

Autumn school-hackathon “Collaboration for smart and sustainable territorial development”

The scientific institute Baltic Studies Centre (BSC) in cooperation with BA School of Business and Finance (BASBF) and the masters programme in sociology of the University of Latvia (UL), invites the master and doctoral students to the autumn school-hackathon “Collaboration for smart and sustainable territorial development”. By participating in the school-hackathon, students will acquire theoretical and practical knowledge about smart and sustainable development at the territorial level, and the role of cooperation in the development and implementation of sustainable innovation. The school will also offer students the opportunity to develop their own ideas for new solutions on topics of sustainable development, such as sustainable food systems, circular economy, digitalisation, and other.

Learning outcomes: In theoretical and practical classes, students will learn to develop new solutions for smart and sustainable territorial development: (i) identify challenges and opportunities, (ii) identify resources and the necessary actions, (iii) model the cooperation between citizens, government, entrepreneurs and scientists needed for the solutions (see the figure below).

NOVEL SOLUTIONS



Sustainability: What are urgent sustainability challenges? What are possible solutions that are both environmentally friendly, economically successful and address societal needs?



Local resources: What are available local resources? What can be their new applications?



Collaboration: How can citizens, governments, entrepreneurs and scientists collaborate more effectively for joint goals?

Participants: The autumn school-hackathon invites master and doctoral students from the Latvian higher education institutions, in particular the students of ERASMUS exchange programme currently studying in Latvia, the Sociology Master programme students of the University of Latvia, master and doctoral students of BA School of Business and Finance, as well as students from Liepaja University.

Training staff: Training will be provided by researchers and lecturers from different Latvian scientific institutions, as well as foreign guest lecturers with international and local project experience. Virtual study tours and demonstrations of good practice examples will be provided by experienced practice partners.

Working language: English.

Place: Online on the Zoom platform.

Time: The school will be organised as a series of four on-line classes taking place on Monday evenings in November and December 2021: 22.11, 29.11, 6.12 and 13.12 from 18.00 to 21.00.

Structure: Each class will include three parts: introductory lecture, good practice examples, and practical work. Interactive and collaborative forms of learning will be used such as short introductory lectures, panel discussions, virtual tours, good practice analysis, student group work, etc. In practice sections students will work in groups on specific solutions. Mentors will be available to the groups, who will provide advice and feedback. Solutions developed by students with the authors' permission will be included in a digital manual.

Registration: Until **November 16** [here](#).

Programme

November 22, 18.00-21.00

Class 1: Challenges and solutions for smart and sustainable development

Introductory lecture: Prof. Talis Tisenkopfs will outline the challenges and trends of smart and sustainable territorial development, focusing on sustainable food systems, digitalisation, climate change and urban-rural relations. BSC researchers Sandra Šūmane and Marija Stefānija Skudra will discuss interactive innovation.

Virtual learning visit will be organised on the topic "Potential of collaboration in practice". The head of the public and private partnership "Zied zeme" Linda Cīrule will tell about the experience of her organisation in implementing community-led local development initiatives in the rural environment. In turn, the guest researcher, Jonas Buechel, from the "Free Riga" movement, will share the experience of a civil society-driven development project in the urban environment.

Practical work: students will organise in groups on the basis of their thematic interests. The task of the first class will be to identify and explain an idea for a smart and sustainable solution at territorial level that the groups will work on during the four classes.

Homework: Until the next class, student groups, in consultation with mentors, specify and justify the chosen solution by linking it to the challenges and opportunities of smart and sustainable development. The groups shall prepare a brief description of the solution.

November 29, 18.00-21.00

Class 2. Values and models of Circular Economy

Introductory lecture: Inga Uvarova and Ilona Platonova (BASBF) will introduce the essence of the circular economics, theoretical framework, tendencies, values of circular economy, levels of circularity. Latest scientific literature will be covered as well as case studies.

Virtual learning visit will be based on case studies of circular businesses in Latvia - practical application of circularity, benefits to the business and steps towards circularity.

Practical work: Students will present their identified problems and solutions, then will work on defining stakeholders, their values and existing providers of solutions and competitors.

Homework: Groups will define all stakeholders and describe them and their values in the case study.

December 6, 18.00-21.00

Class 3. User-oriented solutions

Introductory lecture: BSC researcher Emils Kilis will present experience from the European Union Horizon projects on collaboration between scientists and practitioners, including

benefits and potential risks, involving end-users in decision-making and development of solutions.

Virtual learning visit: A practical lecture on the experience of development of user-oriented solutions at the Institute for Environmental Solutions (IEV), by Inese Suija-Markova, executive director of IEV.

Practical task: Students will test the relevance of the solutions to users' needs and expectations. Students will contact potential users or experts and demonstrate user-driven solutions to identify their bottlenecks and make improvements.

Homework: Groups contact potential users of the solution. Each student conducts 1-2 face-to-face, online or telephone interviews, to understand how useful the solution would be for the parties involved.

December 13, 18.00-21.00

Class 4. Practical implementation

Introductory lecture: Ilona Platonova (BASBF) will introduce various business models/elements for sustainability based on examples from businesses in Baltics.

Practical task: Finalise solution with business model elements and craft a presentation that describes collaborative model.

Final task: Present solutions to the lecturers.

Organisers: The autumn school-hackathon "Collaboration for smart and sustainable territorial development" is organised within the BSC research project "Activating user-oriented knowledge and innovation partnerships for smart and sustainable territorial development" (EKIP) (Izp-2020/2-0133), in cooperation with the BASBF research project "Quadruple Helix Concept as base of sustainability via next generation PPPP model know-how" (No Izp-2020/1-0062), and the course "Sustainable Development" of the masters programme in sociology at UL.