

Call for participation to a field trip

“Berlin: on the transformations of the public space”

The student group “Spunto Collettivo” is organizing a field trip in Berlin from the 8th to the 12th of May 2019 (4 overnight stays included).

The theme that has been chosen for the field trip is **public space**, understood as a space for interpersonal relationships and for sociality, characterized by several levels of accessibility and able to adapt to different uses over time. Therefore, this sort of space is not exclusively a public property, but it refers to the public and collective uses, even in spaces that are not juridically public and that all together coexist in the urban fabric.

The choice to visit the city of **Berlin** as a case study and travel destination is linked to the possibility of exploring the issue of public space in a context that has been subject to radical urban transformation, both of public and private origin, with astonishing examples and, often, innovative cases of public city: organization of green areas as well as redesign of institutional spaces and other urban areas, often with latent or explicit conflicts especially in relation to the possibility for bottom up initiatives to play a role in the redesign of the city.

Beneficiaries

Project beneficiaries include students enrolled to the academic year 2018-19 at the Politecnico di Torino. **36 bachelor and master degrees’ students** will be admitted to participate, according to the following characteristics:

- 24 places will be reserved to bachelor and master degrees’ students of the Territorial, Urban, Environmental and Landscape Planning courses (DIST);
- 5 places will be reserved to master degrees’ students of Progettazione delle Aree Verdi e del Paesaggio (DIST);
- 5 will be reserved to master degrees’ students of the Schools of Architecture and Design (DAD), and of the School of Environment, Land and Infrastructure Engineering (DIATI).

If the number of selected participants for each course/school is smaller than the allocated quota, the remaining positions will be allocated to the other bachelor and master degrees’ students.

Applicants

The project *“Berlin: on the transformations of the public space”* is proposed by Spunto Collettivo - www.facebook.com/Spuntocollettivo - a group of bachelor and master degrees' students of the Territorial, Urban, Environmental and Landscape Planning courses of the Politecnico di Torino that works with the support of a group of professors of the School of Planning and Design. Participating students will travel to Berlin with members of Spunto Collettivo, as well as professors and junior researchers of the DIST department. Furthermore, local experts will be involved during the field trip: researchers and actors involved in the projects and processes that will be analyzed.

Financial contribution

The project is funded through student projects' funds of the Politecnico di Torino and is also supported by the Dipartimento Interateneo di Scienze Progetto e Politiche del Territorio (DIST). Funds will cover travel expenses, accommodation and public transport pass in Berlin for each participant, while students shall sustain costs of food and all the extras.

Furthermore, in order to cover all the necessary expenses for the field trip, each participant is asked to contribute with €50,0 by the 5th of April. Payment methods will be communicated by email after the selection.

Traveling schedule

- Before departure.

Between the end of March and April 2019 selected students must take part in **three preparatory meetings**.

Two of these meetings will provide basic knowledge on the city of Berlin thanks to the involvement of experts. The third meeting will be devoted to a workshop activity in which participants, divided into working groups, will investigate and analyse the keys to understand the spaces that will be visited.

The 5 days field trip will be tackling the following themes:

- **Urban transformations following the 1989 events:** new public spaces for institutions, redesign of urban transport networks and infrastructures (visit to areas such as the Mitte district, Potsdamer Platz, Bahnhof).
- **Large urban transformations and gentrification processes:** attraction of private investments and changes in resident populations (areas such as Media Spree, the districts of Kreuzberg, Neukolln, Schillerkiez).

- **Parks and green areas:** different approaches, designs and forms of appropriation of green spaces (such as Tempelhof Field, Gleisdreieck, Princess Garden).

- **After the field trip**

After the field trip students will be asked to collect the various materials produced during the preparatory days as well as work with the knowledge acquired during the field analysis. In October, a seminar will be organised in which the students will present the results of their analysis and interpretation of the visited places. Results should then be collected in an open access publication.

Another output will be a photographic exhibition, in which photos taken by students will be presented to share the experience of the field trip to Berlin with the academic community and with the whole citizenship.

The selection of the photographic material will be a task of members of the Collective.

Rules for Participation

In order to apply, the application letter must be sent by **Friday 22 March 2019** to the email address: collettivopianificazione@gmail.com.

The application form must consist of two pages:

- Page 1: personal data (name, surname, date and place of birth), student ID, email address and phone number;
- Page 2: a motivation letter (max 1 page) that shows your interest in the field trip.

Candidates will be assessed on the basis of their motivations, competences and preparation, taking into account documents sent for the application and data available on their academic career.

The ranking will be published by **25 March 2019** and selected students will be informed by email of the results. Participants must, within **Tuesday 26 March 2019**, send a **confirmation** of their participation via mail to the address collettivopianificazione@gmail.com.

After the confirmation it will not be possible to cancel the participation. Otherwise the student will be required to repay the traveling and overnight stay costs paid in advance by the organizing team. In case of cancellation, the following candidate in the ranking list will be asked to take part to the field trip.

For further information, please contact the address:
collettivopianificazione@gmail.com.