

COURSE

INTEGRATED URBAN INTERVENTIONS

PREMISE

The course **Integrated Urban Interventions** explores in detail modern strategies for achieving sustainable and integrated urban development, as well as actions aimed at preserving and developing cultural heritage in urban areas with cultural and creative potential. Participants will gain an in-depth perspective on economic and cultural impacts in a multidisciplinary approach including green infrastructure sector, digitization, energy renewal and the development of strategies for urban interventions, impact on local communities, as well as the development of communication strategies and community partnerships to capitalize on and enhance the attractiveness of urban areas with cultural and creative potential.

Date:

17 November– 21 November 2025

Location:

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Register before:

1 November, 2025

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Integrated Urban Interventions course aims to provide a comprehensive overview of contemporary approaches to understanding and managing integrated, sustainable urban development. Participants will explore the topic from both an empirical and policy-oriented perspective. The course includes teaching modules, group tasks, and field excursions to local destinations and attractions.

COURSE TOPICS

- Implementation and development of integrated urban strategies, European territorial cooperation actions, development of communities involved in the implementation and monitoring of strategies.
- Principles of integrated urban development approach.
- Drafting plans for the interpretation and enhancement of heritage objectives
- Characteristics of localities with cultural, creative potential
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- Characteristics of localities with cultural, creative potential
- Policies and strategic approach for localities with creative cultural potential
- Protecting urban cultural heritage
- Citizens' well-being and coexistence with visitors in urban areas
- Sustainable transport and mobility in cities with cultural and creative potential
- Quality of life in cities with cultural and creative potential
- Development of integrated community-based urban development strategies and involvement of local residents
- Local authenticity and protecting cities' identity
- Digital technologies in cultural heritage management
- The role of local policies in the development of areas with cultural creative potential
- Case studies and examples of best practices

TARGET GROUP

Specialists in public administration and urban planning, who will acquire essential knowledge for the integrated development of cities through sustainable local and regional strategies, promoting a balanced and resilient development model and including urban cultural and creative potential in the strategic approach.

COURSE MATERIALS

- Syllabi
- Reports
- Published papers
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Videos

Course venue

Erasmus University,
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Erasmus Happiness
Economics Research
Organisation

Langeveld Gebouw
Burgemeester Oudlaan 50,
3062 PA
Rotterdam, the Netherlands

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- **Accommodation & Travel:**
Accommodation and travel costs for participants are not included in the course fee and will be arranged separately by the participants or their organizations.
- **Registration & Payment:**
Participants must confirm their registration and make prior payment to secure their place in the course.
- **Registration/participation Fee:**
2500 euro per person for a full week. For administrative reasons, a cancellation fee of €300 will be charged if cancellations are received within 15 days of the course start date. Substitutions are allowed without penalty.

PROGRAM

DAY 1 – MONDAY, 17 NOVEMBER

Theme: *Foundations of Integrated Urban Development and Interventions*

Time

09:00–09:30

Introduction to the course structure, themes, objectives, and participant expectations.

Activity

Welcome & Course Overview

*Peter Nijkamp
Karima Kourtit*

09:30–11:00

Explores systems thinking and urban strategies that link environment, economy, and society to manage complex urban transformations. Discussion of models that help achieve the broader goals of integrated urban development such as smart cities and the 15-minute city. Examples of applications in Europe and Romania.

Lecture: Principles of Integrated Urban Development

Peter Nijkamp

11:15–12:30

Provides an introductory lecture on how policy databases and instruments can be used to monitor and assess integrated urban development.

Lecture: Policy Databases and Instruments

Karima Kourtit

12:30-13:30

Break

13:30–15:30

Explores the relationship between well-being and the built environment. We start with defining well-being and then provide a framework how different aspects of the built environment can potentially affect well-being.

Lecture: Quality of Life and the Built Environment

Martijn Burger

15:30-16:30

Groups are created and briefed on the core course assignment: to design an integrated urban development strategy for a specific case area. This can be done from the viewpoint of a city council, tourist manager, or urban developer angle.

Group Formation & Assignment

*Karima Kourtit
Peter Nijkamp*

17:00-

Social gathering ‘Bitterballen’

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER

Theme: *Tourism and the City*

Time

09:00–10:30

Explores the intersection of urban economics, spatial planning, and the experience economy. Starting from urban economic theory, it is explained how clustering of amenities, attractions, and services attracts residents and not only. Subsequently, the spatial dynamics of leisure activities in cities are discussed as well as its economic impact.

Activity

Lecture: Leisure and the city

Peter Nijkamp

10:45–12:00

Discusses how the exploitation of the cultural and creative potential of cities can both support and threaten urban environments, environments, focusing on crowding, housing pressure, and identity loss.

Lecture: The City as a Magnet

Karima Kourtit & Peter Nijkamp

12:00–13:00

Break

13:00–14:15

Examines urban wellbeing frameworks and how policy can mitigate negative impact of leisure activities on residents. Explores models of citizen participation and co-creation in sustainable initiatives through interactive case discussions.

