

# MASTER PROGRAM ON URBANISM AND DEVELOPMENT

## MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND ADMINISTRATION

Public service efficiency and effective resource-usage are becoming pressing issues for cities, with a climate that is rapidly degrading. Thus, ensuring sustainable development and quality of life in complex social ecosystems of cities and urban areas are becoming important concerns. Education Programs on planning are expected to help cities to overcome the limitations of traditional urban development that tends to manage urban infrastructure systems in silos and to manage city resources more efficiently while addressing development and inclusion challenges.

As known, many of developing countries – and this is true for Kosovo also, are characterized by lack of financial and human/professional resources to carry out and plan sustainable developments, while sustainable development is often not possible as there are other priorities on hand. On the other hand; municipalities – and local authorities - themselves are still struggling to find efficient ways to manage the fast urban and social growth that happened after major political changes of the last two decades, while rapid urbanization trends and inner migration have furthered sprawl and composed new challenges. These actors are in need of specialists than can transmit themselves not only a theoretical reference framework but at the same time an operative know-how, in order to concretely put in action a wide new range of tools to tackle contemporary issues such as pollution, social conflicts, infrastructural management, etc. Moreover, these local governmental forces are searching for a plan of development that could be effective not only in a long-term time, but also in a short one, and guarantee them a research output that could show its tangible results. For this reason, what they are aiming for, is to develop new inquiries and to find new direction for Kosovo's further economic, social, and urban planning dimension. What these systems of multiple actors can offer, is an undiscovered field of experimentation, where their urban fabric and physical environment can be perfect space to involve at the same time the knowledge-triangle based on 'education-research-innovation'.

Urban planning is a valuable force for achieving sustainable development. It is a means to bring about a difference; Planning helps make the most out of municipal budgets by informing infrastructure and services investments, balancing demands for growth with the need to protect the environment. It distributes economic development within a given territory to reach social objectives and creates a framework for collaboration between local governments, the private sector and the public at large. Further, it is a framework that helps leaders transform vision into implementation, using space as a key resource for development and engaging stakeholders along the way.

Planning education is a practice of teaching and learning urban theory, studies, and professional practices. The interaction between public officials, professional planners and the public involves a continuous education on planning process. Community members often serve on a city planning commission, council or board. As a result, education outreach is effectively an ongoing cycle. As urban planning is such a broad and interdisciplinary field, a typical planning degree program emphasizes breadth over depth, with core coursework that provides background for all areas of planning. Core courses typically include coursework in history/theory of urban planning, urban design, statistics, land use/planning law, urban economics, sustainable development and planning practice. Many planning degree programs also allow a student to "concentrate" in a specific area of interest within planning, such as land use, environmental planning, housing, community development, economic development, historic preservation, international development, urban

design, transportation planning, or geographic information systems (GIS). Some programs permit a student to concentrate in real estate, however, graduate real estate education has changed giving rise to specialized real estate programs.

Thus; **the mission of the Urbanism and Development** programme is to promote best practices in field of Urbanism, Planning and Sustainable Development based on current demand in local and regional level. The Kosovo development reality, labour market as well as central and local institutions demand for spatial and urban planners has remain particularly high in recent years. The construction sector which is directly related to urban development and sustainability captures nearly 20 percent of annual economic activity in Kosovo and in recent years has been the key source of growth and income generation. The demand for professionals in these fields has been very high due to increased government spending, foreign direct investment and private investments. The construction boom and rapid urban development has not lost any pace since the post-war reconstruction phase.

The program aims to offer knowledge and prepare planning and development experts for the identification and analysis of spatial and development problems and to give their contribution in the field. The key spatial, urbanistic, engineering and sustainable development issues are related to other important parameters as social, aesthetic and ecological values. Students that will complete the program will be able to apply an advanced knowledge based on human, technical, environmental and social aspects and will be competent to solve programs of spatial urbanistic, environmental, civil engineering nature as well as sustainable development nature. Their enhanced communication, problem solving and analytical skills will prepare them to implement more complex projects in the area and give them a route to academic research.

Upon completion of academic studies student possesses basic knowledge necessary for understanding the process of spatial and urban planning, as well as sustainable development. Also, gaining skills for communication and exchange of information and ideas on issues related to the planning and resource protection profession, for the implementation of the acquired knowledge and skills to use and respect the law, standards and norms. Lastly, the profession and its main interdisciplinary component are prone to technological, social, economic, environmental and life style changes. Hence, it is essential that the student is committed to life long learn in planning and sustainable development.

