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# **BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMS (BIP)**

Kosice

Physical component: 29 June - 3 July 2026

Virtual component: June 2026 (tbd)2026

# Ulysseus BIP proposal

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## BIP TITLE:

**Home: The X-Factor in Future Cities (Summer Institute 2026)**

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## General Course Information

Cities have long been understood as engines of growth, innovation, and opportunity. Today, however, their future is increasingly defined by a more fundamental question: can cities still provide a home? In the context of rising housing costs, homelessness, energy insecurity, climate stress, and social fragmentation, home is no longer a private matter alone. It has become a core urban function, shaping well-being, inclusion, talent retention, and social stability. Cities that fail to secure access to home risk losing not only people, but trust, resilience, and long-term viability.

The Summer Institute 2026 will focus on “Home” as a central challenge and opportunity for future cities, addressing housing affordability, homelessness, energy security, well-being, and the role of young people in shaping resilient and inclusive urban environments.

### Ulysseus Priority topics:

- Aging & Well Being
- Sustainable Energy, Transport, Mobility for Smart Cities
- Socio-ecological sustainability

### ● Target group:

- Students
- Non-academic staff
- Academic staff

### ● Level (for students):

- Bachelor
- Master
- PhD

**Field of study:**

- **Economics, Regional Science, Architecture, Urban studies, Geography.**

**Course dates:**

- **Virtual part of the course will be held in June 2026 (exact dates will be announced later).**
- **Physical part of the program will take place over one week from 29/06/2026 to 03/07/2026. It will be held at the Technical University of Košice, Faculty of Economics, Slovakia.**
- **Registration dates are open from 15/03/2026 to 31/05/2026.**

## **Course Content**

- **Course Outline:**

**The program will consist of several learning methods.**

**Teamwork is expected during the Summer Institute 2026.**

**The virtual part of the program will be focused on explaining theoretical background and providing learning materials and factsheets about the Košice city.**

**Physical part of the program will take place in Košice and will consist of several activities for Master/PhD students and young scholars.**

**Preliminary structure of the program:**

- **Meet the professors - discussion with professors during breakfast - everyday activity.**
- **Lectures - lectures on specific topics within the scope of the Summer Institute 2026 held by well-recognised international scholars.**
- **Workshop - introductory workshop focused on initiation of case studies to be solved at the Bootcamp in cooperation with the Košice city and different organizations.**
- **Bootcamp - Hack the City - practical case studies.**

**At the end of the Summer Institute 2026 it is expected from each team to present the case study solutions.**

- **Course content:**

**The programme will bring together Master/PhD students, early-stage researchers, and young scholars from Ulysses European University partners and beyond, representing disciplines such as urban and regional science,**

economics, urban studies, architecture, geography, social work and related fields.

The concept of *home* goes beyond housing alone. It reflects questions of:

- affordable and accessible housing for young people,
- homelessness and social exclusion,
- energy security and climate-resilient housing,
- mental well-being and quality of urban life,
- talent, mobility, and future opportunities in cities,
- the use of AI and digital tools in housing policy, urban planning, and social services.

Cities are no longer only spaces to be governed; they are systems that learn. As data-rich and algorithm-driven environments, cities increasingly rely on artificial intelligence, digital platforms, and advanced modelling tools to analyse housing markets, manage energy systems, and identify social vulnerabilities. This transformation, however, raises critical questions

- Who benefits from smart/intelligent cities?
- Can AI support inclusion rather than deepen inequality?
- Can digital tools help cities care as well as optimize?

The Summer Institute 2026 will combine lectures by international experts, interdisciplinary teamwork, and policy-oriented discussions, aiming to develop science-based and AI-supported insights and practical tools for cities. Outcomes of the programme will contribute to European and global debates on sustainable, resilient, and intelligent urban development.

#### **RESEARCH AND LEARNING AGENDA:**

The Summer Institute 2026 will explore cities through five interconnected lenses:

- A. Housing Governance: From Markets to Rights: How do housing markets, policies, and social structures interact and where do they fail?**
- B. Urban Vitality: Young Talent & the Right to the City: Can cities remain places of opportunity for the next generation?**
- C. Climate Resilience: Energy Security and Green Housing: How do climate change and energy transitions reshape what “adequate housing” means?**
- D. Intelligent Cities: AI and Data driven governance: How can artificial intelligence support better, fairer, and more transparent urban policies?**
- E. The Caring City: Well-Being and Inclusion: How can cities measure success beyond growth, towards care and quality of life?**

## PURPOSE AND IMPACT:

By combining advanced academic input, interdisciplinary teamwork, and policy-oriented reflection, the Summer Institute 2026 aims to:

- generate science-based and AI-supported insights for cities,
- connect young researchers with real urban challenges,
- contribute to European and global debates on sustainable and inclusive urban development.

In a time of rapid technological change and deep social uncertainty, the Summer Institute 2026 invites participants to rethink cities not only as systems of efficiency, but as places of home.

