



ENHANCEMENTS

Mediated Urban Landscapes

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Expressions of interest are invited from the COST Action TU1306 “Fostering knowledge about the relationship between Information and Communication Technologies and Public Spaces supported by strategies to improve their use and attractiveness (CYBERPARKS)” to participate in a master/PhD level training school related to emerging forms of technologically mediated urban landscapes.

The School of Architecture at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Cost Action TU1306 are pleased to organize the

International Training School in thinking and making hybrid spaces “*Enhancements: Mediated Urban Landscapes*” to be held 29 March - 01 April 2016 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The venue will be the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Architecture, University Campus, 54124, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Enhancements is an international COST Action training school that brings into question our contemporary outdoor life as dominated by *touchscreen-action* and technology mediated real-time interaction by multiple users. Considering that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) accompany almost all of our outdoor real-world activities, the experience of open public space is now affected by the digital to such an extent that becomes fully mediated. In this sense, Mediated Urban Landscapes are simply real. In order to explore further the emergence of such hybrid environments, the training school aims to develop an understanding of our urban landscapes as territories of interacting influences using ICT to define both spatial features and human activities.

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and its position in the city of Thessaloniki. Source: Google Maps



The general context of the training school is based on creating a shared understanding of the forms of man/machine/space interactive narratives related to the shaping and making of technologically enhanced public spaces. It aims to increase the awareness of new methods, techniques and materials for the production of responsive and inclusive urban places, as well for their effects on human behavior, preferences and responses.

The New Waterfront of Thessaloniki has a world award-winning architectural and landscape thematic layout of *rooms-as-gardens*. This is a key territory for outdoor public activity of the city and will be used as the main case study of the training school. The course will explore new enhanced forms of storytelling through the Gardens' individual narrative areas. We will investigate the role of ICT in enhancing this linear urban feature as a hybrid space able to adapt and assimilate to shifts in social requirements.

Four main teaching modules will inquire the new transformative reality of a coastal Mediated Urban Landscape:

1. Transforming Value: responsive technologies, prototypes and concepts
2. Spatial and Digital Methods: from analog to networked design processes
3. The Esthetics of Mediated Experiences: new forms of outdoor materiality
4. Social Life in Mediated Environments: architecture, space and postdigital humanities

We are looking for interested participants to join the *Enhancements: Mediated Urban Landscapes* training school to be held in Thessaloniki, Greece from 29 March to 01 April 2016. The training school is open to a broad spectrum of disciplines related to urban space and ICT - from architecture, landscape and interaction design to urban development, sociology and digital humanities. Eligible participants are Master or PhD level students, early career investigators (for those being at the early phase of their career with at least PhD degree and not more than 8 year work experience after graduation) and early stage professionals (like urban designers, landscape architects, social scientists, ICT developers, entrepreneurs, digital/kinetic artists, etc.) holding a master degree. This list is not exhaustive, the training school is open to a wide range of backgrounds - just inspire the jury to select you! Applicants should come from COST countries (COST countries are the 35 member countries: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Israel as a cooperating state).

ENHANCEMENTS is offering places for 20 participants. The official language of the training school is English. There is the possibility of parallel workshops during some of the days of the training school. More information will be provided to the selected applicants. All participants have to attend all scheduled sessions (4 days) in order to acquire an integrated view on the subject area of this Training School. In case it is needed, the participants shall be able and

have the interest to do preparative work for the training school in advance, following the requirements of the tutor(s) that will be informed in due course.

Interested participants shall apply online with a video application in standard video format (.avi, mp4, mkv, etc.) Video applications should be successfully registered and uploaded at <http://cyberparks-project.eu/training-schools/application> by the 31th of January 2016. More information on the video application content and process can be found at the above link.

The Organizing Committee will make the final decision on the distribution of the available places among various backgrounds and will inform the successful participants by the 12th of February 2016.

