



INCEPT

Introducing Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Principles in Architectural Education:
Towards Designing Climate Neutral and Inclusive Buildings

Newsletter 4 – November 2024

SPOTLIGHT ON

Launched on October 1st, 2022, the project “Introducing Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Principles in Architectural Education: Towards Designing Climate Neutral and Inclusive Buildings” (INCEPT) is being implemented under the Erasmus+ Programme of the EU. The project strives for climate-neutrality and inclusiveness of the built environment by incorporating sustainable and energy efficient building concepts into architectural education with knowledge and skills at building design stage.

The project consortium consists of the Department of Architecture at the New Bulgarian University (NBU), the Faculty of Urban Planning at the University of Architecture and Urbanism “Ion Mincu” (UAUIM), and the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Zagreb (UNIGZ).

This fourth INCEPT newsletter offers a concise overview of the project activities carried out between June and November 2024, highlighting the Third Live Consortium Meeting held in Zagreb, as well as the workshops, dissemination events, conference presentations, and outreach activities that advanced the project’s goals during this period.

INCEPT PROJECT OVERVIEW

“Introducing Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Principles in Architectural Education: Towards Designing Climate Neutral and Inclusive Buildings” (INCEPT)

Funding: European Union’s Erasmus+ Programme, Call KA220-HED Cooperation partnerships in higher education, Grant Agreement number: 2022-1-BG01-KA220-HED-000089080

Timeframe: 1 October 2022 - 30 September 2025

Contractors: New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria (Coordinator); University of Architecture and Urbanism “Ion Mincu”, Romania; University of Zagreb, Croatia



The INCEPT Project has received funding from the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union under grant agreement no. 89080

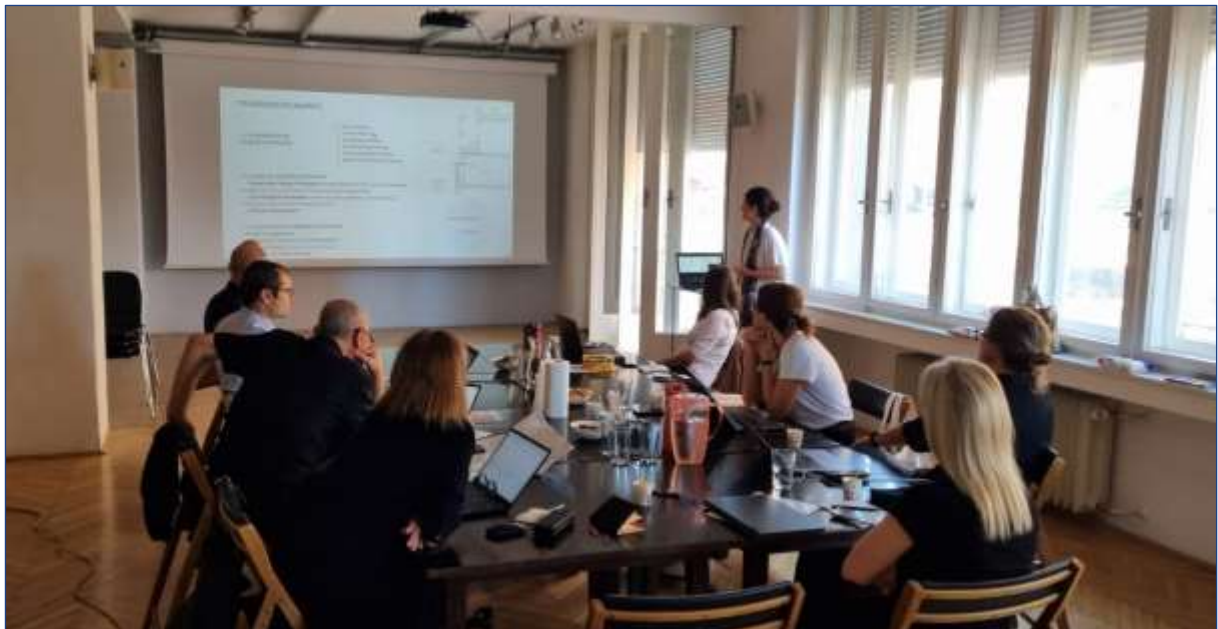
THIRD CONSORTIUM MEETING OF INCEPT PROJECT

Zagreb, 10-11 September 2024

The Third Consortium Meeting of the INCEPT Project took place in Zagreb on 10-11 September 2024 and was a highly productive gathering in the inspiring city of Zagreb. The meeting was hosted by our colleagues from the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb (UNIZG). We extend our warmest thanks for their excellent organisation and hospitality.

