



**BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION**



**International University for the Bio-Environment**

**Comments from Students**

***Biopolis – Sustainable Urban Development***

**2011, Fall Quarter**

# BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

## International University for the Bio-Environment

### e-Learning Programme

#### *Biopolis – Sustainable Urban Development*

*Fall Quarter 2011*

#### Comments and Feedback from Students

*I would like to thank you for this excellent online learning opportunity and for the opportunity to become a member of a team of students, professors, academics and other professionals, who were similarly interested in environmentally sound practices, the promotion of environmental understanding and who were eager to learn more about the causes and solutions to current urban problems. I have taken the course due to my personal interest in environmental policies and I am very grateful, because it has highly contributed to the broadening of my knowledge in the area. I have found the course material as an excellent, brief and easily understandable compilation, where each chapter explained key concepts and introduced relevant examples. At my current work, I get in contact with a number of projects, which aim to tackle problems especially in third-world countries, concerning water resources management, sustainable livelihoods and development, climate change issues and other related development problems. The course helped me to understand a wide range of concepts from sustainable cities through urban ecology, social issues, urban demographics, sustainable management of land to sustainable urban transport and even more. I found it interesting to read about the background of these problems, while also having the insight into policies and measures that could be undertaken. The course has also contributed to raising my own awareness towards the environment and I hope I can be a more responsible individual contributing to the building of our future societies. Thank you very much! **Erika Pathó, Assistant, European Neighbourhood Policy, Directorate-General Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission, Belgium***

*The given material helped me to broaden my view in the area of sustainable urban management. While the teaching of urban ecology at our institute is limited to a few lessons, it encouraged me to offer a more extensive concept of this topic in the teaching process. I mostly appreciated that the theoretical basis was expanded with interesting examples or case studies. While my field of study is based on biologic systems and their responses to environmental factors, I find it interesting and innovative to implement the use of green (living) energy as a renewable source in urban planning. **Alexandra Lešková, PhD Student, Department of Ecosociology and Physiotactics, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovak Republic***

*This program demonstrates numerous projects that are implementing change towards sustainable urban development. The most important aspect of sustainable urban development is the development of sustainable, socially just and inspirational communities, one neighbourhood at a time. Moreover, the efficient and sustainable use of energy is also key to the development of sustainable cities. **Alona Bondarenko, Master's Student, National Technical University of Ukraine***

*This course has given me a lot of information, which I will apply throughout my future career. Considering the fact that I am a Master's student in EU Policies and Institutions at Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, I must stress that this course will also help me to define my next steps in my job pursuit. For the past three months, I had the opportunity to learn about various methods and practices in solving the problems of sustainable development, and I am completely ready to start working on a job that is closely connected to sustainability and protecting the environment. I am also counting on help from B.I.O following my engagement by a company or organization where I will be working in the near future.* **Aleksandar Talimdjoski, FYROM**

*The course has brought to my attention the significance of environmental issues and made me realise the importance of the preservation of nature and the protection against environmental degradation. The material was highly informative with each chapter explained in detail. It gives examples of how, for instance, efficient waste management practices can help local authorities increase recycling rates, but also discusses universal design standards in the creation of accessible cities. I learned interesting and new facts about land management, urban ecology, urban demographics etc. Overall, it was a very enlightening course.* **Konstantinos Baloumis, Intern, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Greece**

*The course material was well designed to give a wider perspective on the concept, significance and aspects of urban development. It is particularly valuable as classroom teaching material. The model of a "biopolis" and the concepts of bio-architecture and bio-agriculture are relevant for sustainable policies, as well as the considerations on water and waste management, capacity building, education and brief case expositions. This is why they should be accessible to all students and teachers of the social sciences worldwide. E-learning resources will be gradually incorporated in classes like economics, international relations, growth and development and entrepreneurship. Since education is one of the most valuable treasures mankind can share, personally I appreciated the opportunity of new knowledge and reflection, wishing to study the material with students and colleagues, and also to promote initiatives in our community to get the authorities and the public involved in taking action and in building a proper scheme of "restoring nature and culture to the city."* **Andrea König Fleischer, Foreign Trade and Customs, Director, Universidad Católica, Campus La Paz, México**

*The material covered in this course module helped my studies. The most valuable aspects of the course are the concepts of green buildings and climate change.* **Artan Beka, IT System Administrator, Kosovo**

*The online course gave me lots of ideas on how to improve the current state of the Kazakhstani ecology and transportation systems that I will use in my research and teaching process. This course is also very useful for understanding current international trends and points of view regarding the prevention of ecological problems.* **Andrey Belov, Almaty State University, Counsellor of the President, Kazakhstan**

