



Newsletter 6 – September 2025

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 sixth and final newsletter of the INCEPT project provides a comprehensive overview of the concluding phase of the initiative and its achieved outcomes. It presents the final dissemination conference held in June 2025, during which the project’s intellectual outputs were showcased and the results of the three-year collaboration were evaluated. The newsletter highlights the exhibition of student projects developed within the Climate Neutral Building Design Atelier, reflecting the pedagogical innovations promoted by the partnership. It further synthesizes the contributions of the three partner universities in advancing the integration of sustainability, energy efficiency, and climate-neutral design principles into architectural education.

Concluding the project cycle, this final issue reflects on the overall impact of INCEPT and its relevance for future academic curricula and professional practice. Project-related activities also continued during this period in 2025, further supporting the implementation and dissemination of the project’s educational and methodological approaches. The project team is currently preparing the final report for submission, ensuring that all activities and results are documented in full compliance with academic standards and Erasmus+ requirements. The aim is to achieve a successful report and project completion without remarks from the national funding agency of the Erasmus+ Programme.

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

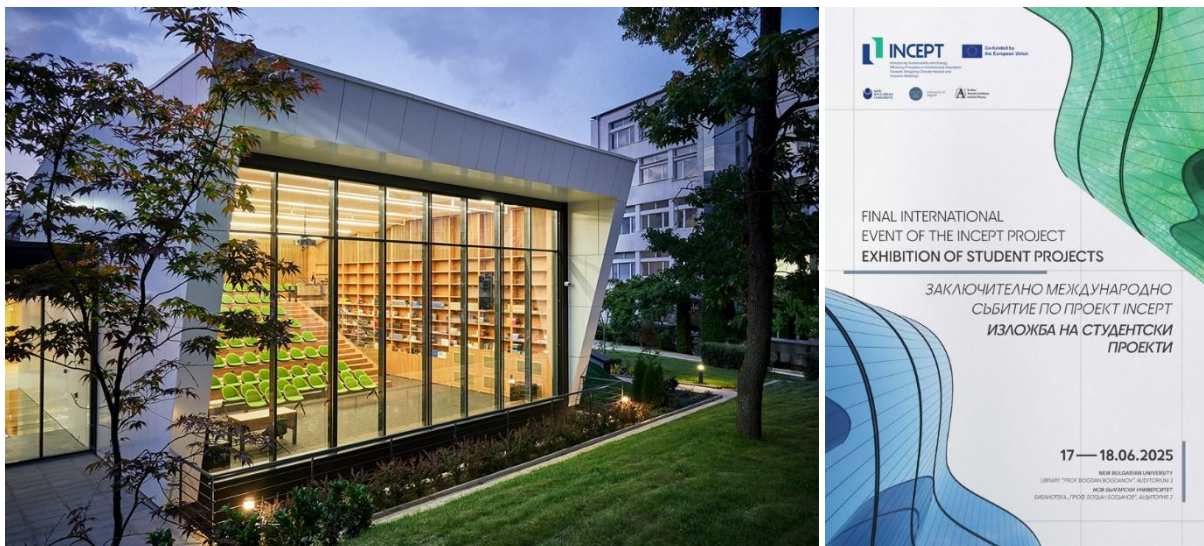
Timeframe: 1 October 2022 - 30 September 2025

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

FINAL INTERNATIONAL EVENT OF THE INCEPT PROJECT with an Exhibition of Student Projects

Sofia, 17 June 2025

The event took place on 17 of June 2025 in the Library building "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov", Auditorium 2 at the New Bulgarian University.

