

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 1 | December 2021 | 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 WP1 the Consortium has prepared several surveys which have been completed by academic staff and students from Egyptian and Lebanese universities, as well as local stakeholders and NGOs working in the urban mobility field. These surveys have provided relevant information about the needs of the universities and the market in terms of urban mobility and transportation.

Four modules in each university have been produced in WP2. These modules will be taught for undergraduate and postgraduate programs in the UPGRADE partner institutions in Egypt and Lebanon between September 2022 and September 2023.

Under WP3 the Egyptian and Lebanese partners have fulfilled the inter-campus lab visit to EU universities, in order to acquire information about the SUMP lab. The

equipment for the Sustainable Urban Mobility Laboratories in partner universities are purchased and being installed.

## UPGRADE Activities Nov 2020 to Dec 2021

### **Kick-off meeting 16 & 17-Dec-2020**

A Kick off Meeting (KoM) for UPGRADE was held online via Zoom over two days (16th and 17th of December 2020). The KoM was attended by representatives from teams working on UPGRADE from each Partner and Program Country.

### **Second management meeting in Cairo 14-16-Sept-2021**

The second management meeting took place in Egypt, at the Future University of Egypt (FUE), in November 2019 with the representation of all partner institutions. During the three-day 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. The contents of the courses to be developed were defined. Staff Mobility from beneficiary countries to EU Countries has been also discussed.



Cairo meeting, September 2021

### Info Days in Cairo 12&13-Oct-2021

Info-day was held for two days in Housing and Building National Research Center (HBRC) in Cairo. It outlined the process of surveying the competencies (i.e. courses and facilities), presented findings of the surveys (held within the university, with business corporation representatives, and with local NGO representatives), and provided an account of recommendations to reach regarding updating the courses to provide, in order to better enable their students to study Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning.



Info days in Cairo, October 2021

### Staff Mobility from EG and LB to EU Countries - Inter campus lab visits

#### NDU visit to TUB 27-June to 02-July-2021

Within the framework of the ERASMUS+ Capacity building project “Urban and transPortation reGeneration for Reducing Automobile Dependency in mEna area / UPGRADE”, Dr. Dima Jawad and Dr. Talal Salem from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Notre Dame University-Louaize visited the Sustainable Urban Mobility laboratories at the Technische Universität Berlin. They were hosted by Dr.-Ing. Houshmand Masoumi, Professor at the Center for Technology and Society of the Technische Universität Berlin. The purpose of the visit as described in task 3.1 of the Project is for the Beneficiary Universities (NDU) is to benefit from the latest technological advancements available at EU Programme Universities (TUB), and to help the Beneficiary Universities (NDU) to identify the required equipment for setting up similar laboratories in their countries.



NDU visit to TUB, June 2021

On their return journey, Drs. Jawad and Salem stopped by Athens and visited the transportation laboratories at the National technical University of Athens in Zografou.

They were hosted by Dr. Ioanna Spyropoulou, Associate Professor at the NTUA.



*NDU visit to NTUA, June 2021*

As a result, Drs. Jawad and Salem prepared a report of required lab equipment, which elaborately describes the needed equipment in order to build the transportation planning laboratories, which are needed to better address Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning.

### **AASTMT visit to UPV 05 to 08-Oct-2021**

With the purpose of fulfilling task task 3.1. Inter-campus lab visit, Dr. Yasmin Kandil and Eng. Hend Abdelrazek from the Department of Architecture and Environmental Design at Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport (AASTMT) have visited Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) campus to benefit from the latest technological advancements available. Meetings were held with UPV team discussing the lab facilities and the outline of courses. Additionally, UPV team prepared several visits to different transportation sector, such Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat Valenciana (FGV), Municipality Traffic Control Center, and EMT Valencia. These visits allowed

AASTMT team to gain an insight about the transportation system of the city and how is was developed and improved from earlier times.



*Inter-campus lab visit to UPV, Oct 2021*

## **Training of Trainers**

### **Teaching of TUB course for NDU 24-Dec-2021**

The teaching of the courses "Transportation and Land Development" for masters and "Special Issues in Civil Engineering" for bachelors. Within the framework of Upgrade Erasmus+ project, TUB has provided training sessions for NDU to deliver the 3-credit course in the fall semester of 2021. The project of this course



was based on data collection using 936 interviews with the residents of Jounieh in the north of Beirut, leading to the publication of 3 journal papers.

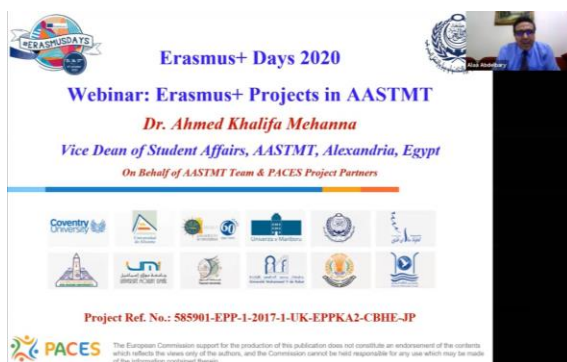


Teaching of TUB course, Dec 2021

## Activities at the AASTMT

### AASTMT Erasmus Day 17-Oct-2020

To respond to the EACEA invitation for the Erasmus Day 2020, the AASTMT have organized an online webinar via zoom on Saturday the 17th of October 2020, Egypt (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM) to disseminate the nine Erasmus+ running and about-to-run projects in its different campuses all over Egypt with the participation of the AASTMT president, AASTMT Vice-Presidents, AASTMT Deans, Academia, Industry, Intellectuals, Government Officials, Developers and Postgraduate Students.



