

Competence Platform for Integrated Urban Development and Reconstruction in Ukraine

Background

In order to successfully manage a sustainably effective reconstruction in the sense of "Building Back Better" in Ukraine there is a need to establish suitable institutions capable of taking action or to empower the existing institutions. A key factor for this empowerment will be the provision and transfer of instrumental and methodological knowledge. In addition to other areas, this also applies to urban planning and development, which is a tool for managing infrastructural and spatial development, especially at the local level, but also plays a central role in the implementation of sustainable and integrated urban development in the sense of the European Leipzig Charter. Since the political upheaval in 2014, there has been an increased shift of competencies and decision-making powers to the municipalities as part of decentralization and integrated urban development concepts are also being created and implemented at this level. Although various projects have been developed that deal with knowledge exchange and training in the field local planning and integrated urban development there is still a lack of training opportunities for existing professionals in the municipalities and as well in curricular in existing academic urban planning programs.

To contribute to this need of knowledge transfer and training the platform has been developed by a German university initiative together with a variety of Ukrainian partners engaged in planning and local development. Currently they are working with six universities in Ukraine that offer urban planning courses as part of the panforukraine network (www.panforukraine.de). In addition, they are active in the "Reconstruction Modules" project as part of the DAAD funding Ukraine Emergency Aid "Ukraine digital", where joint courses on integrated urban development planning and reconstruction have been held over the past two years. Overview [here](#).

The Competence Platform

The competence platform is a digitally supported platform that offers teaching and learning courses on key topics in the field of integrated urban development and reconstruction in Ukraine. It is available as Open Educational Resources (OER) to all interested parties for further development and use. It should be developed as a modular and expandable platform to be used according to educational interest and different requirements. It can be flexibly adapted and be used both in development of curricula in university degree programs and in continuing education in the municipalities. The platform is based on the concept of the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) and enables the use of individual courses or course groups and can be in a next phase expanded into a study program.

In the first development phase, the focus of the platform is on its use in the context of further education. Therefor four courses are to be developed, which are modular and uniform in their internal structure. The first topics identified for the four courses are:

- Processes and Formats of Spatial Planning
- Integrated Urban Planning and Development
- Urban Design
- Urban Regeneration and Reconstruction

Platform Structure

The Platform consists of several courses as well as a tool collection and a case study collection. Each course includes a theory sections, tools and case studies. The theoretical component features lectures and assigned readings, the tools section provides essential resources for integrated urban development, and the case study section showcasing Ukrainian good practices. All three sections are closely interconnected and run concurrently throughout the course. All tools and case studies used and presented in the courses are collected in the tool and case study collection.

PLATFORM

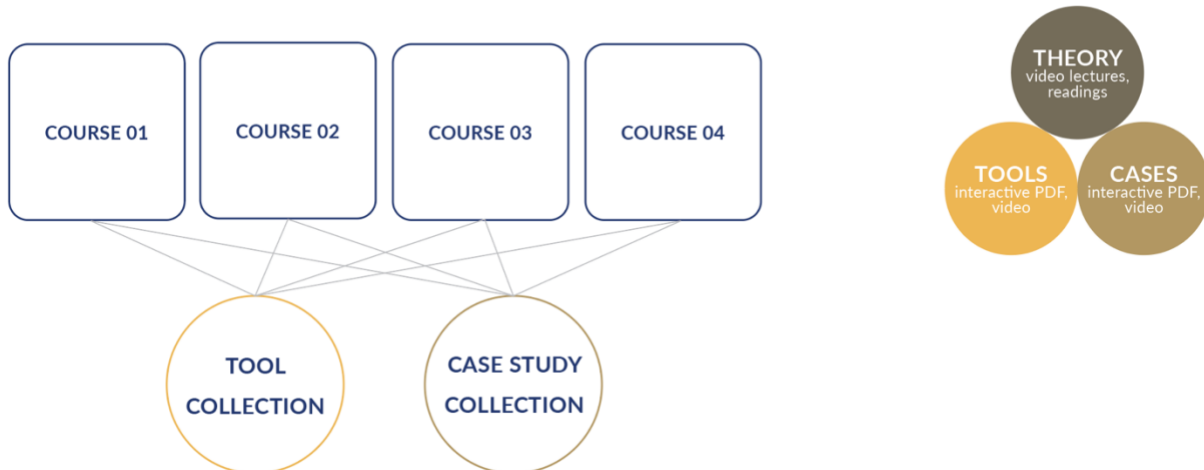


Fig. 1: Structure of the Platform

Course structure

The courses each consist of 8 chapters and are modular and uniform in their internal structure. Each chapter is also divided into theoretical sections, tools and case studies. It has a total length of 60 to 90 minutes and is divided into several lessons. A lesson consists of a video of 10-15 minutes and/or a text/reading part of 10-15 minutes. At the end of each chapter there is a short summary of the chapter and a section with a review and test.

COURSE

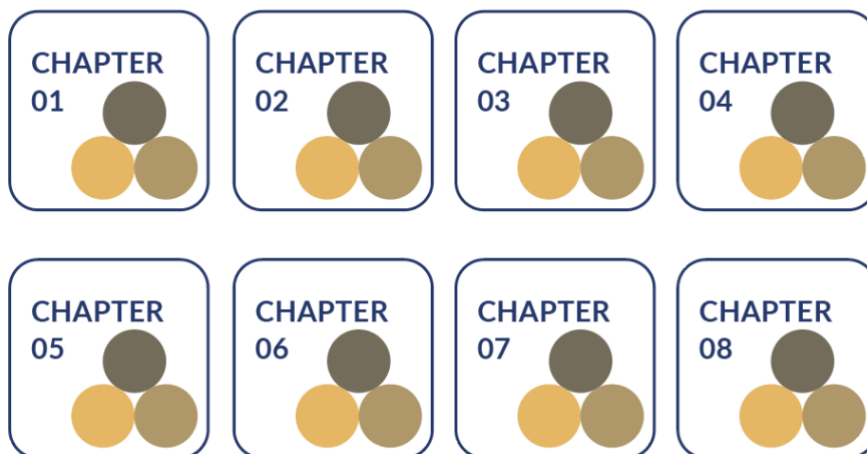


Fig. 2: Structure of a Course

The tools used and presented in the courses are collected in a booklet (interactive PDF) and presented there with definitions and examples. Selected tools are also presented in 5-minute videos.