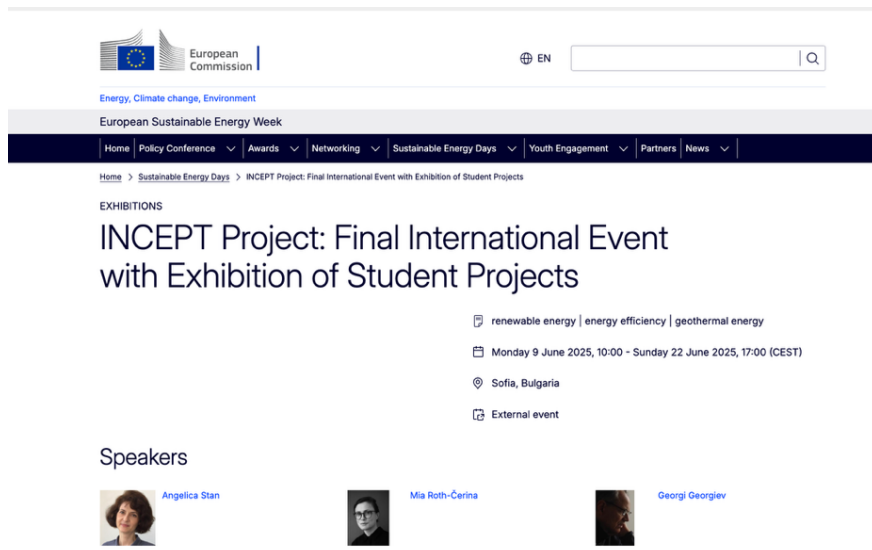


The Library building "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov" and the event poster



Auditorium 2 of the Library building "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov"

The final international event of the INCEPT project, featuring an exhibition of student projects, served as the concluding public event of the initiative funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission. The INCEPT project promotes climate neutrality and inclusiveness in the built environment by integrating sustainable and energy-efficient building concepts into architectural education, equipping students with essential knowledge and skills at the building design stage. In doing so, it supports the European Green Deal, one of the main political priorities of the European Commission. The Final International Event of INCEPT was a part of the [European Sustainable Energy Week 2025](#), highlighting the project's contribution to promoting sustainable and energy-efficient architectural education at the European level.



Link: https://sustainable-energy-week.ec.europa.eu/sustainable-energy-days/incept-project-final-international-event-exhibition-student-projects-2025-06-09_en

The exhibition and accompanying conference presented and discussed the results achieved through the INCEPT project, emphasising the scope, quality, and overall accomplishments of the student projects showcased during the event. The exhibition featured student work developed within the Climate Neutral Building Design Atelier, implemented at the three participating universities, which formed the central focus of the event.



In preparation for the exhibition of student projects



The exhibition of the students' projects from the Climate Neutral Building Design Atelier

The exhibited projects demonstrated the students' ability to apply zero-emission strategies, circular design principles, nature-based solutions, and energy-efficient architectural concepts within complex urban contexts. Through drawings, models, and digital presentations, the exhibition highlighted the pedagogical innovation introduced by the Atelier and showcased the tangible impact of the project on architectural education. Serving both as a dissemination platform and a reflection of the project's educational achievements, the exhibition demonstrated how INCEPT project contributed to shaping a new generation of architects equipped to address climate neutrality and sustainability through design. During the exhibition, the student authors presented their design concepts and received certificates of participation in the Climate Neutral Building Design Atelier in an official ceremony.



Opening of the Final International Event of INCEPT project



Presentation of UAUIM team contributions to the INCEPT project



Presentation of the projects designed by the students from the University of Zagreb



During the exhibition of student projects

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 as follows:

On May 20–21, 2025, the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, hosted the Young Forum for Action on Sustainability and Climate Change, organized as part of the ERUA project. At the invitation of the organisers, Prof. Dr. Arch. Georgi Georgiev gave a presentation at the Forum, presenting the results of the project *Introducing Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Principles in Architectural Education: Towards Designing Climate Neutral and Inclusive Buildings* (INCEPT).

