

CITYLAB MODULE

General Information

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

Urban Rivers and University campus

Department of Architecture and Urban Design

3 months modules of PhD, Master and 5 year undergraduate courses

Jun-Sep16 (1); Sep-Dec16 (2); Jun-Sep16 (3)

Each module has around 15 students in one group

SDG: sustainable transport systems; reduce adverse environmental impact; resource efficiency and resilience to disasters; inclusive and accessible green and public spaces



Local stakeholders

The first two modules have started with the participation of different offices at the university administration and research groups related to the proposal as well as the city mobility office. Other companies, related to the construction of a new transportation system have also been contacted by students and tutors. They have collaborated with relevant information and some of them, search for support and ideas to implement their tasks. For the first modules, the different stakeholders, which have been contacted represent actual steps for convincing the University Rector, the ultimate stakeholder, to implement the team's idea.

Students

Students play roles as an interdisciplinary integrative design, constituted by professionals from different areas and diverse stakeholders. These roles are, whenever it is possible, connected to students' research areas. They should search for specific information related to each area contribution. Up to now, students work in one big group, facilitated by the tutors with the support of external people that each one have contacted.

Teachers

Three faculty members from UFSC have followed students in most classes. Jose Kos (design tutor) and Karine Daufenbach (history and theory), from the Department of Architecture and Urban Design and Cesar Pompeo (hydrology), from the Department of Environmental Engineering. Three other tutors from Architecture and Ecology Departments have eventually participated in the process. Tutors have contacted some of the external stakeholders, organized discussions and presented the module objectives with few explanations related to their expertise. Tutors have also organized the moodle platform, edited by the students, and online discussions.

Integration and interdisciplinarity

The module aims to suggest paths and contribution to the new curriculum of the 5 year Program of Architecture and Urban Design. The modules have started as post-graduate courses and have integrated mainly faculty and students from the Departments of Architecture and Urban Design and Environmental Engineering. Other students and faculty from other departments are also involved and interdisciplinarity is the module main objective.

Evaluation

Students are graded by their participation in the design process and the success of the enterprise will be judged by the impact of the proposal at the university and city administrations.

Barriers and success factors

Some of the barriers are related to the intersection between stakeholders and students' tasks. Some of them may think that students are competing to develop their own jobs. They seek for innovative responses from students, but at the same time, they could have been feared to be considered conservative.

Up to now, the response is quite positive and the main barrier is actually relate to financial resources. The fact that students come from different backgrounds contributes positively to innovative ideas and to confirm the importance of a holistic and transdisciplinarity design process towards a sustainable city. The team strongly believes that transdisciplinarity is one of the main requirement for a sustainable urbanism.