Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability
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"Wild Card" Call for Applications: SMUS MOOCs (2nd generation)

Action 5 – Enhance: SMUS MOOCs bring Research and Practice on Urban Sustainability into a Digital Global Auditorium

Application Deadline: 04 April 2022 !!!

This SMUS call is funded by DAAD with funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ)

Action 5 and the SMUS MOOCs

Drawing on the themes of the "Urban" SDG #11, **the SMUS MOOCs are envisioned to Enhance higher education teaching by encouraging exchanges, debates and discussions between research and practice.** In a time of global, and particularly urban, polycrises (societal, environmental, political), critical questions arise: How do we teach a new generation? Who produces new knowledge, and for whom is it produced? What research methods do we teach, and what examples (both successes and failures) do we draw lessons from? How do we bring practice and local (non-scientific) expert knowledge into the auditorium and how do we open that auditorium to a larger ad? What are potential synergies between research methods of the social sciences and those of planning, design and policymaking? These are some of the questions we want to tackle by the SMUS MOOCs series.

MOOCs, Massive Open Online Courses, are a model for delivering learning content online to anyone who wants to take a course, with no limit on the number of participants and no fees. The past two years have presented universities with many challenges in terms of online teaching, workshops and conferences, but it has also brought new opportunities by making online interactions more accessible and acceptable to a broader audience. MOOCs are a good match for a more engaging and stimulating digital teaching and learning experience, bringing research and practice into the auditorium. Furthermore, past experiences attest to the far-reaching potential MOOCs offer. Some inspiration:

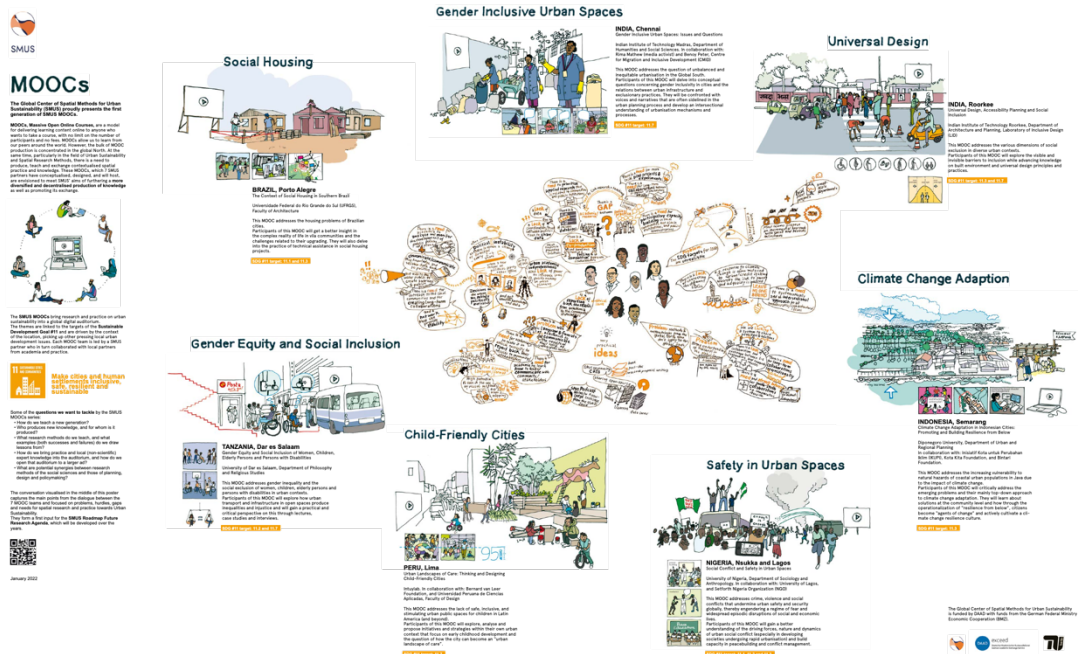| Roof Water Farm Mooc | https://www.oncampus.de/weiterbildung/moocs/roof-water-farm-2 |
| University of Cape Town. UCTMOOCs | http://www.cilt.uct.ac.za/cilt/moocs-uct |

