



The European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (EU-CONEXUS) presents the third edition of their international school contest

## 'THINK SMART, CREATE GREEN'

**Contest rules and regulations**



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## 1. Overview of the Contest

EU-CONEXUS 'European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability', formed by 9 European partner universities, is a transnational European higher education and research institution that covers the smart urban coastal sustainable development from a global point of view.

One of the main goals of the EU-CONEXUS consortium is raising awareness about the challenges faced by urbanised coastal areas in Europe and inspiring society to look for solutions to apply environmentally friendly principles in their daily life.

Among their joint academic offers, EU-CONEXUS European University is also developing workshops and seminars for high schools. Therefore, partners came up with the idea of the International EU-CONEXUS School Contest 'Think Smart, Create Green'.

EU-CONEXUS European University consists of:

### 9 partners

- La Rochelle Université (LRUniv), France
- Agricultural University of Athens (AUA), Greece
- Catholic University of Valencia (UCV), Spain
- Klaipeda University (KU), Lithuania
- University of Zadar (UNIZD), Croatia
- Technical University of Civil Engineering of Bucharest (UTCB), Romania
- South East Technological University (SETU), Ireland
- University of Rostock (UROS), Germany.
- Frederick University (FredU), Cyprus

### 1.1. Main goals

The **main goals** of this contest are:

- o to bring the EU-CONEXUS project closer to secondary education students, to raise awareness about the sustainability of coastal areas and promote marine environmental consciousness through a specific but also a Pan European approach.
- o to bring university life closer to secondary education students, to encourage them to study STEM-related degrees and introduce future careers in related industries.

### 1.2. Target groups

- ✓ Two target groups:

- Pupils aged 12-14
- Pupils aged 14-16

### 1.3. Topics' explanation

Throughout history, people have considered coasts as ideal locations for their settlements. Coasts provided them with food supplies, transportation, communication with other settlements, less harsh climate, etc. Over time, small settlements have developed into highly populated and largely expanded cities with an increasing demand for natural resources and services, leading to a threat for the ecosystem and the cities themselves. Overexploited resources, atmospheric deposition, polluted water sources, threatened marine environment, forced modern citizens to change their way of dealing with these coastal areas.

Nowadays, there is a tendency to transform cities into sustainable, self-efficient, green and technologically intelligent environments, the so-called **Smart Cities**. Some of the commonly used strategies for modern cities are based on the use of renewable energies, the lower consumption of natural resources, the regeneration of the natural systems, and downplaying of waste and pollution.

Building future-proof infrastructure and urban space is central to smart city ambitions. The most important goal of any smart city project should be to have a positive impact on the lives and well-being of its residents. Smart cities are based on Internet of Things technology that helps decision makers plan for the future and create greater environmental, social and economic sustainability. Physical infrastructure is further extended to green buildings, green urban planning, renovation of buildings and amenities, and smart energy.

**Smart buildings** and **green buildings** share a common motive in terms of energy management. Green buildings focus on optimizing energy consumption and reducing carbon footprint. The smart energy concept is more appealing because it promotes a holistic approach that consolidates green, sustainable, and renewable energy.

A smart city is a city that is rapidly evolving to serve citizens with the most innovative smart solutions in all aspects of life.

For the needs of this contest, **pupils aged 12-14** are asked how to transform their **school** into a **Sustainable Green Building** and **pupils aged 14-16** to transform **an existing area** (for example district, abandoned factory, no longer used port, etc.) of their city into a **Smart and Sustainable one**.

#### 1.3.1. Projects' specifications

##### Category 1: pupils aged 12-14

Pupils aged 12-14 should create a 3D model project (using sustainable and biodegradable materials, for example clay, paper and related products, cork, wood and related products, cotton, bamboo, etc.) showing all the specificities of their proposal as if to be presented to a construction company. The complete transformation has to be explained in a poster, which will be used as the only support material for the project presentation.



### **Model specifications and poster requirements**

The model size should maintain the same scale on the whole model (Length, Height, and Width).

The model will be sent for evaluation to the corresponding EU-CONEXUS representative in the country of origin for the pre-selection phase.

**The complete transformation has to be explained in a poster, which will be used as the only support material for the project presentation.** This poster should include images of the 3D model. The dimension of the poster will be A0 (118.9 x 84.1 cm) and in portrait or landscape format. This poster must be uploaded to the corresponding platform (see section 4).

