

NEWSLETTER

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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 WP4 Beneficiary Universities, with the assistance of EU Universities, have fully delivered 14 courses with prepared teaching and learning materials. During the academic semesters, students also benefited from the expertise of the EU Programme University Professors, who visited Beneficiary Universities in order to deliver a lecture on Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning.

Over the course of this research, students investigated different case studies, where they examined the Land Use and Urban Mobility needs within the scope of the selected course. Site visits, lab training, data collection, data analysis, and workshops were performed to assess the travel behavior and urban mobility needs, according to the research methods and skills they previously acquired.

Professors guided students in an extensive process of data analysis, where students of each course separately reviewed and drew conclusions from the information they gathered, elaborating on the findings of the surveys they conducted. In an internal workshop, Beneficiary Universities professors along with undergraduate and postgraduate students discussed the findings of the investigated case studies. Information gathered and analysis conducted by students of each course were compiled and presented in an appropriate form to document the findings of the investigated case.

In light of increasing the interest of the academic and industrial stakeholders, Sustainable Urban Mobility technical seminars are organized in Egypt and Lebanon. The seminars showcased the Regional interest in Sustainable Urban Mobility technology and the working opportunities connected.

Under WP3 the Egyptian and Lebanese partners have inaugurated four SUMP labs and provided a series of training for Tutors, Technical Staff, and students on the innovative mobility software and hardware.

The project is concluding with an international final dissemination conference, planned in October 2023, for presenting the results of the project, focusing on the developed modules, the capacity created by UPGRADE, and the Sustainable Urban Mobility centers founded.

UPGRADE Activities Nov 2022 to July 2023

Fourth management meeting in Aswan, Jan-2023

The fourth management meeting took place in Egypt, at AASTMT- South Valley campus, in January 2023 with the representation of all partner institutions. During the three-days meeting, management aspects were discussed and the outcomes of each WP were presented by related partner. The remaining activities of the project (i.e., events, meetings, workshops, training) have been discussed thoroughly and different dates have been accurately placed on the project's calendar. The timeline was efficiently designed by taking into consideration the remaining time of the project, aligning all activities and deliverables in a suitable and proficient schedule. The timeline is planned in agreement of all partners.

The meeting days were coupled by a workshop held in AASTMT South Valley Campus to disseminate the outcomes of the project to a wider audience in the region, and initiate collaboration with local NGOs and stakeholders.



Aswan meeting, Jan 2023

Fifth management meeting in Kaslik, July-2023

The 5th management meeting took place in Lebanon, NDU university, in July 2023 with the representation of all partner institutions. During the three-days meeting, management aspects were discussed and the outcomes of each WP were presented by related partner. General assessment and evaluation of the outcomes of each WP were performed. Partners discussed the different sort of deliverables (i.e., agenda, minutes of meetings, courses material, evaluation outputs, photos of laboratories and events, presentations, newsletters, etc.), and the archiving process. Following the external reviewer meeting with WP5 leader, the evaluation activities and evaluation plan were presented and discussed with the consortium.

A side activity of the project meeting was a one-day technical seminar, in which the project partners and companies, start-ups, NGOs, and local businesses from Lebanon took part.



Kaslik meeting, July 2023

3.5 Labs' inauguration

During the UPGRADE project four Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning labs in AASTMT, FUE, NDU, UOB were inaugurated. The Sustainable Urban Mobility Labs offer services like assisting to teaching, thesis and research work using the laboratory facilities, practical activities included in the developed courses, and providing Transportation and Urban Mobility consultation to the local industries and governments.

Lab inauguration, AASTMT, 21-Feb-2023

Inauguration of the Upgrade Erasmus+ Sustainable Urban Mobility Lab at the AASTMT Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport

College of Engineering and Technology. His Excellency Prof. Dr. Ismail Abdel Ghaffar Ismail Farag, President of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, inaugurated on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, the Sustainable Urban Mobility Lab at the Department of Architecture Engineering and Environmental Design.



The inauguration ceremony, AASTMT

Lab inauguration, FUE, 15-May-2023

The opening of Upgrade Lab, the newest engineering laboratory at The Faculty of Engineering and Technology - Future University in Egypt, with its cutting-edge tools and technology, which presents a special chance for students to investigate and test out cutting-edge concepts in a variety of engineering domains. This lab is set up to promote students' creativity and curiosity in a variety of areas.



The inauguration ceremony, FUE

Lab inauguration, NDU, 05-July-2023

Notre Dame University - Louaize (NDU) in Lebanon inaugurated the urban mobility lab. The unveiling of the state-of-the-art Upgrade laboratory added a new dimension to the pursuit of engineering excellence. EU Professors and local stakeholders shared their expertise in reshaping the future of urban mobility.



