The International Student Competition is part of the 9th Landscape Forum of the LE:NOTRE Institute. This event will be hosted by the Slovak University of Technology Bratislava in cooperation with the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra and the Vienna University of Technology from April 21 to 25, 2020.

1. GENERAL PRESENTATION

The LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum has worked on different focus areas so far, applied to relevant urban and peri-urban sites. For the 9th Landscape Forum in Bratislava, the title and general approach of both the forum and the student competition will be ‘Cross-Border Landscapes’, applied to the trinational urban landscape of Bratislava covering Slovak, Hungarian and Austrian territories.

The forum will focus on developing a common landscape vision for cross-border landscapes shared by Slovakia, Hungary and Austria, with a particular focus on the Bratislava metropolitan area on the Slovak side of the border, small rural settlements on the Austrian side of the border and the Three Countries Point where the borderlines intersect. The regeneration and transformation of cross-border landscapes - part of a sustainable development of the city is associated with development of green infrastructure, as a strategically planned network of urban and peri-urban open spaces, bringing ecological, economic and social benefits, contributing to the health and general quality of life of its citizens, recreational opportunities, supporting the "green" economy and increasing biodiversity. Recycling and transformation of neglected areas is important for sustainable development of the city through its reintegration into public use and the green-blue infrastructure of the city. Such a task can be considered as an integrative and democratic way of learning, developing new methods and approaching spatial and landscape issues, based on international experience.
The aim is to develop a comprehensive and systematic approach to urban planning and addressing knowledge-based, new technologies and collaborative relationships between urban and rural stakeholders, including cross-sectoral co-operation, academic community, local users and city offices, agencies and international experiences. With this approach, the academic community opens up to other spatial participants by sharing and disseminating their knowledge accumulated through numerous researches for the purpose of their actual application.

2. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- LE:NOTRE Institute: Dr. Attila Tóth
- ECLAS: Dr.-Ing. Ellen Fetzer
- Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava: Dr. Katarína Kristiánová
- Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra: Dr. Attila Tóth
- Vienna University of Technology: Prof. Richard Stiles
- Local and international experts contributing to the context analysis of the competition area

3. AIM OF THE COMPETITION

The LE:NOTRE International Student Competition aims to support integrated and holistic approaches to the urban, peri-urban and rural landscape through multidisciplinary student teams elaborating planning and design proposals at various scales.

The role of the urban periphery within a city’s overall dynamic needs to be rethought. The periphery should recover its essence and identity and become reconnected to the city’s spatial, social and cultural profile. Participating students will explore the peripheral landscape, question the complex processes in this specific landscape type, in relation to the city’s and its rural neighbourland context and dynamics.

The proposals should be developed around the following aspects. Participants are invited to interpret those and to set individual emphasizes:

- Sustainable visions for the relation of built tissue, open space and landscape elements
- Sustainable visions for the relation city – periphery and sprawl territories
- Proposals for improved connectivity at different scale levels
- Enhancement of ecological functions and ecosystem services
- Green and blue infrastructure elements based on a conceptual framework
- Sustainable traffic and mobility proposals
- Proposals for the sustainable development of tourism and leisure areas
- Visions for a better dialog between cultural heritage and dynamics of urban identities

Focus topics:

Taking the aspects mentioned above into account, we invite the competition participants to develop their concepts around one of the following themes. These topics are identical to the general structure of the landscape forum:
• **Urban growth and peri-urban sprawl**: The influence of the national border between Austria and Slovakia (that has been in place for the last 100 years from the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, as well as 30 years since the fall of the Iron Curtain and 15 years since Slovakia and Hungary joined the European Union) on urban growth and peri-urban sprawl of Bratislava - capital of Slovakia. Generally, urban development in larger cities is increasing the pressure on remaining open landscapes dedicated for instance to agriculture and the remaining green open spaces.

• **Sustainable tourism and leisure**: Landscape transformation and regeneration through ecological tourism development, recreational potential needs to coexist with ecosystem needs. There is a great potential of the competition area as it is located along the European Green Belt which is the backbone of the pan-European green infrastructure and has great ecological values. At the same time, the borderline touches the urban fringe of Bratislava and could serve as a great recreational infrastructure for the city and its peri-urban and rural neighbouring landscapes.

