SUSTAINABLE POLICY MAKING & PLANNING IN EUROPE
June 3rd to 25th, 2017

Instructors: Dr. Ralph Buehler (ralphbu@vt.edu)
                     Dr. Todd Schenk (tschenk@vt.edu)
                     Dr. Suzanne Moomaw, University of Virginia

Locations: Freiburg (Germany), Strasbourg (France), Zurich and Riva San Vitale (Switzerland), Venice (Italy), Budapest (Hungary), and Prague and Ostrava (Czech Republic)

Credits: 3 or 6 (your choice)

Program Fee: $4,300 (*excluding tuition, flight to/from Europe, and incidentals*)

Themes: Multimodal transport; water resource management; environmental policy in the EU; urban form and city design; non-governmental organizations; and European solutions to wicked problems

Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime journey to explore **planning and policy-making in contemporary Europe**. We will meet policy-makers and other stakeholders, examine some of Europe's most pressing challenges and innovative solutions, and see a variety of cities through the eyes of locals. This three or six credit study abroad program has four components:

1. Fundamentals of sustainability and environmental policy-making in modern Europe (online prior to trip and France);
2. Making urban transport sustainable: How European cities promote walking, cycling, and public transport (Germany and Switzerland);
3. Water resource management: the sustainable management and provision of this critical resource (Italy and Switzerland);
4. Addressing Europe's wicked sustainability challenges and the roles for civil society (Italy, Hungary and the Czech Republic).

The trip will afford multiple opportunities to explore how the unique histories, urban forms, and contemporary nature of European cities shape human behavior, and advance and challenge long-term sustainability. After meeting in Prague, the group will travel to the city of **Ostrava, Czech Republic** to examine a challenging case study that involves environmental, economic and cultural dimensions. The group will then head to **Budapest, Hungary** and visit a couple of organizations to get a sense of how environmental policy is shaping an expanding Europe, the roles of civil society, and learn about Europe's 'refugee crisis'. The next stop will be **Venice, Italy**, with a focus on the multi-billion dollar MOSE project constructed to tackle acute flooding. Virginia Tech's Steger Center in **Riva San Vitale (Ticcino), Switzerland** will be the next stop, serving as a base for exploring sustainability in that region. Lectures and discussions will focus

on water resource management. Water will remain the topic as the group moves to **Zurich, Switzerland**. In **Strasbourg,** France the group will visit the European Parliament and meet with local policy makers to discuss sustainable transport. The last stop will be **Freiburg, Germany** to examine its state-of-the-art cycling, walking, and public transport infrastructure.

Costs:

The **program fee, which we estimate will be $4,300,** covers accommodations; most meals; transportation costs within Europe; tours and site visits that are officially part of the program; CISI travel insurance; and administrative costs.

In addition, students will be **charged summer tuition**, and are expected to **cover their travel to and from Europe** and **other (individual) expenses**. A very rough estimate is:

- Tuition fees ~ $1,067 to $5,494*
- Round trip airline ticket ~ $1,200 to $1,600
- Passport and visa fees ~ $0 to $110**
- Books and supplies ~ $50
- Personal expenses ~ $400***

Visit the course website:

* Depending on registration for 3 or 6 credits, and whether or not a VA resident.
** Depending on citizenship and whether or not you already have a valid passport.
*** Depending on individual travel (outside course), souvenirs, and other items.

Education abroad financial aid may be available for Virginia Tech students. Contact Virginia Tech's Global Education Office for more information: http://www.educationabroad.vt.edu/

For more information, please visit https://europestudies.wordpress.com, or contact us at tschenk@vt.edu (Todd Schenk) and ralphbu@vt.edu (Ralph Buehler).