*I think this course was worth attending because it is very interesting and helpful. The lecture material is very detailed and explained clearly. I have acquired a lot of new information about the principles of sustainable development, urban ecology, how urbanisation impacts the environment, urban sustainability, green ecology, green jobs*

*and cleaner production. The course has helped me to become more familiar with this contemporary topic. After this training course, I have had new ideas on how to enrich and improve my seminars. I am going to recommend this training course to other colleagues from my country so they can attend.* **Anna Dimitrova, Assistant Professor, Technical University of Sofia, Faculty of Industrial Technology, Department of Materials Science and Technology, Bulgaria**

*The material of this course was very useful to me in my practical work, especially concerning the issues of cities and climate change, green building and green job creation, problems associated with urban unemployment and underemployment, potential solutions for employment creation in cities, the impact of urbanization on water quality, availability, and usage, water, land management and water supply management, the natural heritage of cities, urban ecology and urban agriculture.* **Assem A.A. Mohamed, Assistant Researcher, Central Laboratory for Agricultural Climate, Agricultural, Research Centre, Egypt**

*I am an environmental officer working with the Division of Environment in Tanzania and responsible for advising on various matters related to environmental management, particularly urban development and forest management. This course material has been very useful to my daily activities, as it refreshed my knowledge and added the awareness of sustainable urban development to various issues of the current world. I have been enjoying reading and applying the course material to my daily activities. The most valuable aspect of this course is how it deals with real issues in the world; most of the examples are documented and are easily understandable, therefore it has been easy to follow and incorporate the course material to my daily activities at work.* **Deogratius Eugen Paul Nyangu, Senior Environmental (Forest) Officer, Vice President's Office, Division of Environment, United Republic of Tanzania**

*It has been so wonderful. I actually learnt a lot and have recommended the course to several other professionals. When I have the chance, I will write a whole write-up about this course. I live in a small town, which is developing at a very high rate, and I managed to talk to the Mayor himself and, on several occasions, specifically advised him about the beautification of the town. I am happy he is on the right course.* **Edgar Muganzi, Conservation/Extension Officer, Hope Restoration Initiative, Uganda**

*The material covered in the course is very useful to me, because I am very interested in ecology and usually try to learn as much as possible about this field. The material which I have already studied will help me in my future job that can be connected with sustainable urban development. In my opinion, the most valuable aspects of the course were the main idea about protection of the place where each of us live and ways for improving today's urban situations. I think that it is a quite important theme, especially nowadays, because more and more people begin to forget about our environment, which leads to some negative consequences. All the ideas offered by the course were quite clear, and it was a real enjoyment to study the material. Thank you for providing such a possibility!* **Ekaterina Petruneva, Student, Saint-Petersburg State Polytechnical University, Russia**

*I really liked this course because the material contains a lot of ideas about how to make a city or a building more environmentally friendly. In my opinion, this question is very important for our Republic. In my primary work activities, I can apply this knowledge to such programs as "Ecocampus – environmental education building of the future,"*

*especially the sections on Biopolis – restoring nature and culture to the city, water and waste management, economy and capacity building, urban health and accessibility, and the green economy. So I think that this course greatly enriched my knowledge and inspired new ideas.* **Elena Shilonosova, Head of Ecology Department, Republican Children's and Young Centre of Ecology, Local History and Tourism, Department of Education of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan**

*As a city dweller, I was especially interested in this course. In these lectures, problems which are very close to us are described, this is why the material provided is very informative. Especially important to me is the fact that in this course the interrelation between environmental problems and the social dimension is set. It is clearly demonstrated that social life depends directly and indirectly on the environment, and environmental quality, in turn, becomes the result of social conditions. Such a view of the problem can help us to find effective ways for solving today's ecological problems. My work is not directly related to the topic, but, the more I learn, the more I want to know about it and to have the opportunity to spread this knowledge. I believe that knowledge and environmental concern play an important role in establishing an environmentally responsible society.* **Elena Zorina, Alumna, Tomsk State University, Russia**

*Taking this online course was a real challenge for me and made me understand and accept the importance of sustainable urban development. Having a chance to work with students, young people of ages 18-25, gives me an opportunity for a new mission: introducing my new knowledge to this new generation, make them aware of the current situation and encouraging them to think about improving our quality of life by creating a healthy natural environment, creating new ideas, and making plans and strategies for future improvement on a local and global level.* **Emilija Potevska, Piano Professor, Goce Delcev Stip, Faculty of Music Arts, FYROM**