• **Heritage and identities**: Connection between different dynamics of landscape identities, the balance between regeneration and transformation of landscapes. The landscape in question is full of heritage layers and important identities. The complex heritage of borders and border landscapes reaching back all the way to Limes Romanum or more recently to one of the most dividing borders of modern human history – the Iron Curtain, that has though lost its physical presence, yet its strong negative legacy is still invisibly present.

• **Rural fringe and productive landscapes**: Multifunctional local foodscapes, integration of traditional and recreational agricultural areas. The competition participants will have to deal with the fact that the cross-border agricultural landscapes are important habitats and sites of the great bustard (*Otis tarda*), an endangered species that requires specific agricultural landscape habitats and agro-ecological measures.

• **Landscape and economy**: Landscapes are constantly creating economic values, not only with regard to ecosystem services. Which new partnerships can foster the economic sustainability of multifunctional landscapes? How can these landscape-economic models work and function across international borders? How can the rapidly growing economy of Bratislava be managed in this specific border landscape situation?

• **Landscape and democracy**: How can we make sure that everyone has equal access to landscape benefits and limited exposure to environmental risks? How can we achieve that stakeholders on both sides of the border have the same right to plan and manage their landscapes along the border? How can we build a common identity and citizenship across national boundaries in a shared landscape?
4. THEME and competition area: Cross-Border Landscapes between Slovakia, Austria and Hungary

Fig. 1: Competition area at the landscape scale showing the cross-border corridor – area for the landscape analysis and landscape concept (source: World Imagery Basemap from ESRI)
The landscape corridor along the border between Slovakia, Austria and Hungary (approximately 20 km long) represents problems and challenges of the specific peri-urban landscape situation, where the dynamics of urban development of the growing Slovak capital Bratislava meets the international border and affects the surrounding rural municipalities and rural agricultural landscapes with ecological values on the both sides (Fig. 1). Such an interesting urban–rural contrast can be considered as a unique landscape situation and perhaps a strong potential for sustainable development.

This area developed in the past, during the Austro-Hungarian Empire, without borders. Especially the period of the Iron Curtain, one of the most dividing and well known boundaries in human history, which divided Europe into West and East throughout four decades, has interrupted the common ties and mutual connections. Today the Iron Curtain is history, but it has left a unique cultural and natural heritage behind, the European Green Belt https://www.europeangreenbelt.org/, including nature-protection areas and nesting sites of the great bustard (Otis tarda).

After the fall of the Iron Curtain and since Slovakia and Hungary have joined the European Union, the peri-urban landscape of Bratislava has begun to spread across the border, as far as single family houses are concerned. Visions of co-ordinated cross-border territorial development of this area are therefore required, intensive harmonisation of local needs and a structured framework for mutual development planning, preserving values of natural and semi-natural areas and valorising cultural and historical heritage. The aspiration of design visions is to find innovative solutions solving conflicts between urban intensification and the preservation of the rural cultural landscape character, its natural features, and the blue and green infrastructure along the cross-border landscape corridor.

The landscape corridor includes many elements which could be part of a spatial design concept: old border patrol roads along the border, creating a path lined by abandoned watchtowers and border fortifications, the World War I cemetery, bunkers built before World War II. All these landscape features remind us that instead of walls and Iron Curtains, we should build bridges and instead of landscapes of conflict, we should value our shared natural and cultural heritage and aim for a more intensive cross-border cooperation. The cross-border landscape involves many other exceptional elements, for example the remnant of an historical baroque peasant garden, the famous apricot orchards of Kittsee, or the bird protection area NATURA 2000, protecting the habitat of the threatened great bustard, around Pama, Deutsch Jahndorf, Jarovce, Rusovce and Čunovo, or the the A-SK-H Three Countries Point, all of which are also attractive for tourism and recreation.