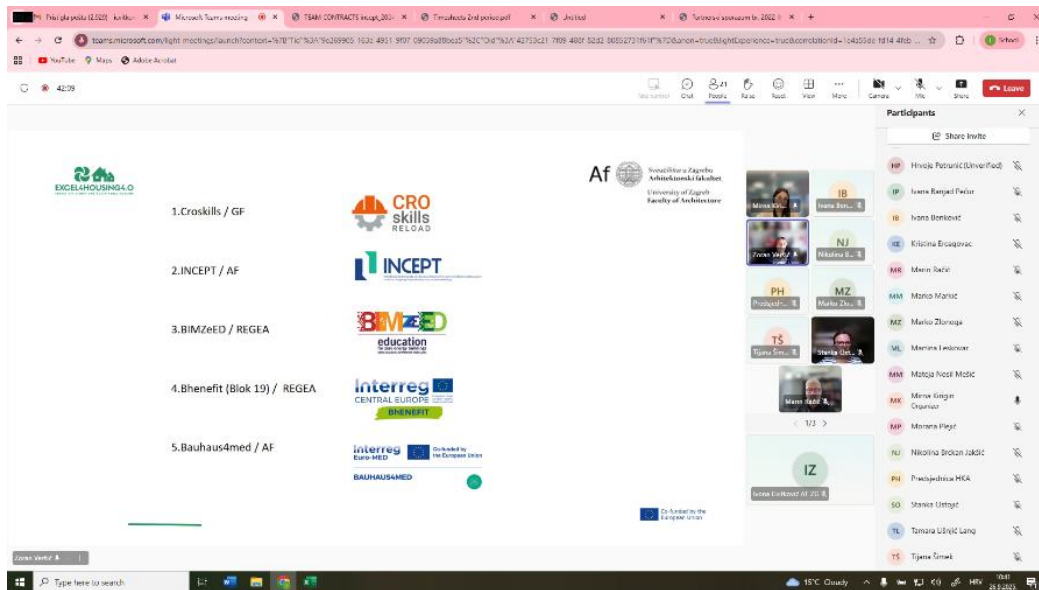


- Incept project was promoted at PromoArh fair in Poreč, Croatia. The Fair was held from September 17 to September 19, 2025. AF ZG team members presented final Intellectual outputs of the project – <https://www.promoarh.com/>



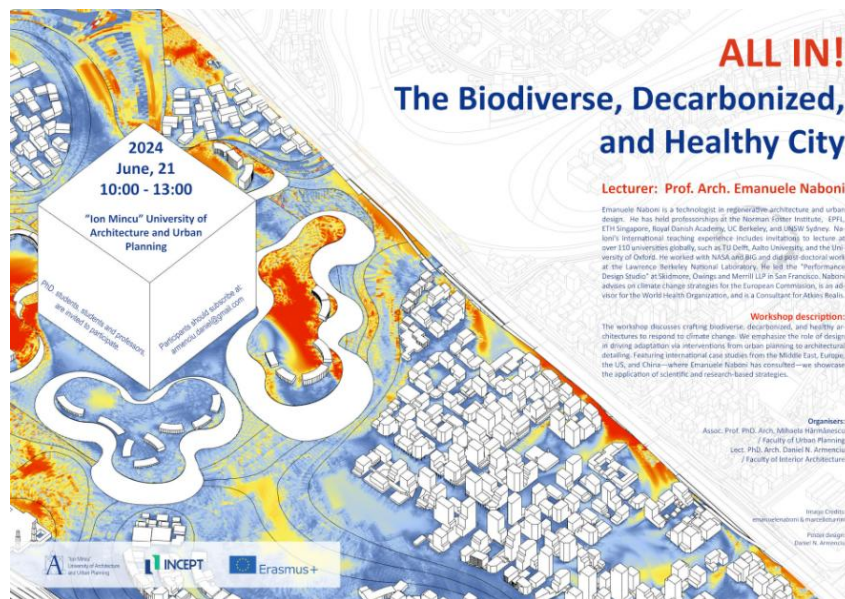
- INCEPT Project was presented as a best practice example at the online workshop *"Investments in renovation, reconstruction and construction of buildings – technical and operational aspects and*

new financing opportunities" (Sept 26, 2025), organised by REGEA under the MESTRI-CE project. Highlighted for its innovative, evidence-based, and transferable approach, INCEPT showcased how it supports the development of green and digital skills in construction-related VET, contributing to the sector's sustainable transformation.



- Workshop “ALL IN! The Biodiverse, Decarbonized, and Healthy City”, 21 June 2024, UAUIM, Lector: Prof.dr.arh. Emanuele Naboni

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/>



INCEPT PROJECT INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS

Over its three-year implementation, INCEPT delivered a coherent set of results that advanced the integration of sustainability and energy efficiency into architectural education. The project developed a professional online training course on sustainable architecture, produced guidelines and competency frameworks for curriculum enhancement, and implemented the Climate Neutral Building Design Atelier, where students explored circular, low-carbon, and climate-responsive design approaches. These activities were supported by extensive dissemination across Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia.

The project was completed with the publication of its three major intellectual outputs:

- IO1. Compendium on the Green Transition to Affordable and Clean Energy in Buildings, Sustainable Cities and Climate Resilience for Architecture Students
- IO2. Online Training Course on Sustainable Architecture
- IO3. Climate Neutral Building Design Atelier for Architecture Students

They are already accessible as open-access resources on [INCEPT Community page](#) on ZENODO – EU Open Research Repository, and will be available on the dedicated INCEPT project page on the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2022-1-BG01-KA220-HED-000089080>

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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