*As a development student studying various issues related to sustainable development, this course has helped me to understand sustainable development from a different perspective. It will help me in my work as an agent of development. I enjoyed almost all the modules, but I particularly liked urban health, accessibility and social integration.* **Enoch Assan Ninson, Student, University of Trento, Italy**

*As a Master's Student at the Faculty of Engineering, specializing in Construction Management, I decided to write my Master's thesis on the topic of Green Buildings. So I am interested in topics related to my Master's thesis.* **Moneeb Genedy, Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Engineering, Alexandria University, Egypt**

*The online course provided a fully featured approach to the new trends regarding sustainable urban development programmes. The material is very useful to me because my Ph.D. thesis is about promoting sustainable development policies in the Romanian economy. Also, the course provided the basic background for developing new investment projects, and the practical examples may become real opportunities for developing new activities and SMEs in Romania.* **Tache Florin, Ph.D. Student, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania**

*The module provided “must-have” information regarding the development of sustainable urban management. This topic is very relevant to my work, as my organization deals with irresponsible urban development, which includes pollution and*

*lack of waste management. The most valuable aspect I got from the course concerns the waste management issue, as well as community capacity building. This is very relevant to me since my organization is still new and one of our aims at the central office is to provide community capacity building for the regional offices.* **Gina Karina, General Secretary of the Central Office, Indonesian Green Youth Coalition (KOPHI), Indonesia**

*I will use the information, ideas and knowledge provided by “Biopolis – Sustainable Urban Development” and “Green Salaries” in my everyday life/work by promoting the ideas among business practitioners, government representatives, academics, students and friends, because the protection of the environment should be upper most on our minds when we generate wastes, use water and energy, print documents, and prefer our cars even for the shortest distances. This course made me look around and think about what we are doing to nature. Urbanization is growing, and we can see the expansion of non-organic food in supermarkets and the behaviour of citizens who do not think about the environment (I am referring to people in Kazakhstan). The territory of the city of Almaty is expanding, eating up suburbs and villages every year. I also found many ideas that will help to conserve the greenery and biodiversity, and to protect air quality.* **Yuliya Kharkova, Head of International Development and Accreditation Department and Researcher in Corporate Social Responsibility Laboratory, International Academy of Business, Kazakhstan**

*I hold a relatively high position in an ecological company and need to be well informed concerning the problems of environmental protection and all the possible ways of their solution. As the Kyoto Protocol (under which our company works) is directed at the reduction of dangerous emissions, I appreciate all possible information that allows saving our planet. The most valuable aspects of the course for me were restoring nature and culture to the city, water and waste management, economy and capacity building. Thank you for information!* **Yevgeniy Altukhov, Head of Company Representation in South-East Ukraine, LLC “Global Carbon Ukraine,” Ukraine**

*Having learned the material provided by your Professors in this course, I must say that this information plays an important role in urban development with less harm to the environment. The only thing left is realizing all the possible ways of making our cities less polluted, as described here. I am very grateful for your great work in providing this knowledge.* **Vladislav Antypov, Deputy Head of Company Representation in South-East Ukraine, LLC “Global Carbon Ukraine,” Ukraine**

*The concept of a biopolis was of special interest to me because of the scientific research I am currently involved with at my job. At the Institute of State and Law we are concerned with the issues of correlation between human values and road and transportation relations. This includes the problems of ecology, as the current state of, for example, air pollution in the city of Almaty is rated as one of the worst worldwide because the number of cars is growing exponentially and such conditions violate the human right to favourable ecological conditions. The online course gave me lots of ideas on how to improve the current state of the environment in Almaty and the transportation system. I will use this information in my research, with all the necessary references to copyright and authorship. I consider the practical recommendations on what should public authorities actually do to implement the concept of a biopolis the most important aspect of the course. The creation of motivation and a sense of responsibility in citizens is very effective, especially in contrast to the widespread*

*practice of fighting against environmental violations by increasing penalties, which often gives way to corruption and latent violations. Thanks a lot for the very interesting and useful course.* **Yuliya Edlina, Research Fellow, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan**

*The course material has been meaningful in helping me better understand the beneficial effects arising from a sustainable and healthy urban environment. The green building component was especially useful, as the European building industry is an important arena in which to combat climate change, and I am currently developing an awareness-raising and dissemination programme on clean energy and materials in the building sector. The mobility component was also extremely intriguing and shed some light on the root causes of the lagging behind of certain countries in promoting and implementing sustainable urban transport solutions.* **Valerio Ponzo, Junior Expert (Sustainable Development), The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Hungary**

