**URGENT Writeshop in Mongolia, May 3 – 16, 2022**

**Goal:** The purpose of the writeshop is to elaborate on the general frame ensuring the consolidation of the URGENT research and research training action, and its sustainability after the end of the project lifetime. The following outputs are expected as a result of the writeshop (and the post-writeshop period)

**The gaps in the expertise related to URGENT topics**

* Mongolia does not have an independent law on green space policy. The Law on Green space is necessary to regulate the relations related to the planning, maintenance, protection, rehabilitation and assessment of green space in urban areas. Therefore, it is necessary to learn from the experience of European partners on how to successfully implement the green space legislation.
* Ulaanbaatar city faces high challenges because of growing urbanization and environmental degradation /air and soil pollution/. And there is a lack of understanding on using urban green spaces planning for urban resilience and livability. Therefore, research is needed to develop a multi-criteria-based classification system /systematization of urban green space/ of green space planning that meets the social and ecological needs of the city.
* Urban Ecology: Landscape Architectural Planning Services: There are no studies that have identified the multifaceted impact of landscape architecture planning on urban ecology and the healthy and safe lives of its citizens. Therefore, MULS wants to launch a joint doctoral study aimed at proposing optimal landscape architectural planning to reduce the negative impact on the sustainable development of the city, positively influencing the decisions of policymakers, publicizing the research results, and promoting professional values.
* At a time when Mongolia is launching the “Billion Trees” national campaign, the question is where and how to plant a billion trees in an ecologically and economically efficient way. Comprehensive landscape architecture planning is essential for the effective implementation of this national campaign. Therefore, we need good experience and advice on landscape architecture planning in foreign countries.
* Heavy metals and pesticides are dangerous pollutants in the environment and serious problems to human health and agricultural production. In Mongolia, the issue of urban environmental pollution is of great concern, and research study (MSc and PhD thesis) to assess the accumulation of heavy metals and pesticide residues in urban agriculture soils and vegetable crops is very important. It would be very helpful to depth understanding of the bioaccumulation, mechanism of action, and transmission pathways of both toxicants, and their human health harms through transference in the food chain.
* There is no integrated database of green-blue infrastructure in urban area, research materials are not widely available, no accurate statistical data exist, collaboration between same or similar organizations are week.
* Lack of human capacity who has modern understanding about urban sustainable development, 3D spatial green planning, nature-based solution, ecological technology, ecological service and disservice.
* In small town case such as Khovd center, knowledge and experience of land managers, architectures, urban planners are outdated.
* University curriculums for land managers, urban planners, land cadastral are based on geographical science. They need to have spatial engineering knowledge.

**Knowledge gap:**

Lack of knowledge and experience in adapting to urban climate change, planning and availability of green and blue facilities, location appropriateness, environmentally friendly solutions and spatial suitability analysis for green-blue infrastructure.

1. Guideline and legal environment: Classification and legal issues of urban green space planning;
2. Urban Ecology: Landscape Architectural Planning Services;
3. Landscape architecture: National Campaign to Plant One Billion Trees;
4. Urban-Agriculture: air/soil pollution and food quality and safety issues;
5. Terminology understanding: urban sustainable development, 3D spatial green planning, nature-based solution, ecological technology, ecological service and disservice

**Doctoral and master's research topics:**

1. Urban green space classification and systematization
2. Urban Ecology: Landscape Architectural Planning Services
3. Billion Tree National Compaign and effective landscape architecture planning
4. Heavy metals and pesticides toxicity in urban agricultural soil and plants
5. Ecosystem service and disservice in urban environment