The cross-border landscape corridor has many different topics requiring an integrated landscape concept:
- Analytical approach specifying the landscape corridor’s general purpose and the development forces that are currently driving landscape change
- Reconsideration of possible urban development and intensification role in future development scenarios
- Implementation of sports, recreation and tourism without disturbing the ecosystems
- Agricultural landscapes and local foodscapes, possibility of integration with the urban green infrastructure and its visual appearance
- Connectivity, innovative transport systems, locating variable forms of mobility
- Sustainable development and strengthening nature protection strategies of the areas with special interest

4.1. Focus areas for the detailed spatial test design

Next to the general competition area (1) – which is the cross-border corridor from the north-western city edge of Bratislava to the Three Countries Point two focus areas are selected for the elaboration of site-specific design ideas and solutions: **1.1 Border Landscape in Transition / Cross-border Landscape Walk** - from urban to rural, from city to village, through open agricultural landscapes and across an international border. This focus area starts at Kopčianska street in Petržalka (Bratislava) on the Slovak side of the border and continues through the agricultural landscape to Pressburger Strasse in Kittsee on the Austrian side of the border; **1.2 Three Countries Point** – the trilateral border point between Slovakia, Austria and Hungary located in agricultural landscapes along the European Green Belt (the borderline) and important NATURA 2000 sites. The site includes the Sculpture Park located directly on the three countries point and is directly linked to municipalities in all three countries (see Figure 1 for the location of the 1. general competition area for landscape analysis and landscape concept, 1.1 focus area 1 “Border Landscape in Transition” in the north and 1.2 focus area “Three Countries Point” in the south.

4.1. Focus area 1: **Border Landscape in Transition / Cross-border Landscape Walk** – from Petržalka (Kopčianska Street) to Kittsee (Pressburger Strasse) – from urban to rural, from city to village.

The first focus area selected for the site-specific design is the area where the urban fabric of the collective housing estate Petržalka (Bratislava), built in 1970-80s, is in the closest proximity to the international border (Fig. 2). The collective housing district, with small industrial enterprises, warehouses, administration buildings and a shopping center located at the outskirts, is divided from the border area by the motorway.

The master plan of Bratislava allows further multi-storey residential and various civic amenity developments in the strip between motorway and the border, in contrast to the rural landscape with its arable strip-fields and apricot orchards reaching right to the border from the Austrian side. The historical Pressburger Strasse, on Slovak side Kopčianska Street, which in the past connected Kittsee and Bratislava is used today only to a limited extent, e.g. by cyclists. The old border patrol road, the World War I cemetery, and bunkers are also located in this area.
Fig. 2: **Focus area 1**: *Border Landscape in Transition / Cross-border Landscape Walk* – from Petržalka (Kopčianska Street) to Kittsee (Pressburger Strasse), selected for the detailed site-specific design (source: [https://mapa-mapy.info.sk](https://mapa-mapy.info.sk)).

**4.2. Focus area 2: Three Countries Point** at the interface between Austria, Slovakia and Hungary

The second focus area selected for a site-specific design is the point where the borders of the three countries -Slovakia, Austria and Hungary - meet (Fig. 3). The specific atmosphere of cross-border landscapes gets even more powerful at places where not only two, but even more countries share their borderlines. The A-SK-H border point is located in the middle of a vast open agricultural plain. There are no geographical or landscape limits that would indicate that the landscape here is divided among three different countries. The horizon is marked by signs of urban development, especially by the skyline of the Slovak capital, Bratislava, with its clearly recognizable landmarks – the Bratislava Castle or the Kamzik Hill with a television tower from the 1970s. The only sign that the landscape here is shared by three countries is a small ‘meadow island’ in the middle of an ‘arable-land sea’. The sculptures from twelve different sculptors, created in 1992, form the Sculpture Park of Three Countries.

Besides a strong historical legacy and a significant cultural heritage, this site is important also in terms of biodiversity protection, as the entire area is located at the interface of three Special
Protection Areas within the NATURA 2000 Network under the Bird Directive – Sysľovské polia (Slovakia), Parndorfer Platte – Heideboden (Austria) and Mosoni-sík (Hungary) where besides other rare species the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda* L.), Europe’s largest land bird, occurs.

