End of the second elective course LIVING LAB LOW3 2011 at the Sant Cugat Campus, introducing participatory teaching activities based on Living Lab methodologies.

16 of December 2011
Dear collaborators, sponsors and friends of LIVING LAB LOW3, in the following you can find information about the latest activities at the LIVING LAB LOW3 project:

Elective course LIVING LAB LOW3 2011 – teaching innovation at the Sant Cugat campus

The LIVING LAB LOW3 at UPC-Barcelona Tech has concluded its second course based on the Living Lab approach, focused on a model of participatory teaching to generate maximum learning on sustainable architecture, energy efficiency and renewable energies, and all aspects related to a more sustainable lifestyle.

One group of students evaluated the prototype through sensors under specific protocol to analyze its bioclimatic performance. A second group focused on the ventilation system with heat recovery, whereas others created a virtual platform for discussion and co-learning, based on blogs and forums, in order to widen the debate and course activities further the physical limits of the house. This initiative is part of the AteneaLab program at UPC-Barcelona Tech.

Students received very positively the proposal of a participatory teaching and showed great interest in exploring and evaluating the house and debating about sustainability at all scales, our model of society with its pattern of consumption and its dependency on energy and resources in general.

The house, with its concept of bioclimatic architecture, its use of solar systems, its grey water recycling and energy efficient HVAC systems, showed to be a perfect place for discussing these aspects within a holistic vision, fostering the capacity of critical thinking of the students.

The LIVING LAB LOW3 2011 class also developed a concept for a temporary house occupation as flat in 2012, with the aim to evaluate the prototype under real conditions and to document the experience of its temporary occupants.
Participation in the CREDO program – Introducing sustainability in higher education

The LIVING LAB LOW3 as platform for education and research in sustainability received the visit of 20 professors from universities in Kirgizstan, Moldavia, Bosnia, and Ukraine in the marc of the CREDO project, leaded by the KTH University at Stockholm.

After a visit to the campus and its buildings and an in to deep explanation of the LOW3 project, the guests participated in an exercise for the creation of Living Lab concepts for their own universities.

Visits and education at LIVING LAB LOW3

During the last months, a great variety of groups have visited the LOW3 prototype at our campus, amongst them experts in energy efficiency from Stavanger / Norway, students of the XALOC school for professional training and students and teachers from Castellon University.

They all received information about the main applied concepts in bioclimatic architecture, the use of solar energy, grey water recycling, energy efficient HVAC systems and the impact of construction materials within the environmental balance of a building.

At the same time discussions were raised about different issues of sustainability amongst visitors and the academic staff of UPC-Barcelona Tech.

LIVING LAB LOW3 – KIC InnoEnergy e Intelligent Energy/10Action

In the context of the Campus of Energy at UPC-Barcelona Tech and the European KIC InnoEnergy program, contracts have been closed for the development of the LIVING LAB LOW3 Learning Module as participative teaching module for education in sustainable architecture and lifestyle.

Schneider Electric and TU/e – Technical University of Eindhoven are the two partners which will collaborate during 2012 in this task.

Within the European program Intelligent Energy – 10Action, directed by IDEA for the European Commission, which aims for converting the SOLAR DECATHLON EUROPE 2010 solar houses into educational modules for a broader public, activities are going on through regular guided visits to the house.

The support of the Sant Cugat City Hall as well as the Catalan Government will allow the more activities of this type in 2012.
The (e)co 2012 team of UPC prepares the construction of the new SDE prototype at our campus

The new UPC Solar Decathlion team is almost ready to start construction of the (e)co prototype for Solar Decathlon Europe 2012.

An important number of companies which supported LOW3 in 2010 are actually supporting this new project, with a house concept and team rooted in the LOW3 prototype.

A highly motivated student team actually directs the project and will manage the whole construction process within the following months at our campus.

You can find more information and contact details of the (e)co 2012 Solar Decathlon team at the following website: www.solardecathlon.upc.edu/2012

LIVING LAB LOW3 offers in this context the perfect environment for meetings with companies and presentations of the new prototype, guaranteed in its concept through the success of LOW3 in the 2010 competition.

¡We invite as always to follow and participate in the activities of the new LIVING LAB LOW3 at UPC – Barcelona Tech and to give support to the (e)co team on its way to Madrid next year!

Yours sincerely

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