EUREKA European Urban REgenerators Knowledge Alliance

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Abstract:	In the four universities (P1, P4, P8, P10), common themes were explored to provide students with the same theoretical background. The themes were within the framework of WP3. Iuav is in charge of coordinating the work. All partners were involved in the teaching activity based on their experience and competences.
Authors:	

Abstract

The EUREKA team, according to the general guidelines for the new curriculum designed by the Eureka partnership during WP3, decided that the "local training" phase would be more effective if set in constant interaction with the Urban Living Lab phase in order to better achieve the project's objectives. In particular, it refers to the objective of experimenting with a multi-disciplinary training on urban innovation through the adoption of new methodologies based on co-design and experience-based learning.

As a result, the local training instead of taking place only in the first part of the course (M22-M27) takes place throughout the whole course, resulting in a more integrated one-year training, starting in October 2022 and finishing in October 2023.

This is the reason why the EUREKA partnership decided to organize this deliverable in two documents, R4.5A and R4.5B. The present document is R4.5A, that describes the theoretical contents of the training until June 2023. At the end of the training will be delivered the R4.5B document.

As written in the application, in the description of the deliverable R4.5, "In the four Universities (P1, P4, P8, P10) common topics will be deepened to give students the same theoretical background. The topics will be defined in WP3." That is why the EUREKA partnership now calls it "common training" instead of "local training", because it is not only at local level, but learnings are shared also at international level. However, as we have observed that depending on the specifics of each country there are differences in approach (e.g. different legal framework, different practical approaches to regeneration), the contents have often been adapted and contextualized.

In this paper there is the detailed description of the four types of common training elements.

Mission

EUREKA is an interdisciplinary practice-oriented experimental curriculum aiming to train Urban innovators able to manage the transformation of urban spaces. It has been designed by the joint EUREKA consortium composed of eleven partners, organized in four national clusters (Italy, Romania, Spain, The Netherlands): Università Iuav di Venezia, Melting Pro, Agenzia Lama, Universidad de Deusto, Espacio Open, Trans Europe Halles, City Hall of Timișoara, Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara, Asociatia Centrul Cultural PLAI, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, P60/Pakhuis de Zwijger.

EUREKA supports the creation of an Urban Innovator profile that aims to strengthen Cities' social and spatial capital and tackle social and spatial inequalities through highly innovative and collaborative strategies. This comes in the context of the needs of many European cities currently facing significant brownfield sites: either derelict former industrial sites, buildings likely to change function or housing estates, where living conditions need to be improved.
In particular, the actions of Urban innovators aim to:

- empower local inhabitants, organizations and public administrations
- increase a sense of belonging to a place/places

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- create new community spaces
- improve the quality of urban spaces
- support a sustainable local development
- establish new partnerships and alliances
- foster innovation and overcome social and urban boundaries.

The Urban Innovator is not a static or a single role. It is unlikely to encompass all the required competencies and attitudes in a single figure. People involved in urban transformation processes have extremely differentiated roles and tasks. At the same time, these processes are generally carried out by multidisciplinary teams with heterogeneous profiles.

For this reason, EUREKA students constitute teams of urban innovators that will gradually acquire and perfect tools and approaches for urban innovation along the training year. In particular, Urban innovators will be able to:

- apply a collaborative and integrated approach based on co-design, open design and teamwork activities;
- foster a bottom-up, user- and context-centered approach, supporting vulnerable groups and addressing inequalities;
- simultaneously manage a range of:
  - dimensions of transformation (social, cultural, economic, environmental);
  - geographical scales of transformation (building, street, neighborhood, city, etc.);
  - agents of transformation (citizens, civic societies, private companies, public administration, etc.). S/he activates actions, processes and networks through the involvement of multiple agents.
- manage complexity and coordinate human (individuals, groups, agents), financial and organizational resources.

Common training content

As written in the application, in the description of the deliverable R4.5, "In the four Universities (P1, P4, P8, P10) common topics will be deepened to give students the same theoretical background. The topics will be defined in WP3." This is exactly what the partnership means with "common training".

The EUREKA team, according to the general guidelines for the new curriculum designed by the Eureka partnership during WP3, decided that the "local training" phase would be more effective if set in constant interaction with the Urban Living Lab phase in order to better achieve the project's objectives. In particular, it refers to the objective of experimenting with a multi-disciplinary training on urban innovation through the adoption of new methodologies based on co-design and experience-based learning. As a result, the common training instead of taking place only in the first part of the course (M22-M27) will take place throughout the whole course, resulting in a more integrated one-year training, starting in October 2022 and finishing in October 2023. That is why the EUREKA partnership now calls it "common training" instead of "local training", because it is not only at local level, but learnings are shared also at international level.

