

neru | new ruralities

Erasmus+ Cooperation partnership 2022-2025

INTERNATIONAL CO-CREATIVE JOINT WORKSHOP

10-16 September 2023
Bratsigovo & Kuklen
BULGARIA

Join other 40 master and doctoral students in architecture and planning from across Europe (Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Bulgaria) in a one-week intensive teaching and co-creative experiment to learn more about what is rural in Europe, and what new ruralities will, could or should be in the near future to meet with today's most pressing societal and environmental issues.

- Travel, board, and accommodation costs funded through Erasmus+ or Movetia;
- Field trips and visits to towns, rural villages, landscapes, and landmarks in the Bulgarian Pazardzhik and Plovdiv provinces;
- Meet local stakeholders: municipal authorities, civil organizations, activists;
- Experiment different methods for grasping and imagining new ruralities;
- Multiple lectures from top-European educators and experts in the field.

Eligibility: up to 6 Master, Executive Masters or Doctoral student enrolled at ULB's Faculty of Architecture

English skills: B2-level in understanding, B1-level in speaking and writing according to *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR: tinyurl.com/bdfhpray)

Accreditation: Additional 2 ECTS delivered by your host university

Applications: Send email in English to axel.fisher@ulb.be and nadia.casabella@ulb.be within 9 July 2023
include short motivation letter (300 words)
include record of marks and grades of Bachelor and Master courses
evidence that you will be an enrolled student at your host institution during the workshop

Responses: within 20 July 2023



PERANGUA
Global network of local activists

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Teaching objectives

The NERU project aims to develop methods and shared frameworks that allow students and educators to generate relevant knowledge concerning rural areas, the current challenges they are confronted with and the European policies that are being devised to steer their future. Such knowledge (analytical and design-based, inter- and transdisciplinary) will be generated partly in co-production with relevant stakeholders and local actors, thus integrating the experience and needs of actors on site.

NERU's first international workshop targets the participation of ±40 master- or doctorate-level students enrolled at one of the NERU partner universities (Erasmus-funded: ULB, Politecnico di Torino, UDC, UMinho, UACEG; Movetia-funded: ETH-Zürich), under the guidance of a dozen of teachers and instructors from the same partner institutions and that of NERU experts (SonianWoodCoop-BE, IDEAconsult-BE, fundacion RIA-ES), as well as the contribution of local stakeholders, authorities, businesses, NGOs, and experts.

During this one-week intensive teaching and learning-by-doing workshop, participants are placed in a pedagogical fiction very close to real professional activity, to provide solutions and answers to the local stakeholders' needs. To this aim, they put to test methods and approaches developed at the partner universities during regular courses and classes, and those presented by lecturers and local participants.

The workshop's long-term objectives are:

- to trigger local public debate about rural development issues, opportunities and strategies;
- to feed teaching activities at NERU partner universities over the following years;
- to identify sites and programmes in the workshop's study areas that could potentially serve as assignments for NERU's final activity: a European student competition scheduled in 2025;
- to foster the emergence of the future generation of professionals and educators in fields of architecture, urban design, and planning to address the current and future challenges of rural areas in Europe.

Apply now!



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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Sat 09/09: Travel of participants to Sofia and transfer to Bratsigovo

Dragon dreaming I - travel and dream

Sun 10/09: am Overview of NERU partnership (by NERU partners' staff)
Overview of workshop, agenda, objectives (by UACEG and ETHZ staff)
Lecture: Bulgarian countryside and specific issues in workshop area
pm Field trips to Kuklen and Bratsigovo areas / urban-rural landscape
gradient / meet stakeholders (informal setting)
eve Social activity

Mon 11/09 am Field trips to Kuklen and Bratsigovo areas / meet stakeholders (formal)
pm Field trips cont'd / tangible and intangible cultural heritage and rural
communities' transitions

Dragon dreaming II - plan and map

Tue 12/09 am Lectures: Shifting urban-rural linkages & social metabolism (ETHZ,
POLITO); Cultural heritage & identity, creative & recreative industries
(UACEG, ULB); Permaculture & ecovillage design, co-living & co-creating
(UMINHO, UDC)
pm Teamwork: exploring and mapping community-land relations

Dragon dreaming III - design and prototype

Wed 13/09 am Teamwork: design thinking around sustainability challenges
pm Teamwork: designing alternative social metabolism & transitions
Thu 14/09 am Group activity fair on rural scenarios (student groups)
pm Teamwork: elaborate and prototype sustainable and resilient futures

Fri 15/09 am World Café presentation on the current flow of Atlas and integrated
design works
pm Teamwork wrap up: Atlases of places + integrated design proposals for
New Ruralities
eve Social activity

Dragon dreaming IV - share and celebrate

Sat 16/09 am Presentation of each student group's mapping and design harvest to
teaching staff, municipal authorities, local stakeholders (student groups)
pm Closing remarks and reflection on the workshop experience (NERU)
eve Farewell party

Sun 17/09: Travel of participants back to Sofia and home



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