*The scope of this scientific program is to formulate a new policy for the organization and development of a modern sustainable city. The basic tool of developing such a vital policy, similarly important as the scientific-technological and economic context is, also, the institutional framework, with its legal opportunities and legal terms and restrictions. As a lawyer, this program has provided me with the necessary familiarity on the political vision needed to facilitate the development of the corresponding legal framework concerning my profession. I consider that the prospects of biopolicy are very important and necessary, taking into account the stifling conditions that are being created for tackling environmental problems and the tight financial framework, both at the national and international level.* **Marina Paraschaki, Lawyer, Greece**

*I have found the course very interesting and educative and I am very happy that I have had a chance to be a participant of this course. I would like to use this chance to express my sincere gratitude to B.I.O. I learned a lot of new and interesting things regarding sustainable urban management and hope to put this knowledge to practice in the future. Thank you very much.* **Marina Ordulu, Turkey**

*The material is so clear that I can easily understand the course. Thank you!* **Tylla Ovezova, Teacher of Music Theory, Turkmen State Musical College, Turkmenistan**

*I consider every part of the course very valuable, however, the chapter on “Economy and Capacity Building” has given me further ideas to apply to policy issues in my country. Most of the examples used are from developed countries and it would be helpful if examples of developing countries could also be given along with ways in which they can be achieved.* **Uyoyoghene Ugherughe, Nigeria**

*As director of an environmental NGO, the materials covered in the course module are very much related to my work. The course introduced me to a number of new concepts and tools in urban environmental management and helped me to give heed to concepts and aspects of the environment which I would not have given attention to. The most valuable aspects of the course are the way it is organized and delivered. Although it is e-learning, it has a feeling of a course delivered in a classroom. Consequently, it can reach and transfer knowledge to a large number of people around the world. I use the concepts discussed in the course materials in my day-to-day work. Moreover, I use the*

*concepts discussed in the new projects I develop and to revise some projects already developed by incorporating the new concepts I am introduced to as a result of this course. Moreover, I use the ideas in the training and awareness raising workshops I organize. In the future, I would like to suggest, if it is possible, to organize sessions and group discussions via internet and to make the discussion forums lively. I suggest that B.I.O. raise issues on a weekly basis, which participants could discuss and share their experience.* **Solomon Desalegne, Executive Director, Clean and Green Addis Ababa Society, Ethiopia**

*I really appreciated this course because it addressed the most practical issues and solutions to urban planning. I learnt a lot from this course. The content is also very logical and understandable. Thank you very much.* **Nguyen Thi Bich Tram, AKIZ Project Assistant, Vietnam**

*I really enjoyed the new information about a subject I once learned at the University of Debrecen. I will use the revised and new knowledge in English in international capacity building issues, and in the writing of border-crossing, international applications and projects. The subject matter contains a lot of practical and good examples that can be useful in the development of the region of Szabocs-Szatmar-Bereg. I will use the knowledge which I got in this course in the framework of teaching capacity building sessions, and in local and international appointments and conferences.* **Tamas Szabo, Nature Park Manager/Ranger, The Public Benefit Foundation for Conservation of Nature and Environment to Protect the Cultural Values of Szabocs-Szatmar-Bereg, Hungary**

*The most valuable aspect of the course was the presentation of the concept of sustainable city management in connection with society engagement, education and employment, urban transport, social welfare, and urban health. This course will benefit my knowledge of environmental security, risk management and crisis management.* **Stanislav Zahov, Expert, Military Medical Academy, Bulgaria**

*This course helped me a lot in learning how to help in sustainable development and how to deal with regulations that help the environment. As a lawyer who works in environmental law, the course helped me to learn about the reasons for the regulations and how they help the environment.* **Rania Ghallab, Lawyer (Environmental Law and CSR).M, Law Student, Indiana University School of Law, Alexandria, Egypt**

*The topics covered by the modules help me to better understand the current scenario of sustainable urban development across the globe. The course has provided insight regarding various developments, issues, concerns, corrective actions, policies, and their framework, thus widening my sphere of knowledge. Being in the clean development mechanism consultancy, the knowledge gained here will surely help me in developing a better outlook and understanding of projects related to this sector. The material provided by the course module is very informative, as it not only address the recent global scenario of particular topics but also illustrates them with examples, making them easy to understand, and supports them with authentic data, thus making them completely reliable. The details covered in the course are very informative and have been explained in a manner which makes them equally important as other major points. It was really a great experience undertaking this learning program.* **Saumya Pandey, CDM Consultant (Executive), IL&FS Environmental Infrastructure and Services Limited, India**

*Librarianship is the mother of other courses. The materials covered in this course increased my knowledge base especially in the areas of urban development, environmental issues and environmental protection. The biopolicy courses have helped me to serve my library users better and have given me an edge over other librarians.*  
**Anyanwu Queeneth, Head Librarian, African Institute for Applied Economics, Nigeria**

