



IGLUS online action-learning certificate Green urban infrastructures

July 1-5, 2024, 17:00-18:30 CET each day

For IGLUS, parks, ponds, pocket-parks, green alleys, even single trees, urban gardens, green rooftops, etc. are not about environmental protection, even if they are certainly good for biodiversity. Rather, they are what we call “green infrastructures” and as such comparable to the other urban infrastructures, such as communication, transport, energy, or water networks. They all need planning, investments, construction, operations and lots of maintenance. Green, like all other urban infrastructures are key to the quality of life, the competitiveness and ultimately the overall attractiveness of a city. Still, recognizing greens as being infrastructures is more recent and results essentially from their mitigating effects vis-à-vis the consequences of global warming. As such, green urban infrastructure do not only have recreational and esthetic value. They furthermore have clear functions when it comes reducing the urban heat island effect (urban cooling), insulating buildings, creating shade and humidity, absorbing storm water, not to mention contributing (albeit often modestly) to food security, and urban social life, to mention just the most important such functions.

The challenges of green urban infrastructures are numerous, as they are still often an afterthought, are still seen as being in conflict with other, more lucrative or equally needed infrastructures, such as roads, shopping malls, bike lane, etc., also because their services can typically not be billed to their consumers. Green urban infrastructures are generally easier to implement as part of greenfield developments, upon which city authorities can impose conditionalities. But green urban initiatives can also be observed as a result of bottom-up urban community development initiatives or protests. Overall, the main challenge for green urban infrastructures pertains to their governance (by and for whom?) and their regulation (towards which objectives are they regulated?), which is the overarching topic of this course.

All our online action-learning certificate courses follow a unique pedagogical approach: a small group of 30 professionals already somewhat familiar with green urban infrastructures will be exposed to short input presentations (30 minutes) from the relevant stakeholders of five particularly interesting and relevant cities in Europe (Istanbul), the United States (New York and Detroit), Korea (Seoul) and Singapore. After which there will be a moderated discussion among the lecturers and the participants (60 minutes). This is a unique opportunity to learn from and exchange with experts who experience and critically reflect upon the governance of green urban infrastructures firsthand.

This intensive five-day online action-learning course – Monday July 1st to Friday July 5th, 2024 – will take place via zoom each of these five days between 17:00 and 18:30 CET. It will be accompanied and moderated by IGLUS founder and director Prof. Matthias Finger. The costs of participating this 7 and a half hour active learning experience amount to 200 USD and will lead to an IGLUS certificate.