The meeting marked a significant step toward the finalisation of the project's key deliverables within this Erasmus+ initiative, particularly focusing on the Compendium on the Green Transition to Affordable and Clean Energy in Buildings, as well as sustainable cities and climate resilience education for architecture students.

As part of the planning for the third (final) phase of the project, the Consortium agreed on several key actions: completing the Booklets and the Compendium by April 2025, organising the online training courses in spring 2025, developing a Compendium dissemination teaser to attract a wider professional audience, and planning the final meeting in Sofia in summer 2025.

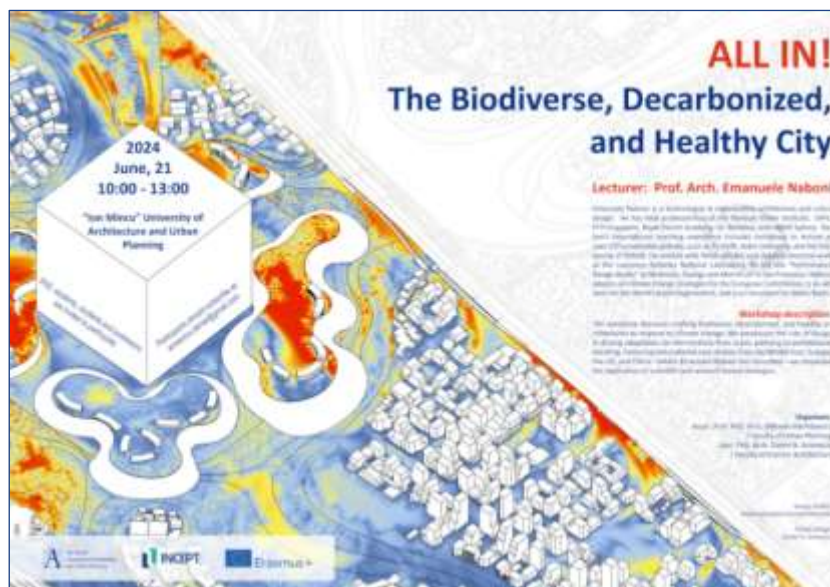




INCEPT PROJECT DISSEMINATION

The INCEPT Project was presented at conferences and fairs in the home countries of the project's partners and abroad. INCEPT Team presented INCEPT Project at:

- Incept project was promoted at “18th Days of Civil Engineers“ in Opatija, Croatia. The Days were held from June 13 to June 15, 2024. AF ZG team members presented the achievements and progress of the Incept project – <https://dani.hkig.hr/>
- Incept project was promoted at PromoArh fair in Poreč, Croatia. The Fair was held from September 18 to September 20, 2024. AF ZG team members presented the progress of the project after 2 years of implementation – <https://www.promoarth.com/>
- Workshop “ALL IN! The Biodiverse, Decarbonized, and Healthy City”, 21 June 2024, UAUIM



On 21 June 2024, UAUIM hosted the workshop “ALL IN! The Biodiverse, Decarbonized, and Healthy City”, led by Prof. Dr. Arch. Emanuele Naboni and curated by Assoc. Prof. Mihaela Hărmănescu and Senior Lecturer Daniel Armenciu. The event was part of the Climate Neutral Building Design Atelier, developed during the second semester of 2023–2024 under WP3 and implemented within WP4 for curriculum validation. More information is available at: <https://www.uauim.ro/evenimente/workshop-all-in-the-biodiverse-decarbonized-and-healthy-city/>

- The project was presented by PhD Arch. Urb. Sorin Manea at Research Networking Day 2024, held on 6 November 2024 in the UAUIM Council Hall – <https://www.uauim.ro/evenimente/research-networking-day-2024/>



A project poster was also displayed as part of the event exhibition and published online in the official brochure: [Research Networking Day 2024](#) / [Research Networking Day 2024](#)



INCEPT Principles of sustainability with energy efficiency in architecture
Research into sustainable and resilient building design

Since October 1, 2023, UAUIM is a partner in the INCEPT project, involving Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Principles in Architectural Education. Through Designing Smart, Resilient and Inclusive Buildings, funded by ERDF/REACT-KAZDHEC - Competitiveness and innovation education.

Objective:

201 To develop the knowledge of architecture and urban planning students on the latest principles of energy efficiency throughout the life cycle of buildings, addressing both education and professional practice, i.e. the design of climate-resilient, energy-efficient and inclusive buildings.