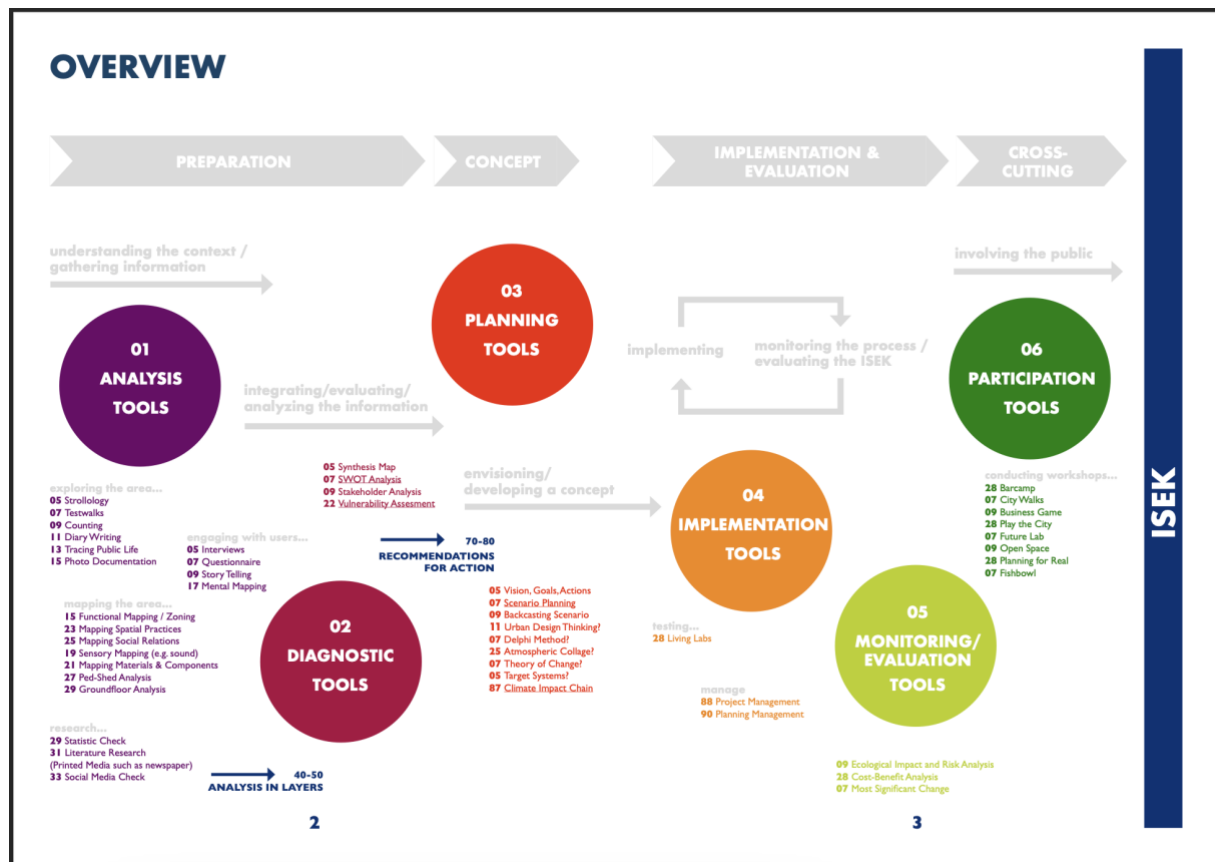


Fig. 3: Overview of the Toolbox Booklet

The cases used and presented in the courses are collected and summarized on interactive PDFs with a uniform structure (location, context, actors, tools/methodology used, transferability, etc.). Possibly, individual cases are also presented in videos (5-15 minutes). The platform primarily presents case studies from Ukraine.

Collaborative development of the course

In close coordination with the needs for integrated urban development in Ukraine, the content is created in mixed teams of 2 consisting of German/international and Ukrainian experts. Depending on the content focus, the selection is made from the academic or practical area.

In addition, a train-the-trainer concept is to be developed and implemented. Graduates of the modules can continue to use the modules independently with other groups of people (e.g. from administrative units) supported by a peer-to-peer exchange. Thanks to the open approach, the platform offers the possibility of establishing a community of practice, which, by evaluating the questions, gains insights for the further development of teaching and learning opportunities (new Master's programs) in Ukraine. Provision of interfaces and prerequisites for hosting modules from other areas of application and measures of GIZ and other partners on the platform.

Further Information and Contact:

Prof. Frank Schwartze
Professorship Urbanism and Planning
TH Lübeck, University of Applied Sciences
Phone: +49 (0) 451 300 5481
E-Mail: frank.schwartze@th-luebeck.de

Antonia Breckwoldt (M.Sc.)
Research Associate at Professorship Urbanism
and Planning
TH Lübeck, University of Applied Sciences
Phone: + 49 (0) 451 300 5648
E-Mail: antonia.breckwoldt@th-luebeck.de

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