



The Changemaker Academy

A YUFE BIP course in spring semester 2026 – 2027

Organised by the Department of Bioscience Engineering

In a nutshell

- **The Changemaker Academy:** a short course enabling students to engage with civil society, apply their knowledge to causes related to urban sustainability & bring about change
- **Blended Intensive Program (Erasmus+)**
- **Spring Term 2026 – 27**
 - online component: February – March 2027
 - 1 week in Antwerp: 5th – 10th April 2027
- **3 ECTS**
- **For 30 students (20 international + 10 UAntwerpen) – 3rd BSc/ 1st MSc**



Main goal of the course

we aim to take students **out of the classroom**, and teach them how to **put their knowledge into practice** to make **(their) cities a better place to live**, focusing on topics they care about and they have knowledge on through their studies

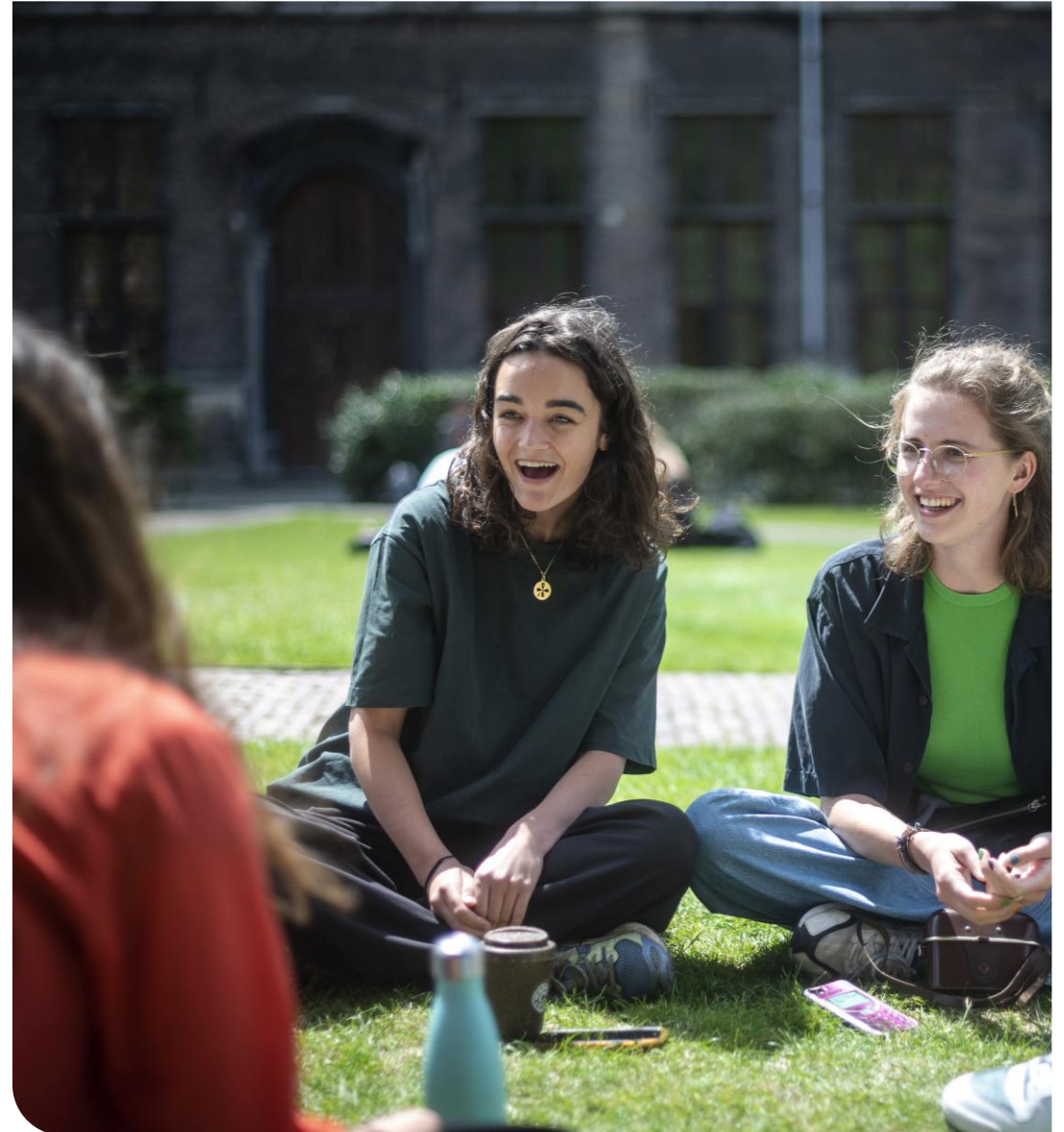
Learning Objectives (LO)

