

# International Summer School Cities in Just Green Transitions

## Turin post-carbon transformations

Deadline for application  
26.05.2023



# International Summer School

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**Dates of the Summer School:** 18-22 September 2023.

**Eligible candidates:** students enrolled in the Master of Sciences in “Pianificazione Territoriale, Urbanistica e Paesaggistico-Ambientale”, curriculum “Pianificare la città e il territorio”, “Territorial, Urban, Environmental and Landscape Planning”, curriculum “Planning for the Global Urban Agenda”, and “Digital Skills for Sustainable Societal Transitions”.

**POLITO GreenFORCE Team:** Giancarlo Cotella, Andrea Ajmar, Erblin Berisha, Grazie Brunetta, Ombretta Caldarice, Donato Casavola, Danial Mohabat Doost, Isabella M. Lami, Yahya Shaker, Elena Todella.

**Involved universities and institutions:** Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development (coordinating partner, AL); Polis University (AL); Politecnico di Torino – R3C Responsible Risk Resilience Centre (IT), Nordregio (SE), University of Belgrade – Faculty of Geography (RS) and Center for Economic Analyses Association (MK).

The summer school involves up to 5 selected Polis students within the framework of the HORIZON-WIDERA project “GreenFORCE. Foster Research Excellence for Green Transition in the Western Balkans”.

The activity **provides 2 ECTS credits** to the participating students.

Project website: [Summer School – GreenFORCE \(greenforcetwinning.net\)](https://greenforcetwinning.net)

Contacts: [doriana\\_musaj@universitetipolis.edu.al](mailto:doriana_musaj@universitetipolis.edu.al)



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## Focus and activities

The summer school in Turin is organised jointly by the [Interuniversity Department of Urban and Regional Studies and Planning](#) and the [Interdepartmental Responsible Risk Resilience Centre \(R3C\)](#) of Politecnico di Torino and is set in the framework of the School of Planning and Design and supported by [Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development](#) in Albania as the coordinating partner; [University of Belgrade - Faculty of Geography \(UB-GEF\)](#) in Serbia and the [Center for Economic Analysis Association \(CEA\)](#) in North Macedonia as the two regional partners; and [Nordregio](#), a pan-Nordic research organisation based in Sweden.

It aims to involve students from different universities in identifying the challenges and opportunities of just and green transitions in Turin's post-carbon city context. The main challenge is operationalising the green transition principles in the study's specific context. To face it, spatial and landscape planning instruments and decision-making strategies should be coordinated within a coherent and integrated framework.

The students will attend several lectures and working group activities that introduce the challenges they will have to focus on and present possible ways to approach them. Besides the local perspective, students will learn from European and Western Balkans examples and case studies.

They will be supervised and mentored by an international, multi-disciplinary teaching staff during their activity.

## Context – Turin post-carbon city

Turin is acknowledged as the most representative "Italian industrial city", where FIAT and other important brands have developed starting from the end of the 1800. In the 60<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> the city's industrial system employed around 300.000 workers. With the industrial crisis that started in the 1980s and exacerbated in the 1990s, the city took initiative to renovate its image and reshape its development future, at the same time favouring the reconversion of its industrial sites stock, mostly located on the central backbone railway – the so-called "spina centrale".

Whereas the conversation of Turin's industrial areas, has required intense planning efforts and the action of a complex urban governance regime, the transition is to certain extent still ongoing, as the city continue to face challenges related to depopulation, pollution, industrial specialization and socio-spatial marginalization, just to name a few. In this regard, the City of Turin has been recently selected by the European Commission as one of the 100 "[Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030](#)" to become an essential hub of experimentation and innovation about climate matters at a European level. According to the program, the selected cities are meant to lead Europe's zero-carbon transition, in turn contributing to enhancing well-being through adequate decarbonisation efforts. The European Commission's Mission Board supports and guides them in this challenge for climate-neutral and smart cities through a multi-level, co-creative process that will be formalised in a Climate City Contract tailored to each city. The Mission Board is fully anchored in Europe's Green Deal strategy to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050. The achievement of zero carbon in an inclusive manner needs systemic reasoning and strategies to be pursued by cities. Accordingly, at the local level, the City of Turin is already beginning a dialogue with key institutions and strategic partners in the area to jointly pursue actions that can enable the ambitious goal of climate neutrality.

This Summer School positions within this articulated process, and it challenges the selected students to explore possible transition and transformation paths, in so doing, learning from the experience of Turin lessons that could then be transferred and adapted in other contexts in Europe and beyond. More in general, students will be invited



to reflect on the just and green transitions as complex, multi-faceted phenomena that redefine mainstream development models towards a more socio-environmental and carbon-neutral society.

## Language

The activity will be exclusively held in English. Please specify your level of English in the application document.

## Eligibility Requirements

Eligible students are enrolled in the Master of Sciences in "Pianificazione Territoriale, Urbanistica e Paesaggistico-Ambientale", curriculum "Pianificare la città e il territorio", "Territorial, Urban, Environmental and Landscape Planning", curriculum "Planning for the Global Urban Agenda", and "Digital Skills for Sustainable Societal Transitions".

## ECTS Credits

The participating students will be awarded 2 ECTS credits.