*The material covered in the course module is very interesting. A lot of things in the given course are connected with environmental protection, providing a knowledge base that contributes to the further work of the ecologist. In my opinion, the most valuable aspect of the course is the term biopolis, which implies the well-being of the urban population across the globe.*  
**Gennady Potanin, Saint Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers, Russia**

*As a development activist, I get opportunities to participate in different forums related to campaign and advocacy. Bangladesh is a developing country and in the process of urbanization. Our capital city, Dhaka, has been identified as one of the unplanned rapidly growing mega-cities of the world. The question of sustainability is becoming crucial nowadays, alongside this growth. On the other hand, Bangladesh is the victim of climate change. In such consideration, the course contents have enriched my understanding about sustainable development, both in an urban and an environmental perspective, which will be very useful once I incorporate it in our campaign and advocacy works. I am really thankful and grateful to the Biopolitics International Organisation for giving me this opportunity. I will take more courses offered by B.I.O. in coming semesters.*  
**Sazzadur Rahman Chowdhury, Executive Director, Bangladesh Freedom Foundation (BFF), Bangladesh**

*The material of this course was very useful to me in my practical work, especially the chapters discussing the issues of cities and climate change, green building and green job creation, problems associated with urban unemployment and underemployment, potential solutions for employment creation in cities, the impact of urbanization on water quality, availability, and usage, land management, water supply management, the natural heritage of cities, urban ecology, and agriculture.*  
**Osama Abdella Abdelshafi Mohamad, Assistant Lecturer, Suez Canal University, Egypt**

*The online course offered a new structuralized perspective on the importance of sustainable urban development. At present, the Romanian scientific literature has few resources that are up to date related to this field. As a potential teacher at The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, in the field of Environmental Policies, this course offered me the possibility to acquire a basic background in my research and also to accumulate useful knowledge for my further activity. The first valuable aspect of the “Biopolis: Sustainable Urban Development” course was the fact that the course was organised in an excellent manner, having separate modules for each issue, which helps a lot with understanding and using the information. The second valuable aspect was the fact that the course provided the most important correlations between the problems of managing the urban development in a sustainable manner, under the circumstances of growing pollution pressures.*  
**Oana-Cătălina Țăpurică, Ph.D. Student, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania**

*I have found a lot of the information interesting and useful and have learnt a lot of new things that can help me in my training process in the protection of the environment and the rational use of natural resources, and will therefore be further useful in my work. As my studies and future work are directly connected with environmental protection, I am concerned with all aspects studied in this course.* **Olga Koval, Saint Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers, Russia**

*The course material is very useful and well researched. I picked up valuable details and concepts of environmental protection. As a result, I am more knowledgeable and aware of programs mitigating climate change.* **Sharon Lee Siew Ng, Singapore**

*This course will help me a lot not only in my career but also in ensuring, once I get the opportunity to serve the local authorities, that I will be equipped with a strong background about ways of keeping the environment clean while enabling development to continue in a sustainable manner. Being an environmental consultant, this course will help me to have a broader understanding of both the scientific and social aspects of environmental sustainability, and will play a major role as I jump start my career as an Environmental Chemist.* **Nusrat Mutta-Begum, Research Assistant, Kenya, POPs and Pesticide Residue Analysis Laboratory, University of Nairobi, Kenya**

*The course is very interesting and has clear objectives. The course material is rich and supported with examples and information. The material is presented in a simple way. Also, the material was always available in a systematic way, and even before the fixed date on the schedule. The course material was very important to me since I am taking courses in environmental subjects for my Ph.D. program. I would like to take more courses through your esteemed organization.* **Mona Mohamed Hamdy Mostafa Sayed Ahmed, Ph.D. Student, Institute of Environmental Studies and Research, Ain Shams University, Egypt**

*This program develops a different vision of the organization of the city in terms of the utilization and management of space, environmental and natural resources, social structures and financial opportunities, serving as the vital element of their sustainability. This dynamic scientific view of the city and the environment reflects an analogous policy approach, which has broadened my professional perspective as an economist, with a corresponding expansion of my relevant scientific field, which I believe that, to a considerable degree, I have ensured via the the attendance of this program.* **Maria Paraschaki, Economist-International Business Consultant, Greece**

*I am a chemist who presently works at the environmental department. I had no knowledge about urban ecology, so these presentations were very useful for me. I will be teaching students soon, and therefore need more information on the environmental sciences.* **Marianna Molnárová, Researcher, Department of Ecosozology and Physiotactics, Faculty of Natural Sciences of Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovak Republic**

