



TRANSFORM4EUROPE BOOTCAMP

**SPECIALIZED SKILLS TRAINING BOOTCAMP FOR
RESEARCHERS AND GRADUATE STUDENTS**



**10-12 SEPTEMBER 2024
BURGAS. BULGARIA**

INVITATION





The team of the Transform4Europe (T4EU) Smart cities and regions Environmental transformation Lab invites you to participate in the first T4EU Bootcamp that will take place in the city of Burgas, Bulgaria from 10th to 12th September 2024.

This specialized skills training for researchers and graduate students is organized within WP4 T4EU Doctoral education and innovative ecosystems and task 4.5. Innovative Transformation Ecosystems of the Transform4Europe project as instrument to accelerate innovation-related activities and knowledge entrepreneurialism within the partner universities.

The thematic focus of the event is **Sustainable development and environmental transformation: effective climate adaptation and innovations**. It aims to bring together young researchers and graduate students from the Transform4Europe universities studying and/or specializing in this field and to learn and practice on this challenging topic.

We also invite academics and stakeholders from the Transform4Europe regions working in this field such as researchers, city government representatives, business companies, NGOs etc., to join the training as mentors and to discuss together with the trainees the challenges and opportunities in the area as a ground for further collaboration within the Alliance and T-Labs network.

The event is open to all members of the Transform4Europe community.

Looking forward to meeting you in Burgas!

SMART CITIES AND REGIONS ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATION LAB DESCRIPTION

The Transformation Lab Smart cities and regions is assigned to the T4EU topic area of environmental transformation and sustainability. The Lab, initiated by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski also includes the Alliance partners University of Trieste, University of Primorska, Vytautas Magnus University and University of Silesia in Katowice. The Lab focus on the following topics:

- Regions and cities and the natural and social systems forming their space and structure
- Smart cities and regions: make them more adaptable and transformable to changing geography (climate change and global environmental problems, but also other transformation processes)



- Ecosystem services and nature-based solutions for the cities and regions
- Risks (all kind natural, social and economic)
- Models for sustainable development.

BOOTCAMP DESCRIPTION

The **Bootcamps** are one of the main components of the Transformation Labs, which aims to:

- Engage and expand the involvement of young researchers and graduate students in the outreach life of the Alliance.
- Stimulate interdisciplinary research in the thematic areas of the consortium.
- Create conditions for improving the research capacity and potential of the Alliance through problem-oriented training.
- To create opportunities for various forms of collaboration with stakeholders.

BOOTCAMP GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The thematic area of the Bootcamp corresponds entirely to the focus of the Smart cities and regions Environmental transformation lab and the thematic areas around which the Alliance is formed.

The interdisciplinary topic stimulates potential collaborations between young researchers from different academic fields.

The event programme includes three main components:

- **Training session** which aims to provide knowledge and skills for the participants to help their academic development on the one hand, and to prepare them for the practical part of the Bootcamp on the other.
- **Practical session** organized according to the principle of "Learning by doing", providing for the formulation of a problem of an interdisciplinary nature to be proposed to the teams formed by the Bootcamp participants for work.

The practical sessions are supported by a team of mentors who should provide organizational and expert support to the interdisciplinary teams formed by young researchers and graduate students. The practical session ends with presentation and discussion panel where the results of the team work are presented.

- **Closing session** will summarize the achievements during the Bootcamp and award of certificates to participants.



BOOTCAMP LEARNING OUTCOMES

The aim of the Bootcamp is to provide opportunities for young researchers and graduate students to gain practical knowledge and skills in solving real problems related to the study of urban areas in the context of sustainable urban planning and adaptation to climate change and changing geography.

The programme itself is interdisciplinary, designed for a wide range of young researchers and graduate students who have a research interest in sustainable urban development.

The programme of the Bootcamp is going to offer intensive educational and training modules, which includes content, covering the following major thematic areas:

- Principles, approaches and methods for sustainable urban planning and development;
- Climate change and the cities: problems and solutions;
- Nature-based solutions for smart climate adaptation;
- Research methods for data gathering, processing, analysis and visualization;
- Geospatial technologies, analysis methods and techniques;
- Geostatistical and spatial modeling methods.

Apart of that, participants will have the chance to enhance and improve their skills in:

- Interdisciplinary teamwork;
- In-situ work and deal with real world problems in their geographical context;
- Training of presentation skills;
- Training of academic writing skills.

VENUE

Burgas is a vibrant city located on the southeastern coast of Bulgaria. Overlooking the Black Sea, Burgas is surrounded by three lakes (the largest complex of coastal lakes in Bulgaria) and the Black sea. In addition to substantial natural resources such as fish, game, sea salt, and cure mud which are important to the local economy, the lakes are also known for their exceptional biodiversity.



It enjoys a prime location at the westernmost point of the Black Sea and with its beautiful seafront park, oftentimes uncrowded beaches, and a range of interesting museums, Burgas offers a lively atmosphere for residents and visitors. The city's strategic position, coupled with its thriving industries and growing tourism sector, make it a dynamic hub of economic and cultural activity. The municipality is involved in numerous European climate and environmental initiatives.

One of the key strategies of the city is within next years to demonstrate environmentally friendly urban solutions to achieve climate neutrality in its territorial coastal area. Other specific focus points for Burgas include the enhancement of not only sustainable transport infrastructure, but also the attitude and uptake amongst the local population, increasing the use and benefit of digital urban solutions and services for and by its citizens, by integrating and upgrading the functionalities and the scope of its intelligent urban systems, and the integration of new blue-green infrastructure and sustainable tourism opportunities into its urban planning.

PROGRAMME

09 September 2024 – Arrival day

10 September 2024.

Venue: Cultural and tourist complex Chengene skele, Burgas, 8014.

08:30–08:45 Arrival and Check-In

08:45–09:00 Welcome and Greetings

09:00–10:30 Lectures/trainings

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–12:30 Lectures/trainings

12:30–13:30 Lunch break

13:30–17:00 Site visit/fieldwork and reflection

17:00 Free time/ Sightseeing

**11 September 2024.****Venue:** [Cultural and tourist complex Chengene skele](#), Burgas, 8014.**09:00–10:30** Lectures/trainings**10:30–11:00** Coffee break**11:00–12:30** Lectures/trainings and guidance for the group projects**12:30–13:30** Lunch break**13:30–17:00** Group work for the projects**17:00** Cultural programme (Boat trip to St. Anastacia island)**12 September 2024.****Venue:** [Peyo Yavorov Regional library](#), Sredna Gora St.14, Burgas, Bulgaria, 8000**08:30–10:30** Group work for the projects**10:30–11:00** Coffee break**11:00–12:30** Group work for the projects**12:30–13:30** Lunch break**13:30–14:30** Group work for the projects – final remarks**14:30–16:30** Presentations of the projects and awarding of certificates**18:00** Joint dinner**13 September 2024 – Departure day**