The confirmed applicants from COST countries will be granted for accommodation, daily meals and travel expenses the **maximum flat rate grant** defined by both TU1306 project and the Organizing Committee. The maximum reimbursement amount differs regarding the travel distance and expenses for coming to Thessaloniki according to the following scheme:

For participants from far away countries:	800€
For participants from neighbor or easily reachable countries:	500€
For participants from Greece:	300€
For participants from Thessaloniki:	100€

Please note that all COST programs and Training Schools work with the “reimbursement process” – this means that only those who participate all the days of the Training school will be able to receive the accorded grant. The granted applicants must book and pay directly their own travel tickets (plane, bus, train) and make their own arrangements for accommodation. After the end of the Training School, they can upload all their costs (receipts) on an online COST platform in order to receive the grant.

The following reputed scientists and practitioners from different European countries will support the Training School:

Prof. Dr. Aelita Skaržauskienė, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania

Prof. Dr. Mikael Wiberg, Department of Informatics, Umeå University, Sweden

Prof. Dr. Nicos Komninos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Architecture, Director of URENIO Research, Greece

Dr. Luis Enrique Díez Blanco, Deusto Institute of Technology, Mobility Unit, University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain

Dr. Paraskevi Tarani, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Architecture, URENIO, Greece

Dr. Panagiotis Tsarchopoulos, School of Journalism and Mass Media Studies, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, URENIO, Greece

Dr. Nancy Martzopoulou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, URENIO, Greece

Dr. Tatiana Ruchinskaya, founder of TVR Design Consultancy, Cambridge, UK

Erina Filipovska, Faculty of Architecture, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, F.Y.R.O.Macedonia

Dr. Vanessa Tsakalidou, co-founder 40.22. architects, Thessaloniki, Greece

Dr. Anastasia Papadopoulou, co-founder 40.22. architects, Thessaloniki, Greece

Dr. Kinga Kimic, Department of Landscape Architecture, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland

Massimiliano Casu, Hypermedia Research Group, Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain

Dr. Magdalini Grigoriadou, Hypermedia Research Group, Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain

Dr. Konstantinos Ioannidis, founder aiko arkitekter, Oslo, Norway

Additional guest lectures are planned for the beginning of each session related to Design Strategies for mediated environments and the relationships between Architecture, ICT, Space and Human.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM SCHEME (can be changed)

	March 29 th , Tuesday	March 30 th , Wednesday	March 31 th , Thursday	April 01 st , Friday
Morning Session 09:00 – 13:00	Introduction - Welcome - Of tutors, participants and workshops - About city of Thessaloniki and the School of Architecture -Site visit by foot	Module 1: <i>Transforming Values</i>	Module 3: <i>Esthetics of Mediated Experiences</i>	Module 4: <i>Social Life in Mediated Environments</i>
13:15 – 14.30 Lunch break	In the city	AUTH vicinity	AUTH vicinity	AUTH vicinity
Afternoon Session 14:30 – 15:15	-Lecture	-Lecture	-Lecture	Module 4: <i>Social Life in Mediated Environments</i>
15:30 - 19:30	Module 1: <i>Transforming Values</i>	Module 2: <i>Spatial and Digital Methods</i>	Module 3: <i>Esthetics of Mediated Experiences</i>	Conclusions of the workshop modules

Successful applicants will receive detailed information for the ENHANCEMENTS Training School after February, 2016. Upon the end of the training school, all participants will receive confirmation letter of participation. The local organizer will support the participants in administrative aspects, inquiries and practical issues. Any question regarding the ENHANCEMENTS Training School can be addressed to the organizing committee:

Konstantinos Ioannidis, PhD, aaiko arkitekter, Oslo, Norway (contact person, email: konionn@aaiko.no)

Kåre Synnes, PhD, Luleå University of Technology, Luleå, Sweden

Michiel de Lange, PhD, Utrecht University, Media & Culture Studies, Netherlands

Tatiana Ruchinskaya, PhD, TVR Design Consultancy, Cambridge, UK