*This course helped me to acquire a deeper knowledge of the topics covered, which I am interested in and which I enjoy very much. Sustainable urban development is a very new topic for me that I enjoyed throughout the study materials. Now I am able to appreciate much more the value of sustainable urban development and its relationship to the environment. It was really fruitful in the context that it developed my understanding of possibilities for creating green jobs in almost all sectors. I do believe I will be able to*

*incorporate what I have learned during this course in my future job. Being an Environmental Executive, I found the course altogether helpful in providing a better understanding of various sectors and their basics, and, also, the impacts of various activities on our surroundings.* **Narendra Singh Rathore, Environmental Executive, R.S. Environlink Technologies Pvt. Ltd.Gurgaon (HR.), India**

*I have gained knowledge and skills on planning urban cities sustainably while improving the socio-economic wellbeing of urban dwellers. This knowledge will help me contribute to making policies and laws that will promote sustainable environmental and economic development in Nigeria. The most valuable aspect of the course is the concept of green building and sustainable urbanization.* **Oloto Martin, Special Adviser to the Deputy President of the Senate, National Assembly complex Abuja, Nigeria**

*As a Master's Student at the Faculty of Engineering, specializing in Construction Management, I decided to write my Master's Thesis on the topic of Green Building. So I am interested in topics related to my thesis.* **Moneeb Genedy, Teaching Assistant, Egypt, Faculty of Engineering, Alexandria University**

*The course helped me to learn about different methods of how to manage the municipal economy in an environment-friendly way. Now, I have an opportunity to tell my authority about the world practices in this area. I wish that sometime I will be able to put into practice some of this theory. I think it is very important to talk about these problems in kindergartens and schools, because the idea of treating nature kindly has to come into our minds from childhood. Thank you for inspiring me and for consolidating my wish to make neighbourhoods better than they are.* **Ekaterina Korochkina, Geologist, JSC Uralkali, Russia**

*As a geographer and town planner, I teach environmental conservation and development at the university and I found the course to be very relevant and interesting, especially the aspects of urban bio-architecture land management, wastes, pollution, transportation, education and sustainable development. These are topics I cover in my courses, and I must say that this course has enlightened me on current issues, especially in developed countries. In conclusion, I found the course to be educative and the content very informative, and I want to say that I would like to take other courses with Biopolitics in the future.* **Oluwafemi Babatunde Ojo, Lecturer, University of Belize, Belize**

*The course was very interesting and useful for me, not only as a researcher in the field of sustainable development but, also, as an expert with the Ministry of Justice and the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan on issues of draft laws and other normative legal acts. The course allowed me to understand some problems of environmental protection and sustainable urban development, and to make good proposals and recommendations in law-making activities. The material can also be helpful in my teaching activities, because it has many examples and is very easy to understand. I am going to use the knowledge I acquired from this course in preparing articles, and publications, and in my thesis about the main parts of social responsibility politics. I would also like to use this material in conducting research funded by the Kazakh Ministry of Education and Science, devoted to the problems of the political modernization of our country.* **Yuliya Lokteva, Deputy Director, Institute of State and Law, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Republic of Kazakhstan**

*As I work in a company that deals with the Kyoto Protocol and other ecological issues it is really important for me to widen my knowledge in this sphere. Thanks to your courses, I have the opportunity to make myself more knowledgeable and get the newest information about the environment. Thank you for doing great things!* **Kateryna Nesterchuk, Management Assistant, Global Carbon Ukraine LLC, Ukraine**

*The course module has enabled me to have a broader outlook on environmental issues and to grasp the great effects that simple acts have on the environment. The first valuable aspect of the sustainable urban development course was the fact that the course had been organised in an excellent manner, having separate modules for each field of interest, which helps a lot in understanding and using the information. From now on, I will keep in mind the opportunity to participate in or promote such initiatives as an environmentally conscious citizen. Once again, I appreciate you and your team.* **Gargi Sharma, SENES Consultants India Pvt. Ltd., Climate Change Specialist, India**

*I found the course on sustainable urban management very interesting and informative. The course content is enriched with new ideas and proposals that are very important. I would say that this course will be very essential and beneficial for my future work. Thank you for the course!* **Ilhomjon Teshabaev, Finance Specialist, Amu-Zang Irrigation Rehabilitation Project, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan**

*Since I am still a student looking for the right field of study, I am glad that I could participate in this course because it helped me become more open-minded and conscious about the real situation on this planet. This course is very practical, and I am sure that it will help me find a job more easily when I finish my Master's studies in movie production. Now, I want to make documentaries about this material to help others realise what is going on, on planet Earth and how we should live to save each other, to have better lives and to become happier.* **Monika Risteska, Master's Student, Skopje, FYROM**

*I am planning to work in the area of climate change mitigation in the future, so for me the course is more like a way to broaden my knowledge first and then...to work in this field.* **Simona Voican, Student, London School of Marketing, Germany**

*The Biopolitics International Organisation believes that the e-learning programme of the International University for the Bio-Environment is making a great contribution to humanity, because it allows the sharing of knowledge and experiences. Thanks. I enjoyed reading the material. The effort should be recognized through a multiplication of actions to save life. You are making a great effort in the production of teaching materials. I would have liked a little more class participation though, so as to ask questions or share information with colleagues, taking advantage of the benefits of the e-learning platform used. Thank you for your dedication.* **Ludwig Schmidt, Professor Titular, Catholic University Andres Bello, Venezuela**

*The material covered in the course is very useful. The topics of land management and urban ecology, water and waste management, and green building are very valuable and useful.* **Md Shakil Ahmad, Secretary, Riyayat, India**

*The materials covered in this course helped me in my classroom teaching by enlightening my students on some of the simple actions that can lead to sustainable urban development, like recycling, water conservation and waste reduction strategies that we encounter in our daily lives. The most valuable aspect of the course that I have incorporated in my field of study is capacity building, by training and informing individuals through lessons indicated in this module and rigorous research and learning opportunities so that the university can become an engine for sustainable environmental enhancement. This can be achieved through student forums in the university, like environmental clubs.* **Juliah Khayeli Akhwale, Part-time Lecturer/Ph.D. Student, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya**

*I work in a company which produces building materials and new systems and solutions mainly involved with the chemicals field. We belong to the Green Building Association. Today, construction materials and new systems are oriented towards respect for the environment in order to avoid pollution, both during product application as well as at the end of the life-cycle, and at the moment of recycling. Therefore, today, and surely more and more in the future, our sector is one of the most involved in worldwide environmental problems. Bio-architecture with green solutions, green systems, green materials, green technologies and green services is the basic element in creating better cities in the future and in improving living standards. My job is mainly to develop the company's commercial relations abroad, in all the world, looking for technically prepared and organized distributors and giving them all the commercial and technical assistance needed, and I have noticed an increasing interest in bio-architecture and in the new technologies and products to be promoted and offered on the market. So this course is 100% suitable for my job. Knowing the building field and being aware of environmental problems, I can promote my solutions with greater knowledge, and I am prepared to promote bio-architecture and its importance for our planet.* **Giuliano Zamboni, Export Manager, INDEX SpA, Italy**

*Even though I was familiar with sustainable urban development, this course helped me to get more detailed insight into how this can be attained with suitable and appropriate examples, and how this can be incorporated for the improvement of the living standards of human life.* **Gopikrishna Mantha, Research Assistant, National Taiwan Ocean University, Taiwan R.O.C.**

*The course addressed important issues in the area of sustainable urban development. It is fortunate that some of the material covered in the module helped me revise and update the course on Urban Environment Management that I am providing. Thus, I will incorporate some of the course materials in the course offered by my institute.* **Hayal Desta Yimer, Lecturer, Addis Ababa University, EiABC, Ethiopia**

*My work is concerned with sustainable development, control of environmental protection activities and audits of company facilities. As my place of employment maintains the HSE MS in compliance with ISO-14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001:2007, it is concerned about good track recording of environmental issues and well-timed trouble shooting. So I really obtained valuable information from the course materials and used the knowledge gained in presentations regarding sustainable urban management and social responsibility, capacity building and waste management programs, as well as arrangements of tree planting campaigns performed by my colleagues. I am grateful to the teaching personnel for the detailed, valuable and informative learning materials*

*that helped me to substantially improve my knowledge for future use in my daily activities.* **Oxana Beloglazova, Senior Environmental Specialist, PetroKazakhstan Operating Services Inc., Republic of Kazakhstan**

*South Pole Carbon is a carbon project developer for both the voluntary and the CDM market. For the CDM market, we interact with host countries whose main objective is to check the sustainable development criteria. The course has exposed me to many sustainable development issues that can be highlighted in the project documents. Moreover, the information provided can be used while interacting with the different host countries to improve on their view of sustainable development in their countries. Sustainable transport, and water and waste water were some of the key topics that attracted my attention.* **Ronald Twesigye, Project Manager/Country Head Uganda, South Pole Carbon Asset Management Ltd, Uganda**