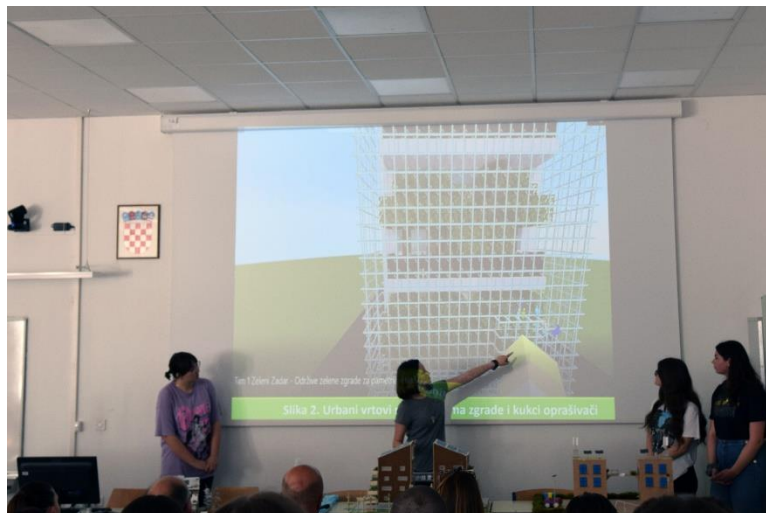
Sending a link to a video presenting the model to the national jury for pre-selection will only be accepted in cases when submitting the physical model is an impossibility. If the only available option to show the model to the national jury for the pre-selection is a link to a video, these are the requirements: voice ON (verbally explained) or voice OFF (using explanatory text) (depends on students' choice); those videos should have enough quality for the national jury to notice all the relevant elements of the project (as an MP4, for example). Nonetheless, their quality will not be assessed, that is, it will not be taken into consideration by national juries regarding their decision.

The selected projects will be presented to the national juries on site. Students should interact face to face with their national jury. During the presentation, which will last 10 minutes, the students should show their design step by step focusing on the most important, and innovative, aspects. Common problems and proposed solutions should be clearly presented and justified.

No pre-recorded videos will be accepted for any final.

### Category 2: pupils aged 14-16

**Pupils aged 14-16** should create a **computer-designed model** showing in detail all the specificities of their proposal as if to be presented to the city Council. The project should be accompanied by a **conference-like poster** explaining the complete transformation. This poster will be **the only support material for the project presentation**.



### Model specifications, video and poster requirements

For the project development, the following, or any other, programmes could be used: Minecraft schools, Roblox, Blocksworld, Growtopia, Lego Worlds, Block Craft 3D, SketchUp schools, or others.

For the selection process, a **link** to a short MP4 video (maximum 3 minutes) will be uploaded to the contest platform for evaluation by the corresponding EU-CONEXUS representative in the country of origin. For the pre-selection phase showing and explaining the model is mandatory. For example, a video with voice ON (students themselves explain their project) or voice OFF with some explanatory text (depends on students). The video must be originally created by the participants and if the music and images are not original, the participants are required to have permission to use them (This should be openly stated either in the video or mentioned at the end of it.).

The submitted project should be accompanied by a **conference-like poster** explaining the

complete transformation. This poster will be used as **the only support material for the project presentation**. The dimension of the poster will be A0 (118.9 x 84.1 cm) and in portrait format.

The selected projects will be presented to the national juries on site. Students should interact face to face with their national jury. During the presentation, the students should show their design step by step focusing on the most important, and innovative, aspects. Problems and proposed solutions should be clearly presented and justified.

No pre-recorded videos will be accepted for any final.

#### 1.4. Expected impact

The desired impact for **pupils** could be:

- To raise awareness about environmental sustainability,
- To develop English language skills,
- To trigger interest in other countries and cultures and raise consciousness about shared coastal issues,
- To develop digital skills,
- To develop creativity skills,
- To boost team building skills,
- To become active for social change,
- To develop youth entrepreneurship and social responsibility.

The desired impact for **teachers** could be:

- To raise awareness about environmental sustainability,
- To develop English language skills,
- To create strong bonds with students,
- To experience different teaching methods,
- To develop project management skills,
- To open venues to set up/participate in Erasmus+ teaching/research projects.

## 2. Eligibility

- There is not any limitation in the number of schools, nor teams within a school, that wish to participate. However, participants can be members of only one team, while teachers could lead more than one team within the same category.
- To be eligible to participate in this contest, candidates must be school students in any of the EU-CONEXUS country member
- Public and private schools can participate.

- There will be two (2) categories according to the participants' age:
  - **12 - 14 years-old (born 2010 - 2008)**
  - **14 - 16 years-old (born in 2008 - 2006)**
  
- Participants will make their teams of four (4) pupils and a leading teacher. Only teams of 4 students will be accepted, no exceptions.
- There is no limit in the number of teams that a single school can present to the contest.
- One teacher is allowed to lead more than one group of students within the same category.
- Students cannot be members of more than one group.
- The presentation of projects to national juries could be in the national language or English. The presentation of projects to the international jury will be in English only. All the materials presented for the contest shall be in English.
- The project should have been originally created by the participants.
- Any extra material not openly required in the contest specifications will not be evaluated.



