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NEWSLETTER | EPD-NET

The EPD-Net Project is an EU co-funded Erasmus+ initiative bringing together 32 partners from 13 countries. It focuses on ecological planning and design (EPD) for disaster- resilient and sustainable cities by establishing a transnational learning network and developping an AI-supoorted, adaptive “smart training module” (LMS plus a self-assessment component). The project aims to strengthen the role of planning and design disciplines in disaster management and to enhance employability and institutional capacity trough training content that integrates green, digital, and resilience competences.

FILLING THE GAP: DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL PLANNING AND DESIGN LEARNING NETWORK AND AN ADAPTIVE SMART TRAINING MODULE FOR DISASTER RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES



FROM DEVELOPMENT TO REAL WORLD TESTING EPD-NET ENTERS A NEW PHASE

EPD-NET PILOT TESTING STARTS

August marks an important transition for the EPD-Net project as the Smart Training Module moves from development towards real-world pilot testing. Led through WP4 – Pilot Testing and Evaluation, this phase will bring together external users from fields including landscape architecture, urban planning, disaster resilience, GIS, environmental science and related academic disciplines, with participants representing municipalities, universities, NGOs and private organisations. The aim is not only to test the learning experience, but to gather diverse and meaningful feedback that can guide the module's further development.

Alongside this implementation work, EPD-Net continued to share its approach with wider professional and academic audiences through conference participation and presentations, strengthening opportunities for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

On 18 August 2026, the IFLA Landscape Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maria Trovato, and the EPD-Net WP6 team, led by Prof. Dr. Şükran Şahin, met with former IFLA President Martha Cecilia Fajardo Pulido and representatives of SAP (Sociedad Colombiana de Arquitectos Paisajistas) and SAPV (Sociedad de Arquitectos Paisajistas de Venezuela).

Within the framework of the Nature Cities approach, the meeting focused on the role of landscape architecture, nature-based solutions, and ecological resilience-oriented approaches in post-earthquake reconstruction processes in Venezuela and Colombia.

Alongside this implementation work, EPD-Net continued to share its approach with wider professional and academic audiences through conference participation and presentations, at the “Hacettepe University Climate Dialogues Towards COP31 – Resilient Cities, Nature-Based Solutions and Digital Risk Management” webinar, Prof. Dr. Alper Çabuk presented insights on strengthening urban resilience through integrated approaches to climate change, disaster risk and sustainable urban planning. Their presentation highlighted the importance of combining nature-based solutions and digital risk management tools to support cities in anticipating, adapting to and responding to increasingly complex environmental and climate-related risks.

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