## Fees and Obligations

The programme does not require the payment of any fee. The costs covered by the organisation include:

- 5-day intensive summer school in Torino (Castello del Valentino) with lectures and studio work;
- 1 social dinner;
- 5 lunches and coffee breaks;
- site visit to selected case study area;
- multidisciplinary tutoring from teaching staff from PoliTO, Co-PLAN, U\_Polis, Nordregio, UB-GEF and CEA during the academic activities of the summer school.

Participants are required to bring their laptop.

## How to participate

Each candidate should send an email within the documents above:

- a motivational letter (max 800 words) written in English;
- a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and/or a portfolio



## Selection Criteria and Ethics

Candidates will be assessed based on the information provided in the motivation letter and in the CV, or portfolio.

The 5 Polis students will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- interest-driving learning in the contents of the Summer School students are applying to (i.e., operationalising just and green transition) based on the motivation letter;
- background and preparation based on the CV and/or the portfolio;
- research skills and attitudes based on the CV and/or the portfolio;
- average of the marks accumulated during courses

An evaluation committee composed of the PoliTO staff involved in the teaching activity will assess the candidates.

Ethics disclaimer: The list of selected candidates will ensure a balanced representation of gender. No discrimination will be based on nationality, sexual orientation, or political opinion. PoliTO will guarantee to maintain a selection process that is fair and equitable, and support informed and responsible decision-making of candidates.

## List of Participants

An email will be sent to selected candidates on June the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The list will comprise up to 10 selected students + 2 eligible candidates (reserve list).

The ten selected students shall email to [doriana\\_musaj@universitetipolis.edu.al](mailto:doriana_musaj@universitetipolis.edu.al) to communicate the acceptance of their position by June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. If one of the ten selected students cancels their participation in time, the first eligible candidate in the reserve list will take their place.

## Disclaimer

The organization is NOT accountable if the activity is cancelled for any *force majeure* reason.

## General timeline

Dates	Before the summer school
15 <sup>th</sup> of May 2023	Launch of the Call for Participation
26 <sup>th</sup> of May 2023	Deadline for students' application
1 <sup>st</sup> of June 2023	Notification of the results
7 <sup>th</sup> of June 2023	Deadline for acceptance and finalization of the list of participants
	<b>Summer school and after</b>
July 2023 (to be defined)	1-day meeting event (online)
18 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> of September 2023	Summer school activities in Torino
October 2023 (to be defined)	2-days feedback event (online)



### Summer School Teaching Staff

PoliTO – Giancarlo Cotella, Andrea Ajmar, Erblin Berisha, Grazie Brunetta, Ombretta Caldarice, Donato Casavola, Danial Mohabat Doost, Isabella M. Lami, Yahya Shaker, Elena Todella  
Co-Plan – Merita Toska, Kejt Dhrami  
Nordregio – Carlos Tapia, Alberto Giacometti  
UB-GEF – Aleksandar Djordjevic, Branko Protic  
CEA – Marjan Nikolov, Vesna Garvanlieva

## GreenFORCE Project

This students' summer school is part of the HORIZON-WIDERA project "[GreenFORCE. Foster Research Excellence for Green Transition in the Western Balkans](#)" (HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02-02). The five partner organisations are [Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development](#) in Albania as the coordinating partner; [University of Belgrade - Faculty of Geography \(UB-GEF\)](#) in Serbia and the [Center for Economic Analysis Association \(CEA\)](#) in North Macedonia as the two regional partners; and [Nordregio](#), a pan-Nordic research organisation based in Sweden, together with [Politecnico di Torino \(PoliTO\)](#), in Italy, as the leading EU research institutions. POLIS University (U\_Polis) in Albania is the affiliate partner of Co-PLAN.

GreenFORCE aims to foster excellence in the Western Balkans' green transition scientific research and innovation of Co-PLAN (Albania), CEA (North Macedonia), and UB-GEF (Serbia); to enhance their research profile, strengthening the research and management capacities of their staff, and contributing to convergence between Western Balkans and European Union research capacities, as well as to broader policy initiatives for the region. This objective is reached through the twinning partnership of five organisations that work closely to produce territorial knowledge through exploratory research and institutional learning; transfer and exchange knowledge among partner organisations through applying the knowledge management cycle; and engage in networking for sharing, cross-fertilizing and amplifying knowledge at the societal level.

The researchers of the consortium engage in building a joint research project with objectives related to (i) the conceptualisation of green transition in the WB; (ii) the assessment of impacts and costs of just green transition, focusing on components of the pillars of the EU green agenda for the WB; (iii) the proposal of a continuous monitoring and assessment framework on green transition impacts and costs in the WB, to be used by scientists, researchers and policy-makers in facilitating the just green transition.

This summer school is the first of three stand-alone teaching events that contribute to the co-design, co-evaluation, exchange and sharing of the research practice and results conducted in the project. The events are open to students from U\_Polis, UB-GEF and PoliTO. Each event will host up to 20 students, of which ten will be from the hosting institution, in this case, PoliTO. Students attending at least one of the stand-alone teaching events may decide to work more thoroughly on this topic through the development of their master thesis under the supervision of one or more professors involved in the summer school.

For any clarification, please send an email to [doriana\\_musaj@universitetipolis.edu.al](mailto:doriana_musaj@universitetipolis.edu.al).

The activity is organized with the support of the PoliTO School of Planning and Design.