The inauguration ceremony, NDU

PTV training, AASTMT, 12-13-June-2023

An online training session was held at the AASTMT SUMP lab, in order to introduce academic and faculty staff members to PTV Vissim and PTV Viswalk. PTV Group is a leading organization in the field of traffic simulation software development.



PTV training, AASTMT

4.2 EU visiting Professors

Beneficiary Universities are visited by Professors from a Programme Country University, in order to deliver lectures on Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning. European Professors also assessed students and their ability to acquire, understand, and express their understanding of the new material learnt.

Lecture week, AASTMT, 07-11-May-2023

The AASTMT Department of Architecture Engineering and Environmental Design was thrilled to host a group of distinguished EU professors, from Greece and Spain, who conducted lab training for staff and students, delivered insightful course lectures.

Activities performed:

- UPGRADE courses' lecturing
- Evaluation of students work
- Lab training for staff and graduate students
- 1 to 1 session with PhD and master students



Lab training for staff and students



Course lecturing and workshops



Course lecturing



Meetings with the committee

Lecture week, FUE, 14-18-May-2023

FUE's architectural department hosted a week-long event featuring lectures and technical workshops by renowned professors from Germany and Italy, on a captivating journey through urban mobility.

6.5. Technical seminars

Technical seminars are organized in UPGRADE project to increase the regional interest in the Sustainable Urban Mobility technology and develop the working opportunities connected. Several events were organized in Egypt and Lebanon, where European Professors shared their experiences, competences, best practices, and discussed opportunities with local actors.

Technical seminar, AASTMT, 11-May-2023

The AASTMT organized a stimulating public seminar - under the umbrella of SUMP.

- Technical seminar presentations
- Panel discussion with academic staff & students



Panel discussion in the technical seminar

Technical seminar, FUE, 18-May-2023

The event aimed to shed light on the challenges and opportunities of urban mobility in Egypt, with the participation of local NGOs and businesses. Together, academics, professionals, and students worked towards innovative solutions for a better future. The event featured renowned speakers from the Egyptian Ministry of Transportation.



Technical seminar at FUE

Technical seminar, NDU, 04-July-2023

Several sessions were conducted on the Sustainable Urban Mobility scene in the Mediterranean. Urban Mobility planning and traffic engineering in Lebanon were discussed and local case studies were presented.



Technical seminar at NDU

Activities at Beneficiary Universities

Dissemination for RIBA committee, November 2022

In the framework of the RIBA committee visit to the Department of Architecture and Environmental Design at AASTMT-Abu Qir campus, the UPGRADE project was presented with its outcomes as four new courses related to Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), Land use Planning, Smart Cities, and Urban Travel Behavior.



Dissemination event

Technical seminar, December 2022

Under the light of the MOU agreement, Transport for Cairo held a capacity building workshop for AASTMT students about the "Digital Mapping of Public Transportation in Alexandria".

The training course aims to onboard students on the use of digital data in transport planning and analysis. It is equally divided between theory and practice; each session contains an exercise where students gain a hands-on experience in creating and interacting with transport data.

Collected data assisted in creating a basic GTFS feed for transport in Alexandria, focusing on the paratransit modes which are unplanned and unmapped. The outcomes of this project were digitized into an open access mapping database of all

modes of public transportation in Alexandria. The project is ground-breaking because it provides a unique, original, first-hand, and up-to-date database that is being exploited by the municipality of Alexandria.

Database found online at: <https://gitlab.com/digitaltransport/data/africa/alexandria>

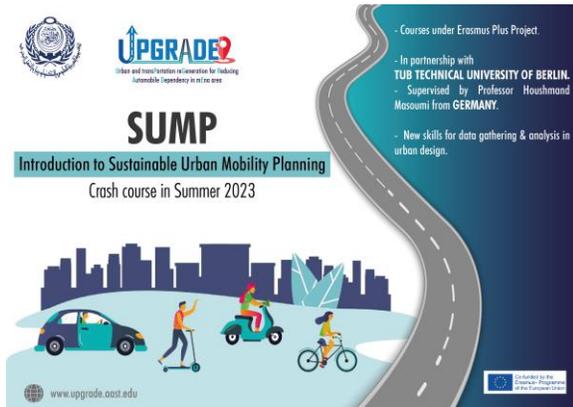


Theoretical sessions



Practical sessions

SUMP Course Registration, Summer 2023



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

Upcoming Events

A Lecture by an Invited EU Programme University Professor, Lebanon – Sept 2023

Grouped workshop, Cairo – Sept 2023

Training of students – Sept & Oct 2023

Last SSC meeting - Oct 2023

International final conference – Oct 2023

To join our mailing list, please contact:
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For further information, please visit:
<https://aast.edu/en/scientific-research/upgrade/>

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

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