

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 2 | October 2022 | Fall Term

About UPGRADE:

Urban and transPortation reGeneration for Reducing Automobile Dependency in mEna area

UPGRADE is a multi-country project for Egypt and Lebanon. It addresses the challenge of urban mobility and its availability, by directing the development of higher education, research and business to serve the needs of unprivileged minorities in the South-Mediterranean region.

Outcomes of the UPGRADE project:

Under WP2 each Beneficiary Universities have revised the four modules outlines by an external expert reviewer, who provided a feedback about the relevance and significance of the courses, and made further suggestions for improvement. Then, the Beneficiary Universities made the necessary changes to the course outlines with the agreement of Partner Universities. Subsequently, the courses detailed content (lectures, teaching materials, assignments, evaluation methods, etc.) was developed by Partners in coordination with Beneficiaries. New modules were accredited and inaugurated within each Beneficiary University.

In light of capacity building for teaching staff, four Training of Trainers (ToT) took place between July to September, where Beneficiaries have visited each Partner University to gain an insight on designing and elaborating course content to address

the subject of "Sustainable Urban Mobility". Training participants also discussed the various qualitative and quantitative methods throughout the delivered courses.

These modules will be taught for undergraduate and postgraduate programs in the Beneficiary Universities between September 2022 and September 2023. Each module is assigned to a Partner University for supervision and regular feedback.

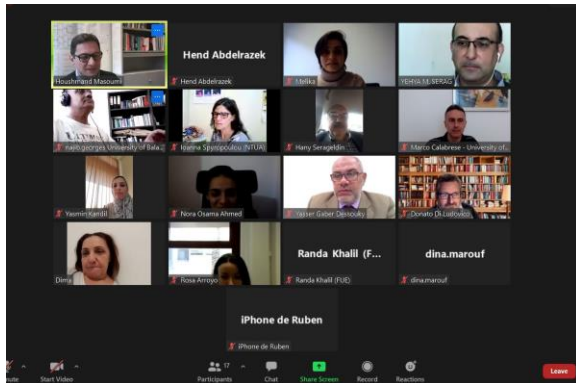
Under WP3 the Egyptian and Lebanese partners have purchased and installed the designated equipment (hardware, software) and inaugurated the SUMP lab.

WP4 have recently embarked with the delivery of new courses in the four Beneficiary Universities in Egypt and Lebanon.

UPGRADE Activities Nov 2021 to October 2022

Partners' meeting 22-Nov-2021

In light of revising the feedback from the National Erasmus+ Office in Lebanon on the the first monitoring visit to project UPGRADE, the Partners have gathered to highlight the shortcomings and delineate the points of action within a reformative framework. The jurors comments were all taken into consideration for the continuation of the project.



Partner's meeting, November 2021

Info day in Beirut 28-April-2022

NDU hosted the Erasmus+ Info Day with NDU President Fr. Bechara Khoury welcoming the Coordinator of the National Erasmus+ Office in Lebanon, Dr. Aref Alsoufi, and the EU Delegate to Lebanon, Ms. Orla Colclough.

Speakers from various universities presented the latest updates on improving wastewater treatment, urban planning, and health services in Lebanon.



Info days Beirut, April 2022

Third management meeting & Info Day in Beirut 11-13-Oct-2022

The third management meeting took place in Lebanon, at NDU University, in October 2022 with the representation of all partner institutions. During the two-days meeting, management aspects were discussed and the outcomes of each WP were presented by related partner. The SUMP lab equipment was investigated while discussing the issues faced by beneficiary universities and how to mitigate them. Training of Trainers of staff from beneficiary countries to EU Countries has been assessed. Action plan for course delivery was explored and defined. Thorough discussions took place about the requirements for the submission of the interim report. The meeting days concluded by visiting the SUMP labs in both NDU and UoB.



Beirut meeting, October 2022

The SSC meeting was followed by an info day at University of Balamand, where several presentations were made by NDU/UOB team, NGOs, National Erasmus+ Officer in Lebanon.



Beirut meeting, October 2022

Training of Trainers (ToT)

UPGRADE project has successfully conducted 4 Training of Trainers where staff from Beneficiary Universities have visited the EU Universities, aiming to increase local capability and to design course content and provide lectures on "Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning". Training at different EU Universities allow European Professors to share their experiences, competences and best

practices within their participation as trainers.

TOT in NTUA 25-29-July-2022

A group of 9 lecturers from AASTMT, FUE, NDU, UoB have participated in ToT- Training of Trainers from 25-29 July 2022. This training was organized by National Technical University of Athens targeting professors, lecturers, teaching assistants, and staff from schools of architecture, engineering, and transportation to provide training on related courses in the urban mobility and transportation field.

The training agenda included:

Day 1: Introduction; Session I – Training Basic Principles; Session II – How to be a good trainer?

Day 2: Session III – Discrimination and Harassment; Session IV – Experiences & Issues during training; Session V – What would you like to obtain from the course? – SNFCC visit

Day 3: Discussion about the course materials and related assignments
Athens walk and social activity

Day 4: Attikes Diadromes visit
Software training (GIS and Aimsun traffic simulation software)

Day 5: Closing session with general comments and feedback



Day 1 group photo



Day 2: SNFCC visit



Day 4: Attikes Diadromes visit

TOT in Tu Berlin 22-26-August-2022

The 2nd Training of Trainers took place in Technische Universität Berlin, from 22-26 of August 2022 with the participation of academic staff members AASTMT, FUE, NDU, UoB.