The study program is designed to meet the international criteria of a well-prepared professional covering all the core topics such as: Planning Theory, Planning History, Urban Design, Sustainable Planning and Development, Urban Policy, Urban Management, Local Economies and Local Governance, Urban Sprawl, Urban Sustainability, Regional Planning and Development, International Standards on Planning, Legal Aspects and Regulations on Planning, Planning and Biodiversity, Rural Planning and Development, Cultural Values and Heritage, Urban Renovation and Restoration, Computer Aided Planning, Modelling and Simulation, Migration and social equality, Integrated Water Management, Environmental Policy, Green Cities Planning, Energy Sufficiency and Renewable Energy, Sustainable Transportation Planning and Road Infrastructure, Urban Infrastructure & Logistics (Urban Engineering), Housing Policy and Community Development, Environmental and Resource Protection, Professional Ethics etc.. The aim of the program is to satisfy the needs of local and international market as well as relevant institutions for well-trained professionals which meet the standards of private and public institutions, where most of the planners are employed.

## ACADEMIC STAFF

No.	Name and Surname	Qualification
1	Beqaj	PhD
2	Elvida Pallaska	PhD
3	Kujtim Elezi	PhD
4	Kujtim Lepaja	PhD
5	Vexhi Halili	PhD
6	Medin Zeqiri	PhD
7	Mimoza Sylejmani	PhD
8	Ferhat Bejtullahu	PhD
9	Hazer Dana	PhD
10	Visar Hoxha	Assoc. Prof.
11	Besa Veseli	PhD
12	Beni Kizolli	PhD
13	Hazir Çadraku	PhD
14	Nexhat Balaj	PhD
15	Pajazit Hajzeri	PhD
16	Thomas Dilingier	Assoc. Prof.
17	Vladimira Silhankova	Assoc. Prof.
18	Shqiprim Ahmeti	MSc

## EDUCATIONAL PROCESS CONTENT

Year I: 60 ECTS						
Semester I: 30 ECTS			Hours/Week			
No	M/E	Subject	L	E	ECTS	Lecturer
1	M	Studio on Sustainable Urban Planning	4	3	7	Binak Beqaj PhD
2	M	Theory and Methodology in Spatial Planning	2	2	4	Elvida Pallaska PhD
3	M	Urban Sociology, Density and Social Dynamics	2	2	4	Hazer Dana PhD
4	M	Standards in Urban Planning	2	2	4	Ferhat Bejtullahu PhD
5	M	Principles of Sustaianble Development	2	2	4	Visar Hoxha Assoc. Prof.
6	M	Housing Policy and Community Development	2	2	4	Mimoza Sylejmani PhD
7	E	Introduction to Spatial Development and Transformation	2	1	3	Thomas Dilinger, Assoc.Prof.
8	E	Environmental Protection, Recycling and Renewable Energy	2	1		Besa Veseli PhD
					30	
Semester II: 30 ECTS			Hours/Week			
No	M/E	Subjects	L	E	ECTS	Lecturer
9	M	Studio on National and Regional Spatial Planning	4	3	7	Binak Beqaj PhD
10	M	Sustainable Transport Policy	2	2	4	Beni Kizolli PhD
11	M	Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development	2	2	4	Besa Veseli PhD
12	M	City Development Concepts and Strategies	2	2	4	Elvida Pallaska PhD
13	M	Legal Framework of Spatial Planning	2	2	4	Ferhat Bejtullahu PhD
14	M	Integrated Water Resource Management	2	2	4	Hazir Çadraku PhD
15	E	Urban Greenery, Organic farming and Urban farming	2	1	3	Vexhi Halili PhD
16	E	Urban Economy and Regional Development	2	1		Vladimira Silhankova Assoc. Prof.
					30	
Year II: 60 ECTS						
Semester III: 30 ECTS			Hours/Week			
No	M/E	Subject	L	E	ECTS	Lecturer
17	M	Urban Design Studio	4	3	7	Ferhat Bejtullahu PhD