Erasmus Day, Oct 2020

### AAST dissemination webinar 02-Feb-2021

The webinar aimed at disseminating the UPGRADE project to the architecture departments in all AASTMT campuses (Alexandria, Cairo, Smart village, Port Said, Aswan, Latakia). UPGRADE team presented the project main facets.



E-invitation of the event, Feb 2021

### LEZ workshop 26&27-May-2021

This workshop is based on the earlier launched policy paper on the "Low-Emission Zones (LEZs) and Prerequisites for Sustainable Cities and Clean Air in Egypt". It is a product of the long-lasting cooperation between the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – Egypt office, the Egyptian Ministry of Environment (MoE), and the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab World and Europe (CEDARE).



LEZ workshop, May 2021

### Lecture Dr. Azzazy 27-May-2021

AASTMT organized an online lecture about the street hierarchy and their urban design principles which has a great impact on the pedestrian activity and quality of life. The lecture presented different case studies of diverse neighborhoods from different cities in Germany and Netherlands. The presentation featured on-site videos that Dr. Mohamed have recorded while walking in the streets of these neighborhoods.

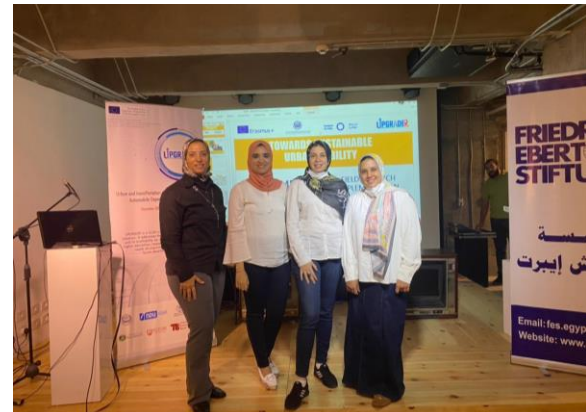


online lecture, May 2021

### Urban Lab Camp 27-Sept-2021

AASTMT-UPGRADE team participated in the Urban Lab Camp in Alexandria for two

sessions. The first session consisted of highlighting the UPGRADE project and discussing several challenges and opportunities for the sustainable urban mobility in Egypt. The second session was a joint exercise with TfC introducing the concept of SUMP (Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning).



AASTMT-UPGRADE team at the ULC, Sept 2021

### UPGRADE birthday @AASTMT 17-Nov-2021

AASTMT team celebrated 1 year of UPGRADE with an information session about the project. The first session of the event consisted of presenting the project to Professors, Teaching Assistants, and Students from the Architectural department in AASTMT. The presentation included the project's structure, participating partners, timeline, building capacities, dissemination events, the SUMP lab, and most importantly the newly developed courses. A brief introduction was given about Transport for Cairo, as they represent the future path for students wanting to proceed with this field.

An open discussion was conducted after the presentation. It mainly included a discussion about the sustainability of the lab after the timeframe of the project. The general feedback was positive and

encouraging. Attendees showed an appreciation for the value of the effort put into the project by the team members.



AASTMT team celebrating UPGRADE, Nov 2021

### UPGRADE birthday @FUE 09-Dec-2021

Within the framework of the UPGRADE project funded by the ERASMUS Plus program, the Architectural Engineering Department in the Faculty of Engineering and Technology - Future University in Egypt, started to host a series of guest lectures related to the topics tackled by the UPGRADE Project.

The first of which came in celebration of the first anniversary of the Kickoff of the project, in which one of the founding members of the "Transport for Cairo" organization - Mr. AbdelRahman Hegazy- was invited to share the experience of TFC with the staff and students of the department focusing on how Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning was applied in the case of 6th Of October city.

The lecture was held on December 9th 2021 with an audience of more than 120 students and staff aiming to spread the knowledge on SUMP and the UPGRADE Project.



Group photo from FUE lecture, Dec 2021

### MOU agreement with Tfc

The UPGRADE project team at AASTMT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Transport for Cairo. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets for the terms and understanding between the AASTMT coordinator of UPGRADE Erasmus+ co-funded project and Transport for Cairo to regenerate urban planning and develop sustainable urban mobility in MENA cities.



<https://transportforcairo.com/>

### Upcoming Events

External expert review of proposed courses – January 2022

Technical seminars – February & July 2022

SUMP lab inauguration – February 2022

Info day and third management meeting in Beirut – March 2022

Training of trainers – May & June 2022



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

---

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

Facebook: @upgradeerasmus

Instagram: @ upgrade.erasmus

Twitter: @ErasmusUpgrade

LinkedIn: Upgrade Erasmus+

YouTube: AAST UPGRADE