Lecture: Citizens' Wellbeing through Participation

Martijn Burger

Breakout session for teams

Guided tour to heritage project
Time to work on group assignment

Group Assignment

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

Theme: *Cultural Heritage, Mobility and Integrated Urban Interventions*

Time	Activity
09:00–10:30	Lecture: Sustainable Urban Mobility, Urban Green and Well-being
Showcases models of transport planning that reduce environmental impact while improving visitor and resident experiences. How can we improve accessibility while preserving the local environment and quality of life?	<i>Martijn Burger</i>
10:45–12:00	Lecture: Cultural Heritage and the City
Presents key frameworks for interpreting heritage meaningfully, addressing urban authenticity, memory, and adaptive reuse. Introduces digital heritage platforms, participatory tools, and storytelling techniques that improve access and engagement.	<i>Peter Nijkamp</i>
12:00-13:00	Break
13:00-	Rotterdam tour and research
Guided tour with Guided Tours in Rotterdam – UrbanGuides Followed by time to do field research in Rotterdam	
17:00-	Social gathering with port tour on boat

DAY 4 – THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER (UTRECHT)

Theme: *Tools for Integrated Urban Development*

Time	Activity
09:00–10:30	Lecture: Dashboards for Integrated Urban Development <i>Karima Kourtit</i>
Discusses the use of urban dashboards and how they can support decision-making when using integrated urban development frameworks.	
10:45–12:00	Interactive Class: Constraints to sustainable development <i>Peter Nijkamp & Karima Kourtit</i>
Class discussion on constraints to sustainable development and how tools can help to solve these issues. Students can bring in their own cases.	
12:00-13:00	Break
13:00-14:30	The Citizense Platform: Measuring and Monitoring a Healthy Living Environment
14:30–	Utrecht tour and group assignment

DAY 5 – FRIDAY, 21 NOVEMBER

Theme: *Synthesis, Strategic Thinking & Future Pathways*

Time

Activity

09:00–10.45

Policy evaluation methods for monitoring integrated urban interventions

Monitoring well-being

Martijn Burger

Groups assignment moderator: Karima Kourtit

11:00-12:00

First set of group presentations of integrated urban strategies with peer and instructor feedback.

Group Presentations: Part I

13:00-14:00

Second set of presentations and final critiques. Evaluation includes coherence, creativity, and feasibility.

Group Presentations: Part II

14:15-15.30

Synthesizes learning from the week and projects emerging trends.

Wrap-Up Lecture: Future Policy Trends in Integrated Urban Interventions

Peter Nijkamp & Karima Kourtit

15:30-16:15

Debriefing, course evaluations, certificate awards, and an open discussion on how participants plan to apply the course in practice.

Closing Session: Reflections, Evaluation & Certificates

LOGISTICS

The course will take place at the **Langeveld Building**, located at:

Erasmus University

Langeveld Building, Woudestein Campus

Burgemeester Oudlaan 50, 3062 PA Rotterdam

Route descriptions from several recommended hotels to the course venue:

Hotel Name	Notes	Route Description	Time
Novotel Rotterdam Brainpark	Closest & easiest	Walk ±10 minutes directly to campus via Burgemeester Oudlaan	±10 min
The Social Hub Rotterdam	Very convenient	Walk to Blaak → Metro B or C → Kralingse Zoom → Walk to campus	±20–25 min
Leonardo Hotel Savoy	Good metro access	Walk to Blaak → Metro B or C → Kralingse Zoom → Walk to campus	±25 min
citizenM Rotterdam	Good metro access	Walk to Blaak → Metro B or C → Kralingse Zoom → Walk to campus	±25 min
The Usual Rotterdam	Similar to citizenM	Walk to Blaak → Metro B or C → Kralingse Zoom → Walk to campus	±25–30 min
CityHub Rotterdam	Longer walk; cool area (arts scene)	Walk to Eendrachtsplein or Centraal → Metro or Tram 7 → Walk to campus	±30–35 min

You can pay for public transport using an OV-chipkaart, contactless debit/credit card, or Apple/Google Pay (OVpay).

It is recommended to use Google Maps or the 9292.nl app for real-time public transport information in the Netherlands, including Rotterdam.

Addresses to add to your Google Map:

Location	Address
Rotterdam Centraal	Stationsplein 1, 3013 AJ Rotterdam
Langeveld Building	Burgemeester Oudlaan 50, 3062 PA Rotterdam
Novotel Rotterdam Brainpark	K.P. van der Mandelelaan 150, 3062 MB Rotterdam
The Social Hub Rotterdam	Mariniersweg 1, 3011 NK Rotterdam
Leonardo Hotel Savoy	Westersingel 70, 3015 LC Rotterdam
citizenM Rotterdam	Schiedamsedijk 20, 3011 EN Rotterdam
The Usual Rotterdam	Nieuwe Binnenweg 281, 3015 BJ Rotterdam
CityHub Rotterdam	Witte de Withstraat 94, 3012 BR Rotterdam

Contact person: Karima Kourtit (k_kourtit@hotmail.com), you can find me in the **Integrated Urban Interventions** WhatsApp group

We look forward to welcoming you on Monday, Monday, 17 November in Rotterdam!