

Participatory tools for urban nature planning and management

Mohamed Dhia TURKI

Introduction:

The CIVIS Blended Intensive Program (BIP), titled "Participatory Tools for Urban Nature Planning and Management," was held from February to June 2023. The program provided a learning experience to students from six universities within the CIVIS Alliance. In this report, we will give a detailed overview of the program's structure, objectives, and key components.

Target Audience:

The CIVIS BIP program is open to students at different levels of study, from bachelor's degree to PhD. It welcomed students from various fields, such as environmental science, geography, social sciences and GIS.

Program Objectives:

The CIVIS BIP program aims at creating a dynamic and active platform for discussing approaches and effective strategies in urban nature planning and management. Moreover, the program helped equip students with the necessary skills to handle the obstacles associated with public engagement in urban environments and sustainability.

Program Structure:

The program was organized into four courses and online roundtables:

Course 1 – Participation in urban sustainability

- Explored collaborative planning, sustainability, and participatory management in different regions of the world.
- Examined various forms of participation in urban planning, design, and management.
- Analyzed European legislation and shared examples of participatory practices from different countries.
- Evaluated the expected impact of public participation and identified challenges in urban planning.
- Showcased real-life examples and their impacts.

Course 2 – Urban nature – Open lab for participatory practices in urban

- Explored the connection between urban nature and urban infrastructure.
- Categorized urban nature and discussed its contributions to sustainability and resilience.
- Examined human-urban nature interactions in urban settings.
- Assessed ecosystem services trade-offs and synergies.
- Identified specific user groups of urban nature.
- Considered public participation in urban nature planning and management.

Course 3 - GIS as a supporting tool for participatory management of urban nature

- Explored the use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) applications for participatory management of urban nature.
- Studied existing participatory tools in practice, including the Green cadaster and local online platforms.
- Focused on data collection and geo-visualization techniques, such as story maps and dashboards.
- Emphasized the integration of remote sensing data, Copernicus services, and other geospatial data in participatory tools of planning and evaluation.

Course 4 - Monitoring and evaluation of participatory practices in urban nature planning and management

- Defined criteria for monitoring and evaluating participatory practices.
- Assessed the efficiency, efficacy, and performance of participatory practices.
- Explored the ethical considerations surrounding participatory management.
- Identified barriers and obstacles related to the use of participatory tools.

Online lectures

Regular online lectures and activities facilitated the exchange of ideas and approaches for public participation in urban planning.

On-Site Activity in Salzburg, Austria

The program was concluded by a five-day on-site activity in Salzburg, where participants engaged in practical exercises and immersive learning experiences. The week also included excursions to various forms of urban nature around the Salzburg area such as Hellbrunn Palace.

Takeaways

The CIVIS BIP program in "Participatory tools for urban nature planning and management" provided students with a comprehensive and multidisciplinary experience in analyzing and planning urban natural landscape. It covered various aspects of urban sustainability, participatory practices, GIS applications, and ethics in urban nature planning and management. In addition to that, it gave students a unique opportunity to collaborate, share ideas, and develop practical skills through a hands-on learning experience in Salzburg, Austria. The program not only enriched participating students but also fostered collaboration and knowledge sharing among universities within the CIVIS Alliance.