Thus, this paper presents the entire common training but analyzes in detail only the first part of the common training, the part that took place in the period indicated in the application (M22-M27) according to deliverable R4.5.
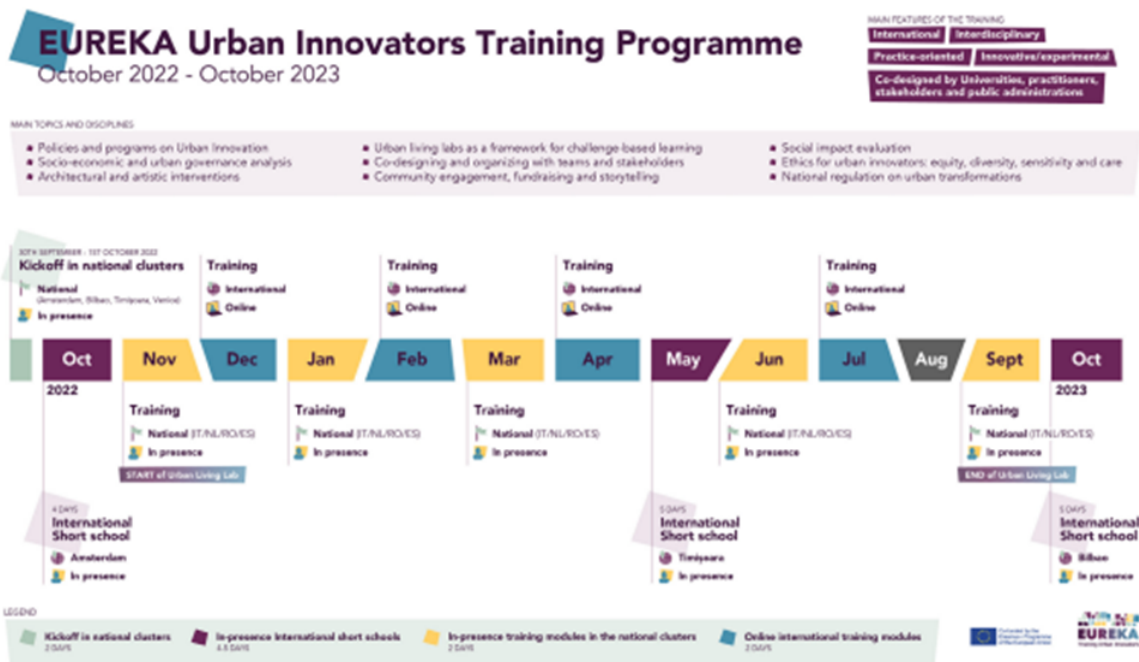
As applied for, the training involves the continuous switching between in presence national based modules and in presence/online international modules on theoretical and methodological contents and tools related to the new profile of an Urban Innovator.

In detail, the EUREKA training path is composed of **four types of common training elements**. Each of them differs in duration, topic, in presence or online settings, international or national training.

- A **National/International Kick-off Meeting in local clusters** (Italy, Romania, The Netherlands and Spain) composed of a national training on common topics (National Resources, actors and policies on Urban Innovation/Team building activities/Alliances and networks for urban innovation) and an international online training on Urban Innovation in Europe.

- Five **in-presence training modules in the national clusters** that happen on the same days in all countries and tackle the same topics, but with national experts in order to provide context-specific knowledge related to administration, law, cultural approaches, and local sensitivities. This approach facilitates the understanding of local specificities within a common framework and promotes the establishment of collaborative working groups with other students and practitioners of the same national clusters. During these modules, in addition to theoretical and methodological training, 4 urban living labs were tested (see 5.1 Urban Living Labs deliverable); in particular the last two modules (in June and September) are mainly local events gathering enterprises and students part of the Urban Living Labs.

- The **international part of EUREKA training path** develops training sessions fostering an international view on processes of urban transformation and innovation.
    - It is first composed of three **in-presence International Short Schools** focused on best international practices and case-studies that take place in Amsterdam (four days in October 2022), Timișoara (five days in May 2023), and Bilbao (five days in October 2023). The Short schools are the backbone of the international exchanges for students and for partner organizations, offering common training, field visits, peer-to-peer reviews, critical discussions;
    - Four **online international training modules** attended by all national clusters on key training topics and focused on best international practices and case-studies. They provide critical reflection on case studies, inviting the actors that developed these processes and stimulating a discussion on their strengths, weaknesses and learned lessons; it finally promotes a constant peer to peer exchange on the local activities by all the students involved. For example, this is when students from each national cluster have teamwork topics which they then present during these training modules. In this way, in addition to receiving feedback, students exchange best practices and ways of dealing with common themes in different contexts.

