

# International Summer School

on

## STEER: Spatial Technologies for Urban Resilience: Empowering India and Mongolia

### 12 – 25 February 2024



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

## Partner Institutions



# Pondicherry University

## About the Summer School

We are delighted to invite you to explore the dynamic world of urban resilience through the lens of cutting-edge spatial technologies. Our upcoming Summer School, titled "Spatial Technologies for Urban Resilience: Empowering India and Mongolia," is a unique opportunity for graduate students and PhD scholars to delve into the realms of Remote Sensing, GIS, mapping, and monitoring.

In the face of rapid urbanization and the challenges posed by climate change, the need for resilient and adaptive urban environments has never been more crucial. This Summer School is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to harness the power of spatial technologies in crafting sustainable solutions for urban challenges.

### Key Highlights:

*Expert-Led Sessions*: Engage with leading experts in the fields of Remote Sensing and GIS through interactive lectures and hands-on practical exercises.

*Field Trips*: Immerse yourself in the local context with field trips, gaining practical insights into real-world applications of spatial technologies.

*Group Projects*: Collaborate with peers on group projects, applying your skills to address specific urban resilience challenges in Puducherry, India, and beyond.

*Networking Opportunities*: Connect with professionals, researchers, and fellow participants to build a valuable network within the realm of spatial technologies and urban resilience.

Join us on this transformative journey as we explore how Spatial Technologies can empower nations like India and Mongolia to build more resilient, adaptive, and sustainable urban futures. Stay tuned for detailed program information, application guidelines, and updates. We look forward to welcoming you to a summer of exploration, innovation, and empowerment!



## Resource Persons



**Prof. Utpal Sharma**  
Director, Institute of Architecture  
and Planning, Nirma University,  
Ahmedabad, India



**Dr. Anton Shkaruba**  
Senior Researcher Estonian University  
of Life Sciences Environmental  
Protection and Landscape  
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**Prof. PK. Joshi**  
School of Environmental  
Sciences  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
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**Dr. Daniele La Rosa**  
Associate Professor Laboratorio per  
la Pianificazione Territoriale e  
Ambientale (LAPTA)  
Dipartimento Ingegneria Civile e  
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Università di Catania, Italy



**Prof. Akhlaq Amin Wani**  
Head, Division of Natural Resource  
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Faculty of Forestry, Sher-e-Kashmir  
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**Dr. Riccardo Privitera**  
Assistant Professor  
Urban and Regional Planning  
Laboratory for Spatial and  
Environmental Planning  
(LaPTA) Department of Civil  
Engineering and Architecture  
(DICAR)  
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## Resource Persons



**Dr. Debjani Ghosh**  
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**Prof. Altansukh Ochir**  
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Engineering and  
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**Dr. Swati Kothary,**  
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Architecture & Planning  
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**Dr. Arjan De Groot**  
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**Mr. Rakesh Kumar Patra**  
GIFT City - India's First  
Operational Smart City & IFSC,  
GIFT SEZ, GIFT City, Gandhinagar,  
Gujarat, India



**Mr. D. Ragavan**  
Head of Operations  
Indian Geoinformatics Centre,  
Chennai, India



## About Pondicherry University



Nestled in the serene coastal town of Puducherry, Pondicherry University stands as a beacon of academic excellence and cultural diversity. Established in 1985, this central university has been a hub of learning, research, and innovation, making it the ideal host for our Summer School on "Spatial Technologies for Urban Resilience: Empowering India and Mongolia."

### Key Features:

**Multidisciplinary Excellence:** Pondicherry University is renowned for its multidisciplinary approach to education, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange across various domains.

**State-of-the-Art Facilities:** With modern classrooms, well-equipped laboratories, and a rich library, the university provides an ideal environment for academic exploration and research.

**Research Prowess:** The university is home to vibrant research centers and fosters ground-breaking research in fields ranging from science and technology to humanities and social sciences.

**Cultural Diversity:** Reflecting the ethos of Puducherry itself, Pondicherry University welcomes students from across the country and around the world. The diverse student community enhances the overall learning experience, creating a global academic atmosphere.

**Commitment to Sustainability:** Pondicherry University aligns with the themes of our Summer School, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices, resilience, and adaptation in the face of urban challenges.

As the academic anchor for our Summer School, Pondicherry University provides an inspiring backdrop for participants to engage in rigorous learning, collaborative projects, and insightful discussions. We are excited to leverage the university's academic resources and research prowess to enhance the educational experience during our program.



