

TFK programme, funded projects 2025

Project title: Sustainable City-Urban Transition	
Coordinator Turun ammattikorkeakoulu Oy Jari Hietaranta, jari.hietaranta@turkuamk.fi	Ukraine's post-war reconstruction provides a unique and unprecedented opportunity to rebuild cities based on European Union standards for carbon-neutral, smart, and sustainable development. Kryvyi Rih, a major center of heavy industry, requires new types of expertise to transform urban spaces into ecologically, socially, and functionally sustainable environments. To address this need, Turku University of Applied Sciences (TUAS) and Krivyi Rih National University (KRNU) have launched a cooperative project to modernize higher education in urban planning in Ukraine. The project focuses on the co-creation and implementation of a 10 ECTS educational module called "Sustainable City – Urban Transition" (SUSTRANS). This module is designed around 4–5 mini MOOCs, each worth 1.5–2,5 ECTS credits, covering crucial themes: carbon neutrality and climate policy, green and blue infrastructure, smart systems in urban environments, and the promotion of healthy, socially inclusive cities. Each miniMOOC will include videos, assignments, short lectures, and other digital learning materials to foster flexible, modern education.
Partners Kryvyi Rih National University (Ukraine)	Key activities include joint planning and creation of content, technical production, peer review, and pilot testing of the materials. Staff mobility activities, workshops, and expert lectures will deepen collaboration, while visits to city planning departments and possible participation in European conferences will provide broader European perspectives. The project will produce not only the new educational module but also strengthen KRNU's teaching capacity, enabling the integration of future-oriented urban planning principles directly into Ukrainian curricula. By the end of the project, ten teachers from KRNU will be trained in smart city and carbon-neutral urban planning education. The partnership aims to create a permanent foundation for academic cooperation, exchange of students and staff, and future research initiatives. Dissemination will involve workshops, communication materials, online visibility, and a final event to promote the module to broader stakeholders including cities and the construction industry. This collaboration directly supports Ukraine's green transition, urban resilience, and EU integration aspirations, while enhancing TUAS's role as an international educator and innovator in sustainable development. It also creates opportunities for practical application of sustainable urban solutions that may be adapted and scaled to other post-conflict reconstruction efforts globally.



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