UCT MOOC Course Trailer: Becoming a changemaker: Introduction to Social Innovation	https://bit.ly/2OZSxnJ
UCT MOOC Course Trailer: Climate Change Mitigation in Developing Countries	https://bit.ly/3sr15Tb
UCT MOOC Course Trailer: Large Marine Ecosystems: Assessment and Management	https://bit.ly/3aQ9468

MOOCs allow us to learn from our peers around the world. However, the bulk of MOOC production is concentrated in the global North. At the same time, particularly in the field of Urban Sustainability and Spatial Research Methods, there is a need to produce, teach and exchange contextualised spatial practice and knowledge. These MOOCs are envisioned to meet SMUS' aims of furthering a more diversified and decentralised production of knowledge as well as promoting its exchange.

SMUS MOOCs

This call for the second generation of SMUS MOOCs follows the successful production of **the first generation SMUS MOOCs** by 7 SMUS partners from Nigeria, Tanzania, Brazil, Peru, Indonesia, India-Chennai and India-Roorkee. You can find more info on the SMUS website (we are working on the MOOCs website presence at the moment).

This call for MOOC applications is looking for innovative ideas for the production of 1 MOOC on urban sustainability, spatial research methods, and their practical/professional application.

The MOOCs should focus on **SDG #11** (see a list of possible themes on the last page). Due to the wide range of possible topics, we suggest a **theme driven by the context of the location, picking up other pressing local urban development themes.**

While the MOOCs may be produced in a language other than English, **English subtitles must be made readily available** (please remember to set aside sufficient funds for this!).

Practice-oriented local/national/regional partners such as practitioners, public servants, members of NGOs and/or Community Based Organisations **(minimum 3 per MOOC) should be actively involved** in the content production of each of the MOOCs.

Other Deliverables

Roadmap Future Research Agenda: each MOOC Team must prepare a conjunct research agenda to set the road for how future spatial research methods and urban sustainability research can address the challenges presented in SGD #11, in relation to your MOOC topic and local context. To that end, each MOOC Team shall:

- organise a **small local workshop** (10-15 people) sometime in **July-Sept 2022** with your MOOC Team and at least 5 practice-oriented local urban practitioners, public servants, members of NGOs and/or Community Based Organisations to discuss and co-produce your contribution to the research agenda aimed at furthering urban sustainability in your respective region.
- from the outcome of this workshop, produce **a written (2-3 pages) synthetic documentation** containing a succinct summary of the deliberative process and an outline of essential aspects that would inform the above-mentioned roadmap. A template will be provided by SMUS.

- attend the **online "Roadmap" workshop on October 7th 2022 from 14:00-16:00** (Berlin time) (organised by the Berlin SMUS-Team) where the input from the different MOOC Teams will be brought together and discussed to compile a joint roadmap.

In addition, 1-2 delegates of each MOOC Team shall participate in:

- an **online opening workshop on May 5th 2022 from 14:00-16:00** (Berlin time), with all selected SMUS MOOC Teams (organised by the Berlin SMUS-Team);

- an **online launch event in the second half of January 2023** (organised by the Berlin SMUS-Team), in which the MOOC Teams will present their sneak preview trailer to the other teams and invited guest**;**

- an **online "Evaluation" workshop in November 2023** with all selected SMUS MOOC Teams, after the MOOCs have been running (organised by the Berlin SMUS-Team).

Eligibility

This "Wild Card" Call is open to all higher education institutions from DAC countries (thus not only to current SMUS partner institutions). Partnership applications are welcomed but not mandatory. The main applicant institution should have the desire to become an active SMUS partner.

Financing

SMUS has a budget of **up to 23.000 Euro per MOOC** to fund up to 3 MOOC Teams. Please fill the attached budget sheet detailing your planned spending in the given categories and submit it together with your application.

Please note that **overhead costs are NOT eligible** and that you will need to **prove all actually inccured costs** in your financial report, including receipts, payroll (in the case of personnel), invoices for external services, … Your **preliminary financial report** is due by **15 Nov 2022, your final one by 15 Dec 2022.**

Please keep in mind that you need to be able to run the MOOC in 2023 on your own budget and within the given and existing teaching load of your department. Please confirm this by a letter of intent from your institution(s) (school or departments).

