



Summer school Eurometropolis 2.1

Eurometropolis: a blue space in transition

August 30th - September 8th 2021, Roubaix

Water couldn't care less about boundaries: rivers, canals, streams and groundwater flow right through, above or below state borders. Water is a crucial element with the ability to federate territories across administrative boundaries. It is therefore no coincidence that the Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai chose water as the backbone for a regional joint project: the Blue Space. The Blue Space is a vision which progressively reveals the space of water as a large European park that connects and rationalizes a multitude of urban landscapes, organizing a multi-scalar succession of different habitats. To portray this space is thus an occasion for sharing, discussing and ultimately constructing it as an agent for connecting and collecting regions, ecologies and policies. The theme of the workshop develops from the ongoing construction of this collective idea: the Blue Space, the space of water. The idea of a large park, a Blue Park along waterways, the one of a crossing boundary open space able to restructure different nations, regions and languages. This hypothesis is nowadays an ongoing project, a collective one, discussed and developed within Eurometropolis over the last decade, at many levels and by many different kinds of actors (www.blauweruimte.eu).

After a first series of three summer schools on the different dimensions of water, this summer school proposes to investigate the Blue Park as an active agent of transition. A transition that will be explored via an investigation of both social and ecological fractures, triggered by an increasingly changing climate. The summer school is an important moment of participation and construction of this project: fieldworks, discussions with stakeholders, interdisciplinary workshops, collective and participative cartographies, elaborations of spatial strategies will be part of an even larger process. A process that ultimately highlights and uses the Blue Space as a device for co-creating cross-boundaries dialogues, an empowering as a collective image of transition.

The respective 'Eurometropolitan' universities (ENSAP Lille, KU Leuven, UC Louvain, Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne) will jointly coordinate the summer school which is open to international and interdisciplinary students (in architecture, engineering, landscape, social and environmental sciences, visual arts) and universities.

Tutors

Chiara Cavalieri (UCLouvain) ; Thais Delefortrie (UCLouvain) ; Maarten Gheysen (KU Leuven) ; Bénédicte Grosjean (ENSAP Lille) ; Sophie Leemans (KU Leuven) ; Erik Van Daele (KU Leuven) ; Paola Vigano (Ecole polytechnique de Lausanne).