At the end of this course, the student will be able to ...

- Understand the set-up and functioning of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from a legal, administrative, and financial perspective at different levels (EU, national, local)
- Identify a specific challenge in an urban context and provide evidence for its relevance, based on adequately processed and interpreted evidence
- Independently design a fitting response to the identified challenge that can be provided by a civil society organization or civil society project
- Work in a multidisciplinary team and divide tasks and responsibilities
- Communicate about the goals of the CSO to different target audiences, e.g. laypeople, experts, policy makers, and investors.

Target audience

- 3rd year bachelor and 1st year master students, mainly
- any discipline
- interest on urban sustainability
- 20 international students
- 10 students from UA
 - 3rd year BSc students can have this recognized as a GIP module
 - SUBE MSc students can have this recognized as an elective



Timeline



**Student
recruitment**

**Online
module**

**1 week in
Antwerp**

**Follow-up &
evaluation**

**Nov 2026
– Jan 2027**

**Feb 2027 –
Mar 2027**

**5th – 10th
April 2027**

May 2027

- Across sending partners
- YUFE network
- In UA: 3rd year BIR BSc (GIP module) & SUBE master

- 3 days (or 6 half days)
- Lectures & workshops
- Understanding civil society & advocacy
- Building relevant skills
- Program: slide 7

- 5 days in Antwerp
- 2nd week of Easter break
- Field visits & inspiration from existing initiatives
- Team work on a real challenge
- Program: slide 8

- Follow-up assignment
- Grades announced in June

Draft Programme: Online module



	Content
Module 1: Developing an idea & a vision	Theory I: Basics of civil society and civic engagement (1,5h)
	Theory II: Theories of social change (1,5h)
	Practice : Interactive session on leadership/ facilitation(2h)
	Follow-up activity: Develop the vision, mission & core values of your project
Module 2: Building a project and a team	Theory I : Understanding policy at different levels (1,5)
	Theory II : Project management & fundraising (1,5h)
	Practice : Workshop on governance models (e.g. sociocracy) (2h)
	Follow-up activity: Develop a stakeholder map based on your theory of change
Module 3: Advocacy and campaigning	Theory I : Advocating for environmental rights (1,5h)
	Theory II/ Practice I : Campaigning and advocacy (3h)
	Practice II : Workshop on storytelling (2h)
	Practice III : Community mobilization (1,5)
	Follow-up activity: Prepare a pitch of your project/ idea



Draft programme: Antwerp week

Timing	Content (proposal, TBD)
Day 1 am	Welcome & introduction; inspiration: student mobilization
Day 1 pm	Work on projects: choosing topics & themes (pitches), research
Day 2 am	Public health/ mental health
Day 2 pm	Work on projects: stakeholder map; prototype & test idea
Day 3 am	Urban green / public space
Day 3 pm	Work on projects: communication & engagement plan
Day 4 am	Poverty / homelessness
Day 4 pm	Work on projects: polish implementation plan; prepare pitch
Day 5 am	Renewables or resource circularity
Day 5 pm	Pitches/ presentations; Wrap-up & evaluation

Mornings: input & inspiration through field visits & guest lectures with practitioners; themed days

Afternoons: working on a project as a group



Evaluation

- At the end of the mobility period:
 - a presentation/ pitch of the implementation plan
- After the mobility period (TBD):
 - a reflection essay, and the final version of the implementation plan

80 hours = 3 ECTS

Will you join us?



Applications :

<https://virtualcampus.yufe.eu/p/programme/76561193666002846>