The three-border point is attractive in terms of tourism and recreation. However, today it is not very well accessible and also not very well designed for users. Recreation, tourist trails, bird watching possibilities without disturbing the ecosystems could transform the former land of conflict into an inspiring multifunctional landscape with manifold dimensions – cultural heritage, ecology and biodiversity, agriculture, tourism and recreation, as well as education.

![Fig. 3: Competition focus area 2, Three Countries Point between Austria, Slovakia and Hungary (source https://mapa-mapy.info.sk)](image)

**5. ASSIGNMENT**

Participants are asked to elaborate the following contents:

**A. Landscape Analysis**

The basic landscape analysis needs to be presented at a scale of 1:25 000 using the territorial scope of the general base map provided in the competition repository. Feel free to work also at various scales using a mix of analytical methods. The landscape corridor length is approximately 30 km long. It stretches from the urban-rural transition landscape between Bratislava and Kittsee in the north to the Three Countries Point in the south.

A mixed-methods approach is encouraged. Combining scientific, creative and artistic methods should result in a deep understanding of the risks and potentials embedded in this landscape. The submission format is one poster at size A0 (PDF).
B. Landscape Concept
The Landscape Concept should cover the entire area of the cross-border corridor highlighted in Figure 1 and show the envisioned relationship of the corridor with the wider urban and peri-urban landscape. The landscape concept is also presented at scale 1:25 000.

Aspects to be covered:
- landscape elements and their enhancement, European Green Belt, NATURA 2000 areas
- functional zones including natural areas and open space typologies, connectivity, sustainable traffic

The Landscape Concept should have a catchy title or slogan, characterizing the specific approach of the student team. The landscape concept can be combined with conceptual diagrams (i.e. spatial and functional layers, bird eye view sketches, historical analysis, perspective sketches, a process model how to implement the approach etc.). Explanatory notes should be short and concise. Text information will be provided on one A4 (see point D). The submission format is one poster at size A0 (PDF).

C. Site-Specific Design
The contribution should show a spatial test-design for the two focus areas (1. Petržalka – Kittsee, 2. Three-Countries Point between Slovakia, Austria, and Hungary). The test-design for the Petržalka – Kittsee focus area is presented at scale 1:5 000 plus additional details. The test-design for the Three-Countries-Point is presented at scale 1:1000 plus additional details (or wider analysis). Format is 2x0 (one A0 for the Transition Landscape from Bratislava to Kittsee and one A0 for the Three Countries Point, both landscape format).

Aspects to be covered:
- spatial composition with built elements and open space typologies as well as potential areas for future developments
- additional information on functionality, traffic and connectivity provided with conceptual diagrams,
- clear conceptual approach to inclusiveness based on the stakeholder and target groups analysis,
- visualizations (hand-drawn or computer-based) and short explanatory notes.

The organizing committee is looking for reflexive and innovative approaches, giving value to the identity of the place and showing a strategy for the project’s realization. The overall vision of the area needs to be visible in analysis, concept, planning and design.

D. Written project – description
The overall concept and rationale of the project has to be explained in a short text on one A4 page.
6. REGISTRATION

The full set of background documents, plans and links is accessible after online registration. Registered participants will receive a neutral login ID which will also be used for submitting the proposals in an anonymous way. This ID needs to be shown on all submitted posters.

Please register under the following link:

7. PARTICIPANTS

The competition is open to students of landscape-related disciplines, in particular landscape architecture/planning, urban/regional planning and architecture as well as related disciplines such as arts, geography, agricultural sciences, dendrology, economics, environmental psychology, forestry, hydrology and water management, IT, archaeology, ecology, social anthropology, sociology or tourism. Levels of study may be bachelor, master or PhD.

Both individual and group submissions will be accepted. Each student or group is allowed only one entry. The maximum group size is limited to eight contributors. Interdisciplinary submissions are welcome. However, the design should still focus on the configuration of the landscape, so consultation from and cooperation with landscape related disciplines is very important.

8. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The organising committee recommends visiting the site in period from 17th until 25th of October, when a workshop at the Faculty of Architecture will be organized. The organized site visit (by bus) will be held on Friday 18th of October 2019 – the number of seats in the organized bus is limited, so we kindly ask you to inform us about your intention to join. Otherwise, site visits are self-organised, but there is a possibility to provide a short introduction and explanation from local experts upon request. A first information and feedback colloquium will be held on Monday, 21st of October 2019, 2 pm at Faculty of Architecture, Slovak University of Technology, Námestie slobody 19, Bratislava. A second colloquium in the form of a web conference will be held on November 20th, 2019, at 18pm CET. Registered participants will be able to submit questions for the colloquium in advance. In addition, registered participants will have access to an online forum for ongoing questions and answers.

9. AWARDS

The LE:NOTRE Institute will award three prizes and select another three submissions for being honorably mentioned. The award winners will get the possibility to present their project at the LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum to a group of international professionals and local stakeholders.
10. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Poster size and format
The submitted project must comprise four (4) A0 posters (841mmx594mm) – portrait (posters 1-2) and landscape format (posters 3-4) + (1) A4 project description

1. **Landscape Analysis**: Showing a base map at the scale 1:25 000 with your analysis plus analytical diagrams/sketches (unscaled, according to your own approach), A0 portrait

2. **Landscape concept**: at scale 1:25 000 with additional diagrams, analytical graphics, sketches or cross sections as necessary to illustrate the proposed concept, A0 portrait

3. **Site-specific design – Cross-Border Landscape in Transition (5C)** for detailed spatial visions and illustrations for the Transition Landscape between Petržalka (Bratislava) and Kittsee. The base scale is 1:5000 (presented on one A0, landscape format) plus additional details and visualisations.

4. **Site-specific design – Three Countries Point (5C)** for detailed spatial visions and illustrations for the Three Countries Point. The base scale is 1:1000 (presented on one A0, landscape format) plus additional details and visualisations. You can use visualizations like diagrams and schemes, cross sections, models and 3D drawings, details and visualisations as necessary to illustrate the test-design proposed. Both hand-drawn and computer-based visualizations are welcome.

The submission format is PDF. The submission is only online and includes:
- 4 PDF files - 1 for each of the A0 posters
- 1 PDF file with the Project Description
- 1 PDF file with the Declaration Form

Individual PDF files should not exceed 60 MB, minimum resolution is 200 DPI.

It is the responsibility of the participants to guarantee that the final images and files are in the size and resolution adequate to their reading. The entrants must ensure that all images, photographs and other material taken from other sources are correctly accredited. All files must be completed in English. Registered participants will receive further information concerning the electronic submission.

**Submission ID**
Each participant or participating team will receive a unique and anonymous ID upon registration. This ID needs to be put into the top left corner of each submitted poster (size and format of ID: Arial, font 72). The posters must be numbered to be seen in the right order during the selection.

**Written information**
Enterants must also submit a brief description (250 words maximum) in a separate PDF file, identified only by the anonymous ID (DO NOT include the names of the students or the name of the university). This description must be a clear and concise text explaining the key aspects shown
in the concept design proposal. The text is to be left aligned (left unjustified) and double spaced, in Arial, font 12.

**Competition language**

All submissions must be entirely in English, which is the official language of the LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum. Local names and specific conditions of each country may be included in the local language. This is to ensure that all material can be understood by the jury, who conduct their reviews in English.

### 11. ANONYMITY AND PROTOCOL

All plans are supposed to bear the anonymous ID number given to each registered participant in the top left corner (Arial, font 72).

The following naming convention applies to all submitted files: Your ID_1.pdf, Your ID_2.pdf etc. An additional PDF file, with the complete declaration form must be included. This must be fully completed. The declaration form will be submitted separately from the project PDF files, and will only be consulted by the jury once the final deliberations are completed.

### 12. COMPETITION RULES

**Participation in the competition implies acceptance of the competition rules.**

- Proposals received after the deadline (see pt. 15) will not be admitted.
- Presentations that do not include the author declaration form will not be admitted.
- Submissions shall only be accepted if submitted online in the way described above.
- A selection of the works submitted will be shown in an exhibition during the 8th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum 2020 in Bratislava and may be also exhibited elsewhere at the discretion of the Local Organizing Committee.
- The Local Organizing Committee retains the right of duplication or publication of any or all the material submitted to the competition, and there shall be no obligation whatsoever to the entrants, beyond acknowledging the authorship of the works exhibited or published.
- Submissions that have been published in any way prior to the notification of the jury final decision will not be considered.
- The jury shall preside over the competition and is the sole arbiter at all levels until the final awarding of prizes. All decisions of the jury are final.
- The winners of the prizes and honourable mentions shall be announced by the Chair of the 9th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum 2020 in Bratislava, upon recommendation of the jury.
- All inquiries must be directed to the Competition organising committee. Please read carefully through the brief and instructions, as all required information should be
contained there. Jury member are not to be addressed in any way in relation to the competition.