Application Procedure

Applications should be sent **before 4 April 2022** to:
Dr. Katleen De Flander: deflander@tu-berlin.de

All applications should include:

1. The filled **application form**
2. The filled **budget sheet**
3. A signed **Letter of Intent** from your institution/department, confirming that it will support the running of the MOOC within the existing teaching structures and teaching load. In case of a partnership, each institution needs to provide a LoI. The LoI of the main applicant institution should also confirm its desire to become an active partner of the SMUS network.

Application Procedure

Based on the incoming applications, the SMUS steering committee will select 1 proposal for production.

Timeline

TIMING	WHAT	WHO
23 March	Launch Call for Application	SMUS Berlin Team
4 April 2022	**Application Deadline** Applications after this deadline will not be considered.	MOOC Teams (send to deflander@tu-berlin.de)
4-8 April 2022	Selection Process	SMUS Steering Committee
8 April 2022	Notification of selected MOOC Teams	SMUS Berlin Team
8 April - 1 May	Admin process: signing of cooperation agreements with partners and transfer of partner budget	TU Berlin and SMUS Partner Institutions of MOOC Teams
8 April - 1 May	MOOC conceptual phase	MOOC Teams
1 May - 31 Oct 2022	MOOC production phase	MOOC Teams
5 May 14:00 -16:00 (Berlin time)	Online kick-off workshop	Hosted by SMUS Berlin Team Compulsory Participation of MOOC Teams (1-2 delegates each)
Juli - Sept 2022	Local workshop + prepare input for online Future Roadmap workshop	MOOC Teams
7 Okt 14:00 -16:00 (Berlin time)	Online Roadmap workshop on Future Research Agenda	Hosted by SMUS Berlin Team Compulsory Participation of MOOC Teams (1-2 delegates each)
15 Nov 2022 **15 Dec 2022**	**Deadline preliminary financial reports** **Deadline final financial reports**	MOOC teams (send to deflander@tu-berlin.de)
2nd half of Jan 2023	MOOC Launch event	Hosted by SMUS Berlin Team Presentation of MOOC trailer to other teams and invited guests Compulsory Participation of MOOC Teams (1-2 delegates each)
2023	Implementation of MOOCs in curriculums in 2023 (not part of SMUS financing)	MOOC Teams
Nov 2023	Evaluation Workshop on MOOC Teaching	Hosted by SMUS Berlin Team Compulsory Participation of MOOC Teams (1-2 delegates each)

Possible SMUS-MOOC themes

Due to the wide range of possible topics within SDG #11 we suggest a **theme driven by the context of the location, picking up other pressing local urban development themes.**

Social Sustainability, Social Inequality, Social Exclusion
- reducing spatial segregation of different social groups
- reducing gender inequality, social inclusion of women
- social inclusion of children
- social inclusion of elderly persons
- social inclusion of persons with disabilities
- reducing effects of poverty
- strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural heritage

Housing, Architecture and Urban Design
- upgrade slums
- building sustainable and resilient buildings utilising local materials
- access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing
- access for all to adequate, safe and affordable basic services
- provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces

Transport and Mobility System
- provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all
- improving road safety
- expanding public transport

Environmental Sustainability, Environmental Planning and Landscape Planning
- provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green spaces
- improve air quality in cities
- improve quality of and access to (drinking) water in cities
- improve municipal and other waste management
- reduce other negative environmental impacts of cities
- reduce negative effects (deaths, number of people affected, economic losses) of water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- reduce negative effects (deaths, number of people affected, economic losses) of other disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's natural heritage

Economic Sustainability
- overcoming economic exclusion
- creating career and business opportunities for all income groups
- building resilient societies and economies

Methods
- methods of social research, social science methodology, which could be both general overviews or courses on specific methods (such as ethnography, biographical research, interviewing, survey research or statistics)
- spatial methods
- assessing causality
- cross-cultural, historical or comparative methods
- decolonising social science methodology
- developing methods for a specific local context

Planning and Policymaking
- enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management
- support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels