

ESUA - Summary of project results

(December 2008)

The ESUA curriculum has been developed through a two-year pilot phase that included five test modules in four countries. The modules have been built around actual workshops that brought pilot students from several partners and elsewhere together with professionals and other stakeholders on actual projects, and tested their ability to learn in a dynamic on-the-job environment. The workshop programme was supplemented with lectures and student preparation activities, to create a full working model of each of the five primary modules. This model serves as the foundation of a full curriculum which can be applied for continuing education, or for a full degree programme to be applied by existing partner institutions, or as a new programme.

In addition to the test modules, a full curriculum model has been developed with extensive research and input from partners and other leading experts in the field, including:

- Extensive research into existing curricula and curricular materials in Europe, the USA and other countries (documented in Volume I).
- Three curriculum development workshops, combining elements of existing partner curricula, research into new curriculum approaches, and new pilot curriculum concepts.
- A project Intranet with all draft material posted and discussed among partners via email.
- Two papers presented at the 50th Anniversary Conference on Architectural Education in Oxford, England, as well as circulation and discussion of the draft curriculum amongst other conference attendees, representing European leaders in architectural education. The two papers were included in a book of proceedings published commercially.
- A paper presented at the 2007 Sibiu, Romania conference on Eastern European heritage, representing numerous educational institutions from Eastern Europe.
- Presentations and discussion at a research seminar at University College London, with representatives of other UK universities.
- Presentation and discussion at a conference of the Congress for the New Urbanism in Austin, Texas, USA, with representatives of other US universities.
- A final dissemination conference, in conjunction with the Council for European Urbanism's Third Annual Congress on "Climate Change and Urban Design" in Oslo, Norway, with representatives from European universities, governments practitioners and others.
- Extensive circulation of draft material to a board of colleagues representing universities across Europe, including three professional urban discussion lists.
- Publication of 10,000 copies of a summary prospectus for the curriculum and the programme, with invitations to contact programme partners with comments and proposals for partnership.

The curriculum is planned to be further developed and disseminated through a second phase, the Education and Dissemination in Urbanism, Architecture and Craft (EDUAC). This phase will develop additional detailed curricular materials and test the more detailed operational requirements.

The results of this pilot phase can be summarized as follows:

- The modules functioned successfully.
- Students reported that they benefited greatly from the “immersive” workshop experience, and from work across a range of countries and contexts. From a student group report: “The knowledge we acquired during the workshop seems enormous to us. It has been a unique experience to participate in such a big scale (and real) project.”
- Work of the students was received enthusiastically by university colleagues and others.
- Students reported that they believed they needed such a curriculum, and were not receiving it in their education.
- The project gathered detailed feedback on the success of many specific elements, and areas needing further development.
- All participants concluded that the test module period was a strongly encouraging success.

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