- Participants will need to submit a declaration confirming that competition data and background information will not be used for other purposes.

13. JURY MEMBERS

The competition jury will be composed of local and international experts in the field of landscape architecture, spatial planning, urban design and infrastructure planning and regional development:

- **Eva Wernerová**, landscape architecture, Slovak Chamber of Architects, Committee for competitions and public procurement (Slovakia)
- **Štefan Lančarič**, landscape architecture, Slovak Chamber of Architects, IFLA representative (Slovakia)
- **Karl Grimm**, landscape planning and landscape architecture, Austrian Society of Landscape Architecture (Austria)
- **Marek Dinka**, spatial planning, City of Bratislava – Department of Spatial Planning (Slovakia)
- **Christian Berger**, economy, urban management, regional development, NÖ.regional GmbH (Projekt BAUM 2020)
- **Maria Beatrice Andreucci**, landscape architecture, landscape economy, University of Rome – La Sapienza (Italy)
- and further local / regional / international experts (to be announced)

14. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The jury will evaluate your projects according to the following set of criteria. Please always check your project against these criteria during your work process:

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<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>The degree of connection of the proposed vision to the actual landscape context</td>
<td>The authors show that they have studied and analysed the characteristics of the cross-border landscape between Slovakia, Austria and Hungary from various perspectives. They are aware of the specific spatial, ecological, social, cultural and economic factors. The analysis takes current trends, threats and challenges into account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodological clarity and consistency</td>
<td>The step from analysis to concept development is clearly structured. Challenges, potentials and threats for the cross-border landscape have been derived from the analysis in a logical and coherent way. Planning and design objectives have been on this basis and are clearly articulated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conceptual expression and clarity</td>
<td>The concept is clearly linked to the objectives derived from the landscape analysis and</td>
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evaluation. The concept responds to the local landscape context.

| Sustainability | The three pillars of sustainability are supported by the planning and design concept:
|                | - Social dimension
|                | - Environmental dimension
|                | - Economic dimension

| Innovation and creativity | The authors demonstrate that they have worked with the local landscape context and added a new dimension of reflection, design and visioning to the cross-border landscapes between Austria, Slovakia and Hungary.

| Visual communication | The posters are well readable. The authors have managed illustrate the complexity of the landscape and landscape-related processes in way that is understandable for other disciplines and stakeholders from different sectors. The authors succeed in integrating process models and holistic visions that build on the specific character and topography of the place.

15. SCHEDULE AND DEADLINES

Official start of the working period: October 1st, 2019

Second Bratislava and Surroundings Conference, Topic: Where does Bratislava begin and end? 17th of October in Bratislava. The conference is free of charge but requires online registration:

http://u.d-mail.at/pf/330/20191017_baum_Anmeldung_neutral


On site visit recommended: 17th – 25th of October (43rd calendar week)

First information and feedback colloquium: Monday, 21st of October 2019, 2pm at Faculty of Architecture, Slovak University of Technology, Námestie slobody 19, Bratislava, additional registration for this colloquium is necessary.

Online feedback colloquium: November 20th, 2019, at 18pm CET

Latest registration date: January 10th, 2020

Submission deadline: January 31st, 2020, at midnight CET

Jury selection: March 1st, 2020

Award Ceremony in Bratislava: April 23rd, 2020 (to be specified within the LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum final programme)
16. CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the 9th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum Bratislava 2020 and participation at the student competition, please visit the website:

- http://forum.ln-institute.org

Registration link:


Basic maps and background materials will be accessible after registration.

Any further project communication will be possible for registered participants via an online forum.

Good luck!