



## **Circular construction economy: RE-MED student training program at AUB.**

To disseminate the research and knowledge produced through the RE-MED project across the Mediterranean, the RE-MED student training program consisting of 4 trainings held in each of Lebanon, Italy, and Tunisia was launched starting 2023. The first edition of the training program entitled “Circular Construction Economy” was held at the American University of Beirut during the week of February 20. 22 PhD and Master’s candidates were admitted into the program following a competitive shortlisting process.

The first 3 days of the training covered 9 training lectures, 1:30hrs each:

The RE-MED project and the state of the art of construction and demolition wastes (CDW) in the project’s partner countries,

- Circular economy and its applications,
- Production methods, characterization, and use of hydraulic CDW,
- Production methods, characterization, and use of reclaimed asphalt,
- Life cycle assessments,
- Life cycle cost assessments,
- Policies and master plans,
- Micro and macro-economic modeling,
- BIM modeling.

The lectures were given by professors and project partners from different universities and entities: Prof. Issam Srour and the master degree graduate Antoinette Abou Jaoude from the American University of Beirut (AUB), Prof. Gaetano Di Mino and Prof. Laura

Inzerillo from the University of Palermo (Unipa), Dr. Oumaya Marzouk from Cerema France, and Prof. Nouredine Hamdi from the Higher institute of the Sciences and Techniques of Waters of Gabès (ISSTEG).

Students were also given a lab session in AUB's geotechnical labs covering an overview of different tests performed on recycled aggregates, as well as testing demonstrations, and hands-on student experiments.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> and last day of training, students were taken on a field trip to the "Rubble to Mountain" project site near the Bakalian mills in Karantina, accompanied by Ms. Mona Hallak -the director of AUB's neighborhood initiative-. The site is a CDW recycling facility habilitated after the Beirut Port blast for the recycling of all CDW including hazardous wastes. Students were introduced to the different processes that take place at the "Rubble to Mountain" recycling facility and got the chance to see the practical implemented side of CDW management in Lebanon.

Following the site visit, students were encouraged to apply the knowledge acquired during the training by working on circular economy-related projects. These projects showcased the participants' ability to devise innovative solutions and sustainable strategies in line with the principles of circular construction. The training culminated with the students presenting their projects, effectively concluding the "Circular Construction Economy" training at AUB.