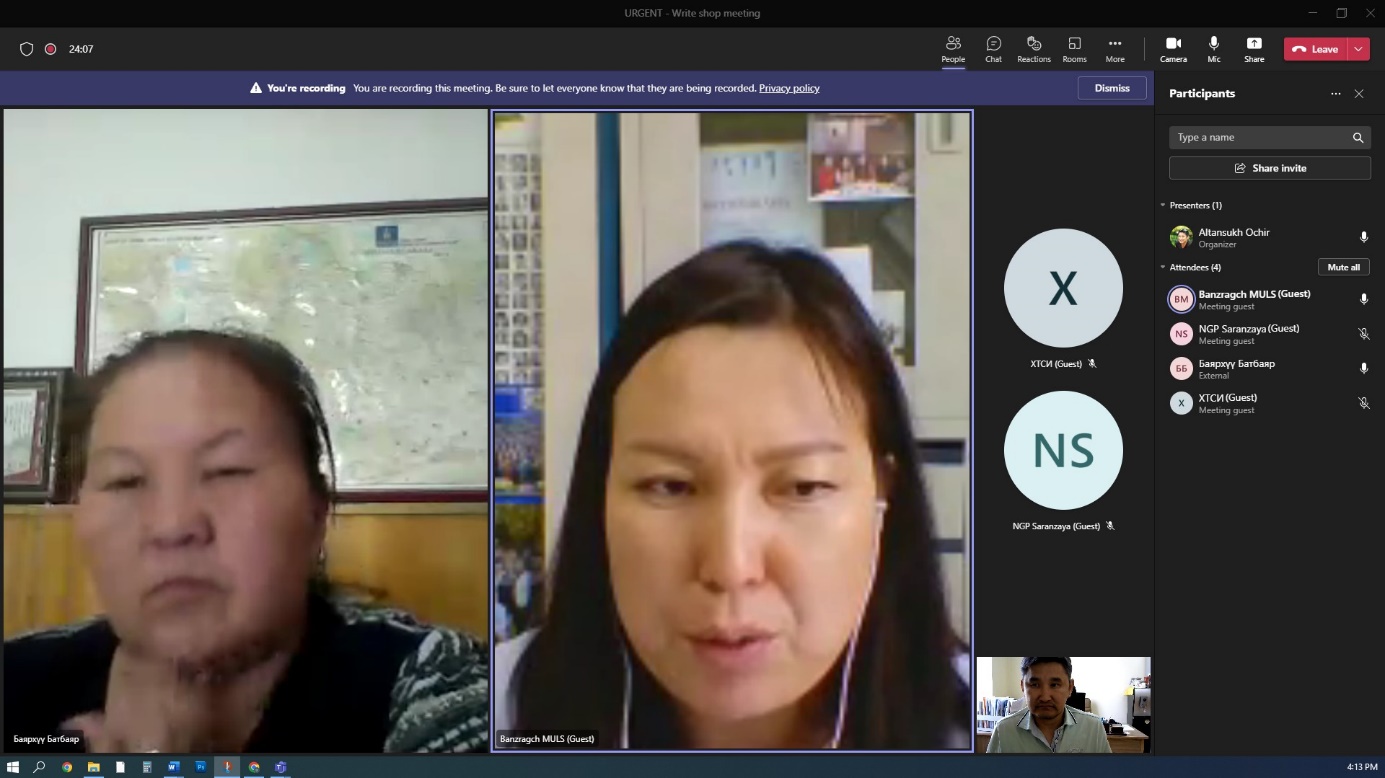
**Challenges / gaps / specific requests**

This specific challenges and requests can be addressed by the following means:

* direct requests to the experts from EU partners;
* short visits by EU/IN students or staff to/from the EU with purposes of e.g. developing teaching and learning materials, thesis chapters and publications, relevant project proposals;
* co-supervision of PhD and/or MSc students.

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| Topic | Challenges | Gaps | Requests | URGENT  WP | Mongolian partners | European partners |
| Guideline and legal environment: Urban green space classification and systematization | In-depth research in this area has been done before, and experts lack knowledge and  Weak  management and policies on landscape architecture planning | There is no comprehensive database and weak coordination of professional organizations  There is no integrated policy of landscape architecture planning based on an urban sustainable development program | Learn from international experience and methods, conduct joint research with experienced professors | To develop capacity for academic mobility | UPRI |  |
| Urban Ecology: Landscape Architectural Planning Services | There is no professor who has supervised a doctoral student in landscape architecture | There is no unified urban green space planning | Co-supervision of a new doctoral thesis specifically addressing of this topic | Build capacity of teaching staff | NUM |  |
| Billion Tree National Compaign and effective landscape architecture planning | Lack the experience to effectively implement the Billion trees national campaign | lack of experience and methodology for developing comprehensive landscape architecture planning. | Learn from international experience and methods, conduct joint research with experienced professors | Improving the knowledge and skills of teaching staff | NUM  UPRI  NGP |  |
| Heavy metals and pesticides toxicity in urban agricultural soil and plants | Lack of laboratory supply and capacity | Monitoring and assessment of pesticide usage in agriculture are poorly developed | Co-supervision of a new MSc and PhD thesis,  Mutual visits and support to the fieldwork and laboratory analysis | To develop capacity for academic mobility | NUM |  |
| Integrated open database of green-blue infrastructure | There is no integrated database of green-blue infrastructure in urban area, research materials are not widely available, no accurate statistical data exist, collaboration between same or similar organizations are week. |  | To organize training how to use drone application to built database and mapping | To train specialist and snow actual examples | UPRI  NGP |  |
| Modern understanding | Lack of human capacity who has modern understanding about urban sustainable development, 3D spatial green planning, nature-based solution, ecological technology, ecological service and disservice. |  | To organize training in Mongolian languages with examples | Build capacity of teaching staff and specialist | UPRI  NGP |  |

Mongolian team has been organized virtual meeting about gaps in the expertise and knowledge on 16 May 2022. Before the meeting, we developed questionary on gaps in the expertise and knowledge, and collected answers were attached.

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