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September 30 – October 1	K_National Kick off meeting	In presence - national Amsterdam/Bilbao/Florence/Timisoara
October 11-14	I1_International Short School	**Short school Amsterdam**
November 11- 12	A1_National Urban Living Lab	In presence - national Amsterdam/Bilbao/Timisoara/Venice
December 16-17	B1_International Online	Online
January 2023, 20-21	A2_National Urban Living Lab	In presence - national Amsterdam/Bilbao/Timisoara/Venice
Febuary 17-18	B2_International Online	Online
March 10-11	A3_National Urban Living Lab	In presence - national Amsterdam/Bilbao/Timisoara/Venice
March 31, April 1	B3_International Online	Online
May 8-12	I2_International Short School	**Short school** Timisoara
June 16-17	A4_National Urban Living Lab	In presence - national Amsterdam/Bilbao/Timisoara/Venice
July 14-15	B4_International Online	Online
September 29-30	A5_National Urban Living Lab	In presence - national Amsterdam/Bilbao/Timisoara/Venice
October 23-27	I3_International Short School	**Short school Bilbao**

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Students and teaching methods

The choice of such an advanced target group of students (mainly young practitioners and activists, architects and freelancers, social workers and entrepreneurs, employees of public administrations) made it possible to build peer education contexts that actively involved the students and fostered a strong exchange between them both at national and international level. This methodological choice was also due to the fact that urban innovation processes are generally carried out by multidisciplinary teams with heterogeneous profiles and therefore it is fundamental to train students to work in teams and to be able to research and exchange different skills and approaches.

Faculty

The faculty of the EUREKA training path mixes academics, practitioners, and policy makers. Students have been guided by researchers and educators from high-level European universities, practitioners from the dynamic social initiatives, representatives of the innovative public administrations. The faculty is also multidisciplinary, intergenerational, balanced between genders. It integrates multiple sectors of urban action. The core faculty of the EUREKA training path is based on the eleven partners of the EUREKA project. All partners are involved in the development of the training, through the four national clusters (Italy, Romania, Spain, The Netherlands). The training will also include the associated partners of the project, all organizations actively working on the topic across Europe.

Students' feedback

In order to better understand students' needs, at the end of each training module, they are

required to fill up a google form specific for each session. The general feedback until now about the structure of the training has been positive. Their feedback has been a key source of information and inspiration also in order to understand the weaker aspects and then to improve the next training modules.

This is an abstract from the analysis of the students' feedback data, that highlighted the following strength points:

- **Diversity**
  Mixed professional groups, working together, different culture language, international level
- **Action**
  Going on the field. Experiential learning, intervention, learning the methodology and applying
- **In presence**
  In person short school, face to face meeting, more energy, in person activities, being together, cluster connection
- **Working together as a team**
  Team management, connecting clusters, create network and learn from each other, group dynamics there was no competitiveness

The content

Module type	Date	Topics developed
K_ National Kick off meeting National in presence/Online international	30 September - 1 October 2022	Urban Innovation in Europe The values of urban innovation. Resources, actors, policies.
I1_ International Short school - Amsterdam International in presence	11-14 October 2022	Urban Governance and Social Innovation European civic initiatives as actors of urban innovation Circular & Community-Driven Transformations Bottom-up & community-driven projects Action-Research
A1: In-presence training module	11-12 November	Urban living labs as tools and methods Context, socio-economic and urban governance analysis

in the national clusters National in presence	2022	Exploration and field research methodologies Focus group and interviews methodologies
B1_ Online international training module International online	16-17 December 2022	Concepts and steps in formulating a Theory of Change Key concepts, design, methods and tools in Impact Evaluation Relevance of the Theory of Change within Social Impact Evaluation
A2_ In-presence training module in the national clusters National in presence	20-21 January 2023	Stakeholder analysis and mapping, Active listening Social impact evaluation Design thinking tools Implementation of theory of change methodology Focus group conduction methodology and implementation Co-design tools
B2_ Online international training module International online	17-18 February 2023	Scope and origins of collaborative governance Key features of collaborative governance The governing of urban commons Integrative framework for collaborative governance Case studies: Institute for X and T-Factor Project
A3_ In-presence training module in the national clusters National in presence	10-11 March 2023	Tactical urbanism for urban innovation tools Field research and interviews methodology implementation Impact-effort matrix, NUF matrix, Griffith model, Blueprint model
B3_ Online international training module International online	31 March-1 April 2023	Visual data storytelling Data and technology in community empowering Participatory storytelling
I2_ International Short school - Timisoara International	8-12 May 2023	City planning The city of tomorrow Prototypes of interventions Field pop-up interventions Case studies on regeneration projects

online		
A4_ In-presence training module in the national clusters National in presence	16-17 June 2023	Interviews methodology implementation Data analysis methods for interviews collected during the fieldwork Additional tools of design thinking
B4_ Online international training module International online	14-15 July 2023	-
A5_In-presence training module in the national clusters National online	29-30 September 2023	-
I3_International Short school - Bilbao International in presence	23-27 October 2023	-