### 3. Timeline

<b>Contest announcement:</b>	November
<b>Deadline of teams' registration*:</b>	27/01/2023
<b>Deadline extension</b>	<b>03/02/2023</b>
<b>Poster, video etc. submission deadline:</b>	10/03/2023
<b>Announcement of the 5-best works per age group:</b>	23/03/2023
<b>Projects' presentation to the national jury and announcement of national winners (1 per group) by the partner university</b>	30/03/2023
<b>Virtual projects presentation to the international jury and winner's announcement (1 per group) by the EU-CONEXUS European University:</b>	04/05/2023

*\* Dates may change for organisational reasons*

### 4. How to Participate

#### Information

The information about the Contest will be disseminated by the EU-CONEXUS universities based on their practices and spread in schools. The rules will be published on <https://www.eu-conexus.eu/en/> and member universities' websites.

#### Registration

Participants, via their leading teacher, should complete their registration adding all the teams that he/she leads (<https://apply.eu-conexus.eu/courses/course/16-sc-3rd-euconexus-school-contest-think-smart-create-green> ) by **27 January 2023**.\*

**\*Deadline extension until 3<sup>rd</sup> of February.**

#### Authorisation forms

1. The legal guardians of the students should authorize the pupils' participation by signing the authorisation file. The files of each country will be accessible to download on the <https://www.eu-conexus.eu/en/> page.
2. By signing the Application and authorisation, the legal guardians and teachers agree on copyright, image rights, etc. for EU-CONEXUS dissemination and public

assessment of works in national and international competition.

3. The authorisation forms should be uploaded to the inscription account of each leading teacher (see section below).

### **Inscription accounts**

1. For the convenience of the participants, personal accounts in the **contest platform** will be created for each leading teacher.
2. The leading teachers should be able to access their contest platform account here: <https://id.dreamapply.com/login?client=1439&legacy=1>
3. The leading teacher should upload the authorisation forms to the contest platform. ***IDs are not required. However, each school is free to follow its own rules and regulations.***

### **Projects' submission**

1. The projects should be submitted by **10 March 2023**.

#### 1.1 **Category 1:** pupils aged 12-14

The model should be sent for evaluation to the corresponding EU-CONEXUS representative in the country of origin for the pre-selection phase. The model must be accompanied by a poster explaining the complete transformation of their school. The poster should be uploaded to the contest platform.

#### 1.2 **Category 2:** pupils aged 14-16

A **link** to a short mp4 video (maximum 3 minutes) of the computer-designed model showing in detail all the specificities of their proposal as if to be presented to the city Council and a conference-like poster explaining the complete transformation of an existing area of their city into a smart and sustainable one should be uploaded to contest platform.

## **5. Jury Composition**

### **5.1. National jury**

Eight (8) national juries will be formed (one (1) in each EU-CONEXUS country (except for Germany which is not participating in this edition of this contest). The national jury will be composed of 5 members in total:

- staff members of the university (1 Programme Committee for Vocational Training (PC VT) member + 2 others) + 1 stakeholder + 1 local student.

### **5.2. International jury**

One (1) international jury will be composed of 9 members in total:

- A PC VT representative from each partner (8 members in total) + an EU-

CONEXUS Student Board representative.

## 6. Winners' selection

### 6.1. National winners' selection procedure

- Only the works submitted on time will be part of the national (and later international) selection process.
- Pre-selection: The national jury will select up to five (5) best works per category (based on general and quality criteria)
- Final selection: The best final contestants must present their projects to the national jury during a university organised event.
- The contestants can present their projects in their national language or English. They will have 10 minutes for their project presentation and then the jury will have a maximum of 5 minutes for questions.
- The jury will announce the winners on the same day (one (1) per category and they will be announced as national winners). The winners will be informed by email.

### 6.2. International winners' selection procedure

- EU-CONEXUS University submits the works of national winners (one (1) per category) to the international jury.
- The international contestants will present their works in English (virtually).
- They will have 10 minutes to do so. Then, the jury will have a maximum of 5 minutes to ask questions/ make comments. The jury will announce the winners on the same day (there will be a podium of three (3) places and they will be announced as international winners).
- The winners will be informed by email.

