The kick-off webinar is the starting event of a two-year university cooperation project between BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg and the American University of Beirut. This project aims at contributing to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the historic districts of Syria and preservation of its architectural heritage that have been severely damaged and continue to suffer due to the recent crisis. For this purpose and built on the knowledge and experience of the cooperation partners on rehabilitation and reconstruction of war-damaged or neglected and dilapidated old cities in Germany, Lebanon as well as in Syria and other countries in the Middle East, the focus is made on capacity building and promotion of young Syrian academics and professionals in the field.

The project does not intend to merely transfer the essential knowledge, but also to search for integrative and context-based methods for the specific situations in Syrian cities together with the cooperation partners, participants and the stakeholders from Syria. Conceptual approaches for new challenges, such as climate adaptations within the historic cities will also be taken into account. The assessment of specific pre- and post-conflict circumstances of each city that have enjoyed diverse and rich urban heritage for centuries and now are facing overwhelming series of complications, such as heavy destructions, economic decline, social tension and environmental crisis, shall come into play within the process of developing new approaches.

The kick-off event of this project consists of a two-day webinar and discussions for introducing the overall programme, sharing the pertinent experiences and practices by skilled professionals, building a base knowledge on the challenges of dealing with the war-torn Syrian cities and finally the selection of possible case studies for the forthcoming workshops. This event will be followed with block courses, workshops, training colloquia and the exchange of students during the period of 2021 and 2022 which will be announced accordingly.
**TIMETABLE**

**Wednesday 14 April 2021**  **09:00 to 13:10 Berlin time (UTC +1) / 10:00 to 14:10 Beirut time (UTC +2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:10</td>
<td>Welcome and Opening</td>
<td>Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:10 – 09:30</td>
<td>Introduction to the Programme</td>
<td>V. Prof. Christoph Wessling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:30 – 10:00</td>
<td>Aleppo Through the Lens of a Local Architect</td>
<td>Dima Dayoub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:20</td>
<td>Discussion: What are the urgent challenges for reconstruction of Syrian cities?</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:20 – 11:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:40</td>
<td>Cultural Significance of the Built Heritage</td>
<td>V. Prof. Dr. Alexandra Skedzuhn-Safir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40 – 12:00</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 12:40</td>
<td>Experiences of Post-Conflict Urban Reconstruction from Beirut</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Robert Saliba</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:40 – 13:00</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 – 13:10</td>
<td>Conclusion of first Day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Thursday 15 April 2021**  **09:00 to 13:20 Berlin time (UTC +1) / 10:00 to 14:20 Beirut time (UTC +2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00 – 09:30</td>
<td>Introduction to the Toolkit and Map of the Old City of Aleppo</td>
<td>Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam / V. Prof. Christoph Wessling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:30 – 09:50</td>
<td>Discussion: What kind of academic/scientific support is needed in Syria from outside?</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:50 – 10:30</td>
<td>Experiences of Post-Conflict Urban Reconstruction from Poland after World War II</td>
<td>Prof. em Inken Baller</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 10:50</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50 – 11:20</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20 – 12:00</td>
<td>Experiences of Post-Conflict Urban Reconstruction from Germany after World War II</td>
<td>Prof. em. Heinz Nagler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 12:20</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:20 – 12:50</td>
<td>Discussion: Conclusion and Possible Case Studies from Syria</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:50 – 13:20</td>
<td>Internal Meeting of the Coordination Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LITERATURE/LINKS


LITERATURE/LINKS


LITERATURE/LINKS on Syria

ArcHerNet, GIZ, AA (2020) Toolkit for Post-Conflict Recovery of Urban Cultural Heritage. Available at: https://www.recover-urban-heritage.org/


Berlin Museum for Islamic Art. Syrian Heritage Archive. Available at: https://syrian-heritage.org/


IUSD Lab Workshop (2016) Scenarios for Post-War Reconstruction in Aleppo. Available at: https://issuu.com/iusd.cairo/docs/02_doku_-_alp_06feb_mediumres

MEC Unit, BTU Cottbus (2019) Mapping the Old City of Aleppo. Available at: https://www.b-tu.de/middle-east-cooperation/research/research-projects/aleppo-archive-in-exile


PARTICIPANTS

Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus – Senftenberg
Faculty 6. Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning

Prof. Anna Lundqvist
Chair of Landscape Architecture

V. Prof. Dr. Alexandra Skedzuhn-Safir
Chair of Architectural Conservation

Prof. em. Inken Baller
Former Chair of Design and Construction Building in Existing Contexts

Prof. em. Heinz Nagler
Former Chair of Urban Development and Design

Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam
Research Associate, Middle East Cooperation Unit at the Chair of Landscape Architecture

BTU Cottbus Students of the Master Programs Urban Design – Revitalization of Historic City Districts, World Heritage Studies, Heritage Conservation and Site Management

American University of Beirut
Faculty of Engineering and Architecture

Prof. Dr. Howayda Al-Harithy
Head, Department of Architecture and Design

Prof. Dr. Robert Saliba
Department of Architecture and Design

AUB Students of the Master Programs Urban Design, Urban Planning and Policy

Technische Universität Berlin
Faculty VI Planning Building Environment

V. Prof. Christoph Wessling
Chair of Urban Planning and Urban Regeneration
Institute of Urban and Regional Planning

TU Berlin Students of the Master Programs Urban Design, Urban and Regional Planning

Berlin Museum of Islamic Art

Dima Dayoub
Project Coordinator at the Syrian Heritage Archive Initiative

Syrian Participants

16 participants from inside Syria and 33 participants from outside Syria
CONTACTS

Germany:
Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus – Senftenberg
Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning
Chair of Landscape Architecture
Middle-East-Cooperation Unit [@]
Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam, E: zarringhalam@b-tu.de
Christoph Wessling, E: wessling@b-tu.de

Lebanon:
American University of Beirut
Faculty of Engineering and Architecture
Department of Architecture and Design [@]
Prof. Dr. Howayda Al-Harithy, E: hharithy@aub.edu.lb
Prof. Dr. Robert Saliba, E: rs84@aub.edu.lb

Project Name
Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Historic Districts and Preservation of Architectural Heritage after Armed Conflicts

Project Partners
BTU Cottbus – Senftenberg and American University of Beirut

In Cooperation with
TU Berlin, Institute of Urban and Regional Planning

Funded by
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD e.V.)

Within the Framework of
DAAD Programme for University Cooperation with Jordan and Lebanon to Support Syrian University Staff 2021-22