- **Learning Outcomes:**

Following this course, students will be able to:

- **Master Resilience Concepts:** apply in-depth knowledge of resilience frameworks and evidence-based strategies to real-world urban challenges;
- **Design Sustainable Urban Systems:** utilize acquired skills to design adaptive, data-driven, and sustainable urban systems;
- **Apply Advanced Tools and Methods:** live hands-on experience with advanced tools and methods to address real-world urban challenges;
- **Shape Future Urban Resilience:** explore collaborative opportunities to shape future urban resilience policies, supported by the X-Factor of resilience, new insights, and practical, smart, and effective solutions.

## Course Practical Details

- **Start date virtual part:** June 2026 (1-2 days).
- **Start date of the physical part:** 29/06/2026.
- **Teaching language:** English.
- **Location:** Technical University of Košice (TUKE), Faculty of Economics, Slovakia.
- **ECTS:** 3.
- **Workload:** 40 hours.
- **The maximum number of participants for the BIP and precise if participants in addition of the Erasmus+ one can be added:** 50.
- **Contact:**
  - **TUKE - Katarína Valentová** ([katarina.valentova@tuke.sk](mailto:katarina.valentova@tuke.sk));

## Physical Mobility

- Start date: 29/06/2026.
- End date: 03/07/2026.

### Day 1

#### Morning

08:00 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 12:00 Greeting speech and introduction

#### Afternoon

13:30 – 16:30 Lectures

18:00 Public Debate with key-note speakers

### Day 2

#### Morning

08:00 – 09:00 Meet the professors

09:00 – 12:00 Lectures

#### Afternoon

13:30 – 16:30 Lectures

18:00 Hack the City

### Day 3

#### Morning

08:00 – 09:00 Meet the professors

09:00 – 12:00 Lectures

#### Afternoon

13:30 – 16:30 Specialised Fieldwork/Guided City tour

### Day 4

#### Morning

08:00 – 09:00 Meet the professors

09:00 – 12:00 Bootcamp

#### Afternoon

13:30 – 16:30 Bootcamp

18:00 Farewel party

## Day 5

### Morning

08:00 – 09:00 Meet the professors

09:00 – 12:00 Student work presentation

### Afternoon

13:30 – 16:30 Student work presentation

18:00 Evaluation and closing ceremony

## Virtual Component/Part

- Practical details regarding the Virtual Component will be announced later.

## Requirements

- Participants should be Master/PhD students or young scholars in the fields of study such as urban and regional science, economics, urban studies, architecture, geography, social work and related fields.
- Participants should be fluent in English, minimum level B2.
- Participants should be eager to work in teams and enthusiasts for solving actual city problems.

## Application Process

- **Deadline for accepting applications: 31/05/2026.**
- **Required documents: CV, thesis proposal.**
- *Depending on student's HOME UNIVERSITY, please find below the contact information, including a list of links providing email addresses from the mobility offices of each of the Alliance's universities.*

University	Master/PhD/Staff
TUKE	<a href="http://summerinstitute.tuke.sk">http://summerinstitute.tuke.sk</a>
USE	<a href="mailto:mobilityulyssseus@us.es">mobilityulyssseus@us.es</a>
UniCA	<a href="mailto:mobility-ulyssseus@univ-cotedazur.fr">mobility-ulyssseus@univ-cotedazur.fr</a>
UniGe	<a href="mailto:mobility.ulyssseus@info.unige.it">mobility.ulyssseus@info.unige.it</a>
HH	<a href="mailto:mobilityulyssseus@haaga-helia.fi">mobilityulyssseus@haaga-helia.fi</a>
UM	<a href="mailto:mobilityulyssseus@uni-muenster.de">mobilityulyssseus@uni-muenster.de</a>
MCI	<a href="mailto:mobilityofficer.ulyssseus@mci.edu">mobilityofficer.ulyssseus@mci.edu</a>
UoM	<a href="mailto:ulyssseusmobility@ucq.ac.me">ulyssseusmobility@ucq.ac.me</a>

## Professors

- Who are the instructors teaching this course and which university do they belong to?

**Peter Nijkamp, Open University, The Netherlands**

**Carlos Moreno, Paris IAE – Pantheón Sorbonne University, France**

**Karima Kourtit, Open University, The Netherlands**

**Catherine Gall, Paris IAE – Pantheón Sorbonne University, France**

**Oto Hudec, TUKE, Slovakia**

**Neil Reid, University of Toledo, USA**

**Umut Türk, Turkey**

**Bruce Newbold, Canada**

**Abdul Shaban, India**

**Jaewon Lim, US, South Korea**

**Charlotta Mellander, Sweden**

**Tomáš Želinský, TUKE, Slovakia**

**Miriam Šebová, TUKE, Slovakia**

**Lenka Maličká, TUKE, Slovakia**

**Peter Džupka, TUKE, Slovakia**

**Erik Kajáti, TUKE, Slovakia**

**Martina Zeleňáková, TUKE, Slovakia**