



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
VIRGINIA TECH.

SUSTAINABLE POLICY MAKING & PLANNING IN EUROPE

May 25th to June 19th, 2024

Instructors:	Dr. Ralph Buehler (ralphbu@vt.edu) Dr. Todd Schenk (tschenk@vt.edu)
Locations:	Prague and Ostrava (Czech Republic), Budapest (Hungary), Vienna (Austria), Venice (Italy), Riva San Vitale and Zurich (Switzerland), Freiburg (Germany), and Strasbourg and Paris (France)
Credits:	3 or 6 (your choice)
Program Fee:	\$4,500 (<i>excluding tuition, flight to/from Europe, and incidentals</i>)
Themes:	Environmental, social, and economic sustainability; multimodal transport; environmental policy in the EU; urban form and city design; sustainable food systems; 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 VT faculty-led** study abroad program has four components:

1. **Fundamentals of sustainability and environmental policy-making in modern Europe**, online prior to trip, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, and other locations;
2. **Making urban transport sustainable**, with a focus on how European cities promote walking, cycling, and public transport (Germany, Switzerland, and elsewhere);
3. **Addressing Europe's wicked sustainability challenges**, from flood prevention in Venice, Italy, to heavy industry, cultural preservation, and employment in the Czech Republic; and
4. **The roles for civil society in advancing sustainability**, from energy policy in Hungary to Roma self-empowerment in 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. In the industrial city of **Ostrava, Czech Republic**, we will examine the environmental, economic and cultural dimensions of the challenges it faces, from air quality to discrimination against Roma. In **Budapest, Hungary**, local partners will discuss the roles of non-governmental organizations and introduce the dynamic politics of the region. In **Vienna, Austria**, we will visit a brownfield redevelopment site and discuss this city's novel housing policies. In **Venice, Italy**, we will focus on the multi-billion-Euro MOSE project constructed to tackle acute flooding. We will tour the lagoon and have time to explore this magical city and visit the Venice

Biennale. 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, including sustainable food systems. In **Freiburg, Germany**, we will focus on the city's state-of-the-art cycling, walking, and public transport infrastructure. In **Strasbourg, France** the group will visit the European Parliament and explore this beautiful city. The program will conclude in **Paris, France**, a crown jewel of Europe in many ways, including interventions to increase active transportation.

Costs:

The **program fee, which we estimate will be \$4,500**, covers accommodations; most meals; transportation costs within Europe; tours and site visits that are officially part of the program; 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 ~ \$1,200 to \$7,600*
- Round trip airline ticket ~ \$800 to \$1,500
- Passport and visa fees ~ \$0 to \$110**
- Books and supplies ~ \$50
- Personal expenses ~ \$400***

* Depending on registration for 3 or 6 credits, grad or undergrad and whether or not a VA resident. Subject to Registrar's Office policies and update.

** Depending on citizenship and whether or not you already have a valid passport.

*** Depending on individual travel (outside course), souvenirs, and other items.

Visit the course website:



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

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