202 To train architecture and urban planning students on the design of energy efficient, decarbonized and resilient sustainable buildings in the wider, multi- or single urban context, allowing room for mobility and active mobility. In pursuit of this specific objective, the original message is an evolution from modern to a Climate Neutral Building Design Platform for architectural and planning students to lead energy efficient, smart, resilient, green buildings and to be applied as part of their training in an economic way, 100% MEN.

203 Validation and implementation of the primary educational curriculum and student activities through working on architecture and urban planning modules.

204 Development of a digital educational platform for e-learning and inter-university exchange of knowledge and best practices on sustainable and green by efficient building design.

Coordinator:
New Bulgarian University (NBU),
Coordination in Cluj-Napoca

Project duration:
24 months (2022 - 2025)

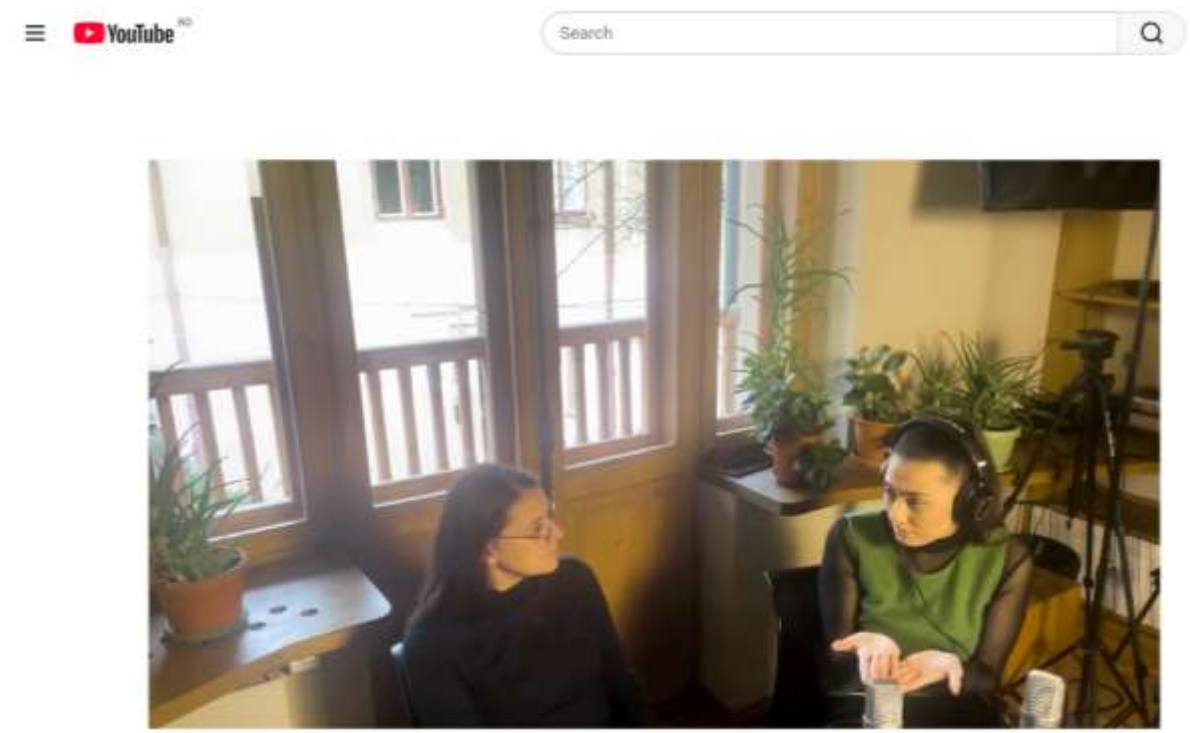
Refers:
2024-01-01 - 2024-01-31 - project overview




Additionally, in November 2024, within the UAUIM HUB Business project of the UAUIM Entrepreneurship Program, an interview with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Mihaela Hărmănescu about the project was recorded. In this podcast, she explains how the UAUIM-led initiative aligns the master's curricula in architecture and urban planning with European goals on energy efficiency and sustainability, highlighting the practical skills students gain, the sustainable design principles introduced through the project, and the added value of transnational cooperation for higher education in South-Eastern Europe. The interview can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/xhp1dIUR1y8?si=RD0uulbxnSurONrw> &

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhp1dIUR1y8>



VISIT US ONLINE

For New Bulgarian University: <https://architecture.nbu.bg/bg/proekti>

For University of Architecture and Urbanism "Ion Mincu": <https://www.uauim.ro/cercetare/incept/>

For University of Zagreb: <https://www.arhitekt.hr/hr/istrazivanje/istrazivacki-projekti/>

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