The training agenda included:

Day 1: orientation, interactive teaching methods Dr. Houshmand, Urban Transformation in Cairo- Dr. Yehia Serag

Day 2: How to design a project-based SUMP Dr. Houshmand, demonstrating the case of Jounieh (data collection phase), Lebanon - NDU master students.

Day 3: output data demonstrating the case of Jounieh, Lebanon - NDU master students, and urban and regional planning- Dr. Yehia Serag, demonstrating publication of Dr. Houshmand on the matter.

Day 4: contextual pedagogy exploration of urban developments in Egypt- Dr. Sally Deeb and Dr. Sondoss Ragheb, demonstration of papers produced by master students from NDU based on Jounieh case study.

Day 5: Conclusion: Planning for future courses under UPGRADE project Prof. Dr. Houshmand Masoumi and demonstration of last paper NDU master student, wrapping up and discussions and Conclusions.



Group photo in TUB campus



Group photo of the attendees



Presentation by Dr. Yehia Serag

TOT in UNIVAQ 05-09-Sept-2022

As for the 3rd Training of Trainers, it took place in Università degli Studi dell'Aquila, from 5-9 of September 2022 with the participation of academic staff members from AASTMT, NDU, UOB.

The training agenda included:

Day 1: Welcoming and ToT Overview

Day 2:

- Mobility in the UN SDGs
- Sustainability and mobility in Smart City
- Visit to the city, with a focus on mobility issues and reconstruction

Day 3:

- L'Aquila's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan and interaction with land use planning
- Roma's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan and interaction with land use planning
- The University Inter-Campus Sustainable Mobility Plan

Day 4:

- Innovative teaching methods
- Society in local and global sustainable development. The quadruple helix.
- Sustainability and mobility in Smart City.

- Visit to Roio Campus
- ToT discussions and conclusions



Group photo of the attendees



Training presentations

TOT in UPV 06-08-Sept-2022

The 4th and last Training of Trainers was conducted in Universitat Politècnica de València UPV, from 6-8 of September 2022 with the participation of academic staff members from AASTMT, FUE.

The training agenda included:

Day 1: The teams from AAST and FUE were greeted by Ruben from UPV.

- Activity 1: Transportation Lab Visit
- Activity 2: Presentation on Training
- Activity 3: Presentation on PMOME

Day 2:

- Activity1: UPV Sustainable Urban Mobily Plan
- Activity 2: AIMSUN Travel Simulation Seminar

Day 3:

- Activity 1: A Visit to the Traffic Management Unit of the City of Valencia
- Activity 2: TravelWell Presentation by Yenis Lopez



Group photo of the attendees



Training presentations

Activities at Beneficiary Universities

Urban Lab Camp (4th edition) 13-March-2022

UPGRADE representative from AASTMT participated in the 4th Urban Lab Camp in Alexandria, where UPGRADE project was highlighted and presentation on how to Environmentally Evaluate Transportation Projects was provided. Discussion on several challenges and opportunities for the sustainable urban mobility in Egypt.

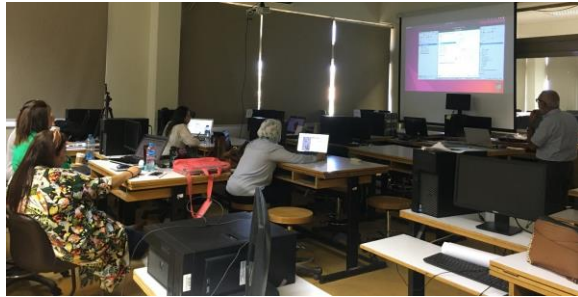


UPGRADE representative in the ULC

GIS workshop at AASTMT 20&21-July-2022

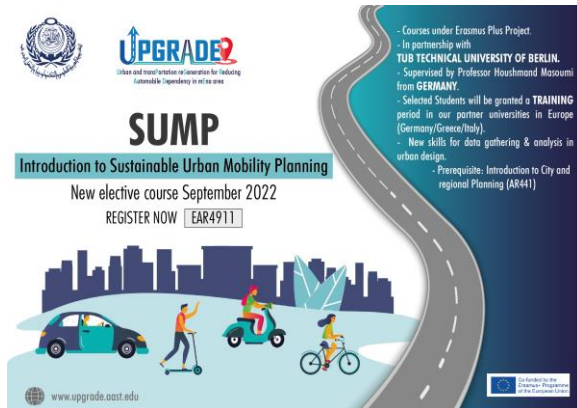
A second technical training on QGIS was held on 20th and 21st July, 2022 for the AASTMT-UPGRADE TOT team, prior to their Training of Trainers, in order to fill the

knowledge gap and gain an insight on the software and its applications.



GIS training sessions

SUMP Course Registration, September 2022



The registration for the introduction to SUMP course at AASTMT has been announced on the university's social media and students' groups (public and private).

MOU agreement in action

The UPGRADE project team at AASTMT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Transport for Cairo. A new area of collaboration is being explored in the light of collecting data on transit systems, users and public transport operators hoping to navigate and plan for better and more efficient public transport. Transport for Cairo (TfC) collaborates with

AASTMT team for data collection, and students will receive a workshop on data collection through field measurement.



<https://transportforcairo.com/>

Upcoming Events

Technical seminars – October 2022 & July 2023

A Lecture by an Invited EU Programme University Professor – December 2022

Fourth SSC meeting - January 2023

International final conference – November 2023

To join our mailing list, please contact:
aast.upgrade.2020@gmail.com

For further information, please visit:
<https://www.aast.edu/en/scientific-research/upgrade/index.php>

For updates about events and activities, follow us on social media accounts:

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