*This course has helped me expand my knowledge, learn new skills and work with better results. Thank you for the opportunity to gain new knowledge and enhanced capacity.* **Evgeniia Shvartsman, PR Specialist, Civil Society Support Centre, Kyrgyzstan**

*The material was very lucid, highly informative and useful for understanding current environmental problems and their possible solutions. The course has helped me to pursue my current research work.* **Parth Sarathi Mahapatra, Project Associate-II, Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR), India**

*The material is highly informative and I gained a lot of knowledge. It helped me in understanding concepts that are vital to my present work. The course material is very lucid and easy to understand, and helped me to go through the entire course with ease even though I was involved in my work.* **Sonali Pradhan, Senior Research Fellow, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, India**

*I am studying to become a geography teacher. In high-school geography courses in the Netherlands, information about sustainability is not common yet. I hope that when I am a geography teacher, I will have sufficient knowledge about sustainability to teach pupils about how they can contribute to a better society and environment. This course of Biopolitics has helped me to achieve this goal. This course provides the basic knowledge of sustainable cities.* **Jeroen Van Den Berg, Geography Teacher, Second Secretary, Club of Rome, The Netherlands**

*Thanks you for providing this opportunity to learn online. The materials covered are useful and relevant. I want to commend your organization for its good work on advancing the vital role of sustainable urban development and working towards environmentally sustainable cities; and sustainable waste management, turning waste into a resource. I gained a better understanding of sustainable urban development in relation to a small nation like Singapore without any natural resources. In order to fully understand the concept of sustainability, we need to understand all aspects of it: environmental, economic and social sustainability. It will be useful to have a topic dedicated on Liveable Cities. What makes a city liveable? Beyond affordable and quality housing. Gracious and Harmonious Living Environments. Develop a balanced assessment of urban liveability based on five key areas: Good Governance, Environmental Friendliness and Sustainability, Urban Infrastructure, Quality of Life, Economic Competitiveness and Vibrancy. Another suggestion is to focus a section on challenges that cities face: nexus of energy, water and food security. Policy makers,*

*practitioners and researchers alike will gain insight into the nature of such challenges as well as the opportunities that lie within. Many thanks.* **Kwang Boon Lee, Vice President, United Nations Association of Singapore**

*There is no doubt that the material is very useful to anybody who is involved in the environmental and urban field, as it is up-to-date, well-explained and provides a wide range of good examples. The topics are very actual and modern.* **Tsvetelina Naydenova, University of Forestry, Sofia, Bulgaria**

*The course material was rich and covered many aspects, and I have used some of it when delivering lectures on the environment and during the courses conducted at my institute. I suggest that, with the help of students from different countries in translating some of the course material in their own local languages, you try to find a way to disseminate such valuable knowledge to the public through different possible ways. I can help with regard to Arabic. Also, through this project, a set of visits to these countries can be planned in order to deliver lectures and conduct short training courses with the help of key persons (for example those who participated in the current course) in those countries.* **Adel Ahmed, Senior Researcher Horticulture Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center, Egypt**

*This course has provided me with further knowledge on Sustainable Urban Development, and the tools that can be utilised by professionals involved in planning. I have a further understanding about why it is important to develop in a sustainable manner and I am sure that the additional background gained on the subject studied in this course will help me to develop my skills further in my area of study.* **Jeremy Robert, Portelli, Malta**

*In my capacity as a public affairs consultant, I found all sections of the module to be useful. The most valuable were, however, those which had the most easily understood message included in the title, for example Chapters 1 and 4. The titles of these two chapters, restoring nature and culture to the city and mobility and urban transport, gave a clear and easily absorbable message to my particular client audience who wish to use this information to show that they “care.” Of course, their knowledge is often superficial, but it is important that opinion formers are able to communicate a general picture of the necessity of changing the way everyone thinks about the development of our towns and cities. So, in using the module, I first use the titles to convey a general message which is of immediate relevance and which can be explained on the basis of the sustainability necessary for the continued wellbeing of human societies as the world’s population expands. Once the principles are accepted, I then move to more private sessions with individuals or very small groups to go into detail which, for people only interested in the “big picture” can be tedious and lead to a “switch-off.” In these smaller discussions I try to use only the most easily understood concepts including, in particular, the forecast expansion of world population and the consequent use of resources to reinforce the message that sustainability is not just desirable, but necessary! On a more personal note, I found the most valuable and interesting aspect of my learning to be the simple way in which some very complicated ideas were dealt with.* **Iris Panagiota Efthymiou, Public Affairs Consultant, Greece**

*The material was quite detailed and covered almost all the important aspects of this topic. I learned a lot and found it really interesting.* **Viktoria Tsitsoni, Assistant, European Commission, Belgium**