### 6.3. Contest winner assessment

#### 6.3.1. General criteria

- quality of the work and respect of the established rules
- creativity and originality
- the way environmental sustainability has been tackled in the project
- oral capacities to present the project (fluency and clarity)

6.3.2. Specific criteria

<b>Project Quality</b>	<b>Significant improvement required: 0,25pts.</b>	<b>Some improvement required: 0,5pts.</b>	<b>Good job: 1pt.</b>	<b>Excellent: 2 pts.</b>
<b>1. Task requirements</b>	The project does not meet the task requirements. The task has not been understood.	The project barely meets the task requirements. Task not fully understood.	Only one task requirement missing/ not appropriately met.	All the task requirements are appropriately met.
<b>2. Model quality</b>	The model shows hardly any innovation concerning sustainability. It does not venture off the beaten path.	The model shows a few signs of innovation concerning sustainability.	Some innovative & original sustainable solutions presented.	Outstanding innovative solutions about sustainability proposed, making the model unique.
<b>3. Poster quality</b>	The poster does not follow any of the established regulations.	The poster does not include pictures of the model OR does not comply with the established dimensions.	The poster includes all the requested information, but not appropriately OR The poster misses one of the required elements/ does not present it appropriately.	The poster appropriately includes all the requested information. It is easy-to-follow and smartly designed.
<b>Project presentation to the jury</b>	<b>Significant improvement required: 0,25pts.</b>	<b>Some improvement required: 0,5pts.</b>	<b>Good job: 1pt.</b>	<b>Excellent: 2 pts.</b>
<b>4. Time management</b>	Less than 5 mins. or more than 15 mins.	5-7 or 13-15 minutes	8-9 mins. (less than 10mins.) or 11-12 mins. (over 10 mins.)	10 minutes

<p><b>5. Public presentation skills</b></p>	<p>Too much hesitation; impeding pronunciation/ diction. Reading all the time, not a presentation / No faces seen, impossible to determine if they are reading/ The participant does not look at the jury.</p>	<p>Some hesitation; articulation/ pronunciation/ diction difficult to follow at times. Too much reading, the participant hardly ever addresses the jury.</p>	<p>Hardly any hesitation; clear enough articulation/ pronunciation/ diction. Occasional reading, i.e. note checking here &amp; there. The participant tries, not always successfully, to address the jury.</p>	<p>Clear articulation; good pronunciation/ diction throughout; appropriate body language. No reading at all, not even notes. The participant appropriately addresses the jury.</p>
<p><i>The points that each team collected following the criteria will be uploaded to the contest platform.</i></p>				

## 7. Prize

### 7.1. General rules

1. All the teams will receive a certificate of participation.
2. One (1) winner per category will be selected among the participating teams in each EU-CONEXUS country (national winner).
3. Then, each national winning team will compete at the international level.

### 7.2. National prize

EU-CONEXUS corporate goodies will be given to all the national winners (one (1) per category in each EU-CONEXUS country).

### 7.3. International prize

The prizes for international winning teams will be as follows:

1. Prizes for a total value of approximately 1000 Euros will be shared among all the members of the team who achieves the 1<sup>st</sup> place in the international competition, leading teacher included.
2. Prizes for a total value of approximately 750 Euros will be shared among all the members of the team who achieves the 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the international competition, leading teacher included.
3. Prizes for a total value of approximately 500 Euros will be shared among all the members of the team who achieves the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the international competition, leading teacher included.

8. Contacts of EU-CONEXUS Universities' representatives

Country	University's name	Contact person	Contact e-mail
<b>Greece</b>	Agricultural University of Athens (AUA)	Sophie Mavrikou Vera Charitou	<a href="mailto:sophie_mav@aua.gr">sophie_mav@aua.gr</a> <a href="mailto:vera.charitou@aua.gr">vera.charitou@aua.gr</a>
<b>Lithuania</b>	Klaipeda University (KU)	Rima Mickeviciene Erika Župerkienė	<a href="mailto:rima.mickeviciene@ku.lt">rima.mickeviciene@ku.lt</a> <a href="mailto:erika.zuperkiene@ku.lt">erika.zuperkiene@ku.lt</a>
<b>France</b>	La Rochelle Université (LRUniv)	Marie Bouchegnies Christelle Tallon	<a href="mailto:schoolcontest-eu-conexus@univ-lr.fr">schoolcontest-eu-conexus@univ-lr.fr</a>
<b>Spain</b>	Catholic University of Valencia (UCV)	Raquel Blave	<a href="mailto:euconexus@ucv.es">euconexus@ucv.es</a>
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<b>Romania</b>	Technical University of Civil Engineering of Bucharest (UTCB)	Mihnea Sandu	<a href="mailto:mihnea.sandu@utcb.ro">mihnea.sandu@utcb.ro</a>
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<b>Cyprus</b>	Frederick university (FredU)	Elena Papayianni	<a href="mailto:adm.pe@frederick.ac.cy">adm.pe@frederick.ac.cy</a>