation research and spatial planning. Based on practical experience, focuses now on the environmental planning and assessments of infrastructure developments, social and ecological issues across various spatial scales. PhD project focuses on stakeholder participation in planning and approval procedures.

Role in the Summer School:
Tutor online and onsite

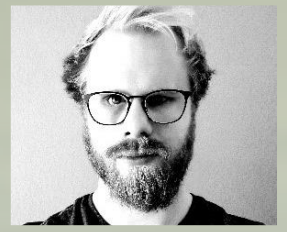
Mrudhula Soe Koshy

Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Planning, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim

Her research investigates the concepts of uncertainty, resilience, and contingency at the intersection of spatial planning, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian responses to deal with unprecedented environmental crises.

Role in the Summer School:
Tutor online

TEACHERS



Christian Larisch

Research Associate, RWTH Aachen University

Urban Planner currently working on his doctoral thesis. His work focusses on Transit Oriented Development, interactions between mobility and the build environment, strategic spatial development and urban design.

Role in the Summer School:
Tutor online and onsite

Maciej Lasocki

Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology

Licenced architect, lecturer on contemporary urban planning, leading design studio on spatial policy for urban areas, scientific researcher with special interests in digital technologies in urban planning, pedestrian traffic and sustainable urban development.

Role in the BER Summer School:
Host, lecturer, tutor online and onsite.

Luca Lazzarini

Assistant professor in Urban and Regional Planning at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU) of Politecnico di Milano.

His research explores and analyzes the interfaces between spatial planning and urban biodiversity, with a particular focus on mapping and monitoring the socio-spatial impacts of biodiversity-related interventions. Since 2023, he has been working as a research fellow at the National Biodiversity Future Center (NBFC).

Role in the Summer School:
Tutor online and onsite

Anna Nowak

Adjunct, Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology

The Head of the Center for Universal Design at WUT, which promotes designing for people with disabilities. As the teacher she specialises in environmentally friendly design within structural and constructional issues. Also leads lectures on Polish culture for foreign students.

Role in the BER Summer School:
Tutor online and onsite

Jan Polivka

Professor, Technische Universität Berlin

Urban Planner and head of the department of Urban Planning and Built Environment development. Research focus in the procedures, processes and conflicts in the area of urban development and redensification in the context of the shift of planning in the post-industrial and digital age.

Role in the BER Summer School:
Lecturer, tutor online and onsite

TEACHERS

Elisabet Quintana Segui

Technical University of Valencia

Architect and landscape architect specializing in public space and landscape design. She teaches urbanism and landscape at the School of Architecture and runs her own studio in Valencia, focusing on parks, gardens, urban development, and interdisciplinary projects.

Role in the Summer School:
Tutor online and onsite

Christa Reicher

Professor, RWTH Aachen University

Christa Reicher is an architect and urban planner heading the Chair of Urban Design and UNESCO Chair for Cultural Heritage and Urbanism. She is an architect and urban planner focused on urban development, land use, renewal, neighborhood planning, design, and housing.

Role in the Summer School:
Lecturer, tutor online and onsite

Stefano Salata

Associate Professor, Politecnico di Milano

As a scientist and architect he develops Performance-Based solutions through Ecosystem Service modelling and Green Infrastructures for Decision-Making.

Role in the BER Summer School:
Tutor online

Martina Schretzenmayr

Lecturer, ETH Zürich

Geographer, Spatial Planner, PhD in Planning. Her research focuses on urban transformation, history in spatial planning, collaborative planning, planning pedagogies.

Role in the Summer School:
Lecturer, tutor online and onsite

Anna Maria Wierzbicka

Associate Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology

Head of the Architecture and Urban Design Unit, creator of the narrative methodology in architectural scientific research, as a teacher specialises in sacral and monumental architecture, as well as on ethical aspects of designing process.

Role in the Summer School:
Lecturer, tutor online