



Barada RivEr/Generation_LAB - *Urban spaces' ecological resilience in the urban built environment of Damascus*

The **Barada RivEr/Generation_LAB** - Urban spaces' ecological resilience in the urban built environment of Damascus, is an initiative within the framework of the cultural and scientific cooperation agreement between the PDTA Department of Sapienza, University of Rome and the Department of Regional Development of Natural Resources and Environment Protection and the Department of Urban-structural Planning of the High Institute of Regional Planning of Damascus University. The project was funded within the framework of the Sapienza International Agreements 2022 Call for Proposals.

It is contextualised in the framework of the scientific and disciplinary debate on issues related to the effects induced on the territory by climate change and the progressive erosion of natural resources, with particular reference to river landscapes in urban contexts that represent a particularly complex condition in terms of biodiversity, productivity of ecosystem services and vulnerability. At the same time, river landscapes constitute a significant patrimonial and cultural value for the identity of cities and settled communities and, therefore, they can represent a resource to counteract the dynamics of degradation and the fragmentation of ecological-environmental connections, pursuing a new territorial articulation with which ecology gives back to the landscape its performative function, making it a new territorial infrastructure to support all the new activities of transformation and development and the historical-cultural and socio-economic valorisation of urban contexts.

The **Barada RivEr/Generation_LAB** is in line with the broader objectives of the Horizon Europe programme, in particular Cluster 2 Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society and Cluster 5 Climate, Energy and Mobility. It is also part of the framework proposed by the New European Bauhaus Programme (European Commission, 2021), which invites experts and citizens to imagine and build together a sustainable and inclusive future that is beautiful for the eyes, the mind and the soul; where beauty means space:

1. Enriching, i.e. inspired by art and culture, and responding to social needs as well as spatial functionality;
2. Sustainable, meaning in harmony with nature, the environment and the planet;
3. Inclusive, i.e. encouraging encounters between cultures, disciplines, genders and ages.

Therefore, during the **Barada RivEr/Generation_LAB**, an urban regeneration strategy for the Barada River, which flows through the territory of Damascus, will be tested. The river is affected by drought problems, mainly due to lower rainfall rates, a sharp increase in anthropogenic pressure in the area and severe pollution problems, especially in summer, when there is little water in the basin. Through the project experimentation activity, the Barada river route can thus become a vector of urban regeneration of the historical fabric of the city of Damascus, as well as a new ecological backbone of the city, activating ecological transition processes through the definition of the new green and blue infrastructure.

The **Barada RivEr/Generation_LAB** envisages a workshop that will be held at the Master Classroom of the PDTA Department of the Sapienza University of Rome, Via Flaminia n.70 (RM), from 4 to 8 November 2024.

The workshop will be open to the participation of a maximum of 25 students enrolled in the:

- 1st and 2nd year of the master's degree course in Architecture - Urban Regeneration (ITA and EN Curriculum);
- 1st and 2nd year of the master's degree course in Architecture Conservation (ITA and EN Curriculum);
- 4th and 5th year of the degree course in Architecture;

All students interested in participating in the **Barada RivEr/Generation_LAB** workshop must, **under penalty of exclusion from participation, submit the following documents**, aimed at selecting students:

Application form, drawn up in A4 format and containing the student's data: first name, surname, tax code, date of birth, place of birth, residence, study address, email address, accompanied by a copy of a valid identity document.

The following documents must be attached to the application:

- A brief Curriculum Vitae (maximum 1 sheet in A4, specifying any participation in similar workshops and internships, level of competence in computer programmes for graphic representation and level of knowledge of English);
- A project portfolio (maximum 3 sheets in A4 landscape);

The application, CV and portfolio must be sent in PDF format by **15th October 2024** to the following email address: baradariver.lab@gmail.com

The subject of the e-mail should be: "Barada River 2024 workshop application".

The selection will be made by the Technical Scientific Committee of the workshop. Selected participants will be notified by email. The official language of the workshop is English. **2 ECTS will be awarded for participation in the Workshop.** For further information please write to the email address: baradariver.lab@gmail.com

Scientific Committee of workshop: Carmen Mariano (Scientific Coordinator), Mosè Ricci, Ghada Bilal, Raida Deeb, Alessandra De Cesaris, Francesca Rossi, Omar Al Shawa, Marsia Marino.

Technical Organisation Committee of workshop: Maria Racioppi, Diana Ciuffo, Chiara Filicetti, Federico Ianiri.