

Lima Workshop 5-6-7 October 2016

CITYLAB MODULE

General Information

SIMON BOLIVAR UNIVERSITY

Module: GENERAL STUDY-Venezuelan Urban Problems

Department: Urban Planning

Program: General Studies Program (open to all careers)

Level: Undergraduate

Modality: Regular course

Timing: January-March 2017

Total number of students: 30

Number of students per group: 3.

SDG goals: Anyone of the SDG 11 goals.

Description of the module: This course aims to develop skills in students for understanding the process of urbanization in Venezuela and how this process has influenced some of the main urban problems we face in our cities. By considering different local and international experiences, students will provide strategies for the solution of a specific urban problem previously identified in Caracas. The role of various urban actors in solving these problems is discussed.



Local stakeholders

The government of the Caracas Metropolitan Area, through the Metropolitan Institute of Planning workshop Caracas-IMUTC (imutc.org) will be our local stakeholders. They will provide information, technical support, case studies, critical sites, implemented plans and programs and the connection with the community represents.

Students

The students organized in groups (3 students) will be able to develop individual criteria as well as common agreements to finally generate group proposals for the problem selected. Moreover individual proposals will develop an insight point of view specific to interests and needs to each case study. The result must be presented through a written report (DOC or PDF) or audiovisual support.

Teachers

For Citylab experience, will be responsible two (2) teachers of the Department of Urban Planning, with expertise in transportation, sustainability mobility, urban dynamics, urban and social planning, local government, and risk management; and some invited teachers, to support and complement within their specific fields, providing lectures, advice and revisions of the work. Finally, also will participate teachers with expertise in methods and processes of teaching and learning (the department of languages and behavioral sciences), in order to be able to evaluate the experience.

Integration and interdisciplinarity

Simon Bolivar University has a general studies program aims to prepare students to think critically and analytically, and have an ethical view and conscious towards society, the environment and culture, beyond the specificity of their profession. In this context, the Urban Planning department offers this module for students of all careers, so there is the opportunity to constitute multidisciplinary student teams. To warranty the multidisciplinary of the project, professors of different expertise fields and professionals of different departments within the municipalities involved will be invited to the experience in different roles, according to the specific needs.

Evaluation

From the technical-academic point of view, the course must provide a place of interaction, discussion and innovation. Some of the evaluation strategies include: Partial and final reviews, field visits, group or individual presentation of urban analysis and referential theoretical framework, and active participation of students. **From the point of view of the teaching process**, expert teachers in education will be presents at different times to monitor and document the process and they could make recommendations to improve.

Barriers and success factors

Current barriers are the budgetary constraints and the political and economic crisis in the country, which limits the proper performance of the university in terms of transport service, security, internet access, availability of teachers; the quarterly regime forces develop each phase of the project and its objectives in a short time; further to the withdrawal of students per family decision. The factors of success are the commitment and willingness of students and teachers, students used to working under pressure, good relations with local governments, and openness to international trade. Recommendations to improve involvement and implementation: Permanent disclosure and flexibility during the learning process. Rethink the possibility of the project by each university can be evaluated by more than SDG, because given the complexity of the interventions sites each student group could choose a SDG in terms of institutional and community needs as well as your research and contextual analysis.