## About Department of Ecology & Environmental Sciences



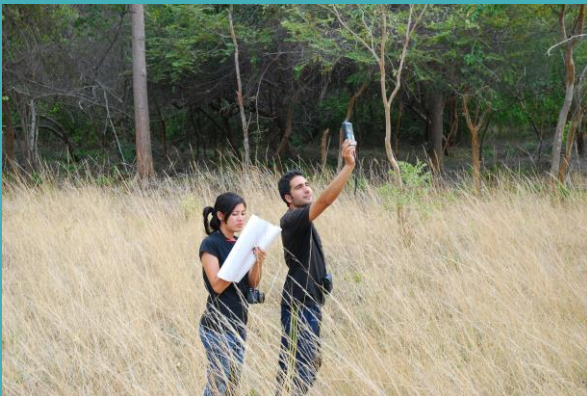
The Department of Ecology & Environmental Sciences at Pondicherry University is at the forefront of multidisciplinary research and education in the realm of environmental sustainability. Established in 1987 with a commitment to addressing contemporary environmental challenges, our department integrates cutting-edge research, innovative teaching methodologies, and a passion for ecological conservation.

### *Academic Excellence:*

Our dynamic faculty members bring a wealth of expertise in areas such as biodiversity conservation, climate change, ecosystem dynamics, and environmental management. The department offers a range of academic programs that empower students with the knowledge and skills to tackle pressing environmental issues in India and beyond.

### *State-of-the-Art Facilities:*

Equipped with modern laboratories, research centers, and extensive field study opportunities, our department provides a conducive environment for hands-on learning and practical research experiences. Our commitment to excellence extends beyond the classroom, encouraging students to engage with real-world environmental challenges.



### *Research Impact:*

The Department of Ecology & Environmental Sciences is a hub for impactful research, contributing to national and international dialogues on environmental sustainability. Our faculty and students actively participate in research projects that address issues such as biodiversity loss, ecosystem resilience, and sustainable development.

### *Collaborative Environment:*

We foster a collaborative and inclusive academic community where students, faculty, and researchers work together to explore innovative solutions for a more sustainable future. Our partnerships with governmental agencies, NGOs, and international organizations provide valuable opportunities for applied research and community engagement.

As the academic host for the Summer School on "Spatial Technologies for Urban Resilience: Empowering India and Mongolia," the Department of Ecology & Environmental Sciences welcomes participants to engage in a transformative learning experience. Join us in exploring the intersection of spatial technologies and environmental sciences, contributing to the discourse on urban resilience and sustainable development.

We look forward to an enriching collaboration during the Summer School, where the realms of ecology, environmental sciences, and spatial technologies converge for a holistic exploration of urban resilience.



## About URGENT Project:

### **Urban Resilience and Adaptation for India and Mongolia: curricula, capacity, ICT and stakeholder collaboration to support green & blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions**

Project No. 619050-EPP-1-2020-1-DE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Duration: 15 January 2021 – 14 July 2024

Funding: Erasmus+ CBHE programme of the European Union

#### Project Description:

The URGENT project aims to support sustainable urban transition in partner countries (PCs) by providing up-to-date and responsive to labor market, training of experts in the development of nature-based solutions and green & blue infrastructure within degree programs. This will be achieved through the objectives:

- (i) to develop ICT-based learning and research training environment based on common access to interactive courses, ICT infrastructure for accessing them, upgraded research training facilities and shared access to them, and enhanced teaching and learning methods.
- (ii) to revise relevant BSc/MSc courses and to develop new courses.
- (iii) to ensure alignment of entry and exit requirements for professional, BSc, MSc and PhD by identifying and filling gaps and overlaps in curricula, and harmonizing BSc and MSc educational standards in PCs.
- (iv) to foster graduate uptake, practical orientation of curricula and research, and foresight and innovation in companies through functional and sustainable cooperation mechanism on green infrastructure & landscape architecture between the world of profession and the academia, formalized as the URGENT stakeholder collaborative platform and other forms of outreach that need to be designed both at project application and project implementation stages.

Business and policy communities will be targeted by annual academia-praxis national seminars and the formal URGENT collaborative platform to be established on the seminars. The national and international academic communities will be reached through annual international conferences.

Coordinator

Prof. S. Jayakumar

Erasmus Plus URGENT Program

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