18	M	Urban/Architectural History and Cultural Heritage	2	2	4	Kujtim Elezi PhD
19	M	European Framework of Spatial Development	2	2	4	Elvida Pallaska PhD
20	M	Urban Periphery and Rural Areas as Economic Ecosystems	2	2	4	Medin Zeqiri PhD
21	M	National and Regional Spatial Development	2	2	4	Binak Beqaj PhD
22	M	Research Methodologies and Presentation Techniques	2	2	4	Pajazit Hajzeri PhD
23	E	Biology of ornamental plants and gardening	2	1	3	Kujtim Lepaja PhD
24	E	Urban Landscape	2	1		Nexhat Balaj PhD
					30	
<b>Semester IV: 30 ECTS</b>						
No	M/E	Subject	L	E	ECTS	Lecturer
25	M	Thesis			30	Mentor selected by the candidate
					30	

## STUDENTS

The program focuses on attracting candidates and professionals from the following fields and industries: Architecture, Urban and Spatial Planning, Sustainable Development, Agriculture and Rural Development, Transport and Logistics, Local Governance, Law, Economy, Sociology, Regional Development, Environmental Sciences, Social Sciences, Applied Sciences, Tourism, Heritage and Real Estate.

## RESEARCH

Scientific research is part of the UBT research strategy. The main objectives of the strategy are to establish research centers, stimulate, and develop research activities. Another objective is to build relationships and partnerships with stakeholders in the industry, academia, and the public sector, thereby enhancing and combining research and technological capacities by transferring knowledge to the College, and creating an integrated research framework, and study in line with international best practices.

The main research themes of the Urbanism and Development program are as follows:

- **Sustainable Planning and Development**
- **Architectural and Urban Heritage**
- **Urban Design/ Urban Planning/ Landscape**
- **Planning History and Theory**
- **Urban Management**

Other fields covered by the program are as follow:

- **Migration and Social Dynamics**
- **Sustainable Rural Development**
- **Natural and Rural Tourism potentials of Kosovo cities and rural areas**
- **Sustainable agriculture development and promotion**
- **Natural resources protection**
- **Transportation and Infrastructure**
- **Planning for Sustainable Development in state, regional and local scale**
- **Sustainable Planning and Development in Countries in Transition**

At UBT, there are several ongoing research projects and initiatives which can directly relate with the Program: (1) Annual UBT Conference in Architecture and Spatial Planning; (2) Modernism in Kosovo (1960-1990) in all Municipalities of Kosovo; (3) Support to all Municipalities of Kosovo in field of Planning and Design; (4) Smart City Kosova, involving 6 municipalities of Kosova, including Pristina; (5) Kosova Urban Sustainability Index; (6) Kosova Rural Development Index; (7) Regional Development and Inequalities; as well as newly established Institute for Spatial Planning at UBT.

When it comes to research projects and initiatives which can directly relate with the Program, it is important to emphasize the following ones:

- **Institute for Spatial Planning at UBT**, which operates in parallel with the following 3 subcenters, called as Laboratories: **Planning And Design Lab**, **Sustainable Transportation Policy Lab** and **The City – History Lab**.
- **Smart City Kosova Project**;
- **Kosova Urban Sustainability Index**;
- **Kosova Rural Development Index**;
- **Regional Development and Inequalities**.

UBT has also supported the publication of 3 books related in Planning field, written by Dr.Sc. Binak Beqaj: “Urban Development, Planning and Design”, “Urban Management” and “From Modern Urban Planning to Integrated Spatial Planning”.

Moreover, UBT tracks the publications of the academic staff through the UBT Knowledge center (<https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/>).

## **INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES**

The premises of the Program are situated in the UBT - Higher Education Institution's premises in Pristina and in Innovation Campus Lipjan as well as in ESLG College premises in Pristina. The UBT - Higher Education Institution operates in a medium-size modern facility. The premises for the program of Urbanism and Development are located in two of the buildings at Innovative Campus. The premises were constructed and tailored for higher education purposes by the institution. The institution does not pay rent thus leaving more potential resources for future capital investments. In addition, it has designated office space for staff and students. All rooms are equipped with modern teaching equipment and are easily adaptable to various modes of teaching. There are also printing and photocopy equipments for students. It will be possible for students to print in colour, scan and copy materials. The building of ESLG College which provides rooms, offices and other facilities with all required characteristics is also available for the Program purposes.