



International Project Week  
HOCHSCHULE NORDHAUSEN

## 25<sup>th</sup> International Project Week 2023 08<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023

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**University/Company:** POLITECNICO DI MILANO

**Country:** Italy

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### **Towards a more inclusive, safe, pleasant, and environmentally sustainable form of public space**

#### **Content:**

Open public spaces are fundamental in the strategic choices of contemporary cities. After years of banalisation, social, political, and environmental urgencies oblige us to re-focus on them as a structural component of well-being, reassessing qualities, requirements, and potentials in a broad interdisciplinary perspective. IPW course offers one occasion to deepen this topic, focusing on critical factors in evaluating open public spaces. After a short introduction to open public spaces, the program will focus on the definition and the way to observe and assess accessibility, social inclusiveness, safety, functionality, aesthetic value and environmental quality (days 1, 2). Each topic will offer arguments for debating the complexity of person-environment issues arriving at defining a list of indicators to apply to the evaluation of a real case study in Nordhausen (day 3) and the results will be organised in a poster (day 4) for the final presentation.

#### **Methods:**

Each subject will be introduced by a brief lecture followed by a debate, a group workshop on selected readings, and collective discussion. Home assignments will consist of short report writing. Participants are oriented to draft a list of indicators to apply to the experimental analysis of one public space in Nordhausen. For this reason, the class will move one day outside the University for live observation, data collection, and evaluation. The outcome will consist of 4 group thematic posters.

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## **Competences and skills to be acquired:**

The main expectations consist of the following:

- Acquiring awareness of the importance of open public places and their potential effects on well-being.
  - Understanding how to assess the quality of open spaces according to different categories.
  - Return the contents in a list of evaluation indicators for application to a case study
  - Analyse and evaluate a real case study
  - Finalise the results into a poster presentation
- Side expectations include also:
- Developing communication skills in teams,
  - Presenting skills

## **Prerequisites:**

Knowledge in topics like accessibility, social inclusion, safety, and environmental issues according to the personal field of studies. Availability for one-day outdoor class in Nordhausen.

## **Language of instruction:**

English