

## VISIT TO AALTO UNIVERSITY

### Teaching visit at Alto USP Urban Challenge Studio 1 – Streets for Life: Spanning Beyond Human Life

By: Skirmante Mozuriunaite, Associate Professor, VILNIUS TECH University

The NORDTEK MOBILITY PROGRAM plays a vital role in supporting academic career development and fostering collaboration between universities and researchers. With the assistance of the Nordtek mobility scholarship, Skirmantė Mozūriūnaitė from VILNIUS TECH University spent the autumn semester of 2024 at Aalto University.



During her teaching visit at Aalto University, Skirmantė contributed to the interdisciplinary course "Urban Challenge Studio 1," led this year by Susa Eräranta. The studio focused on urban street life, incorporating perspectives that extend beyond human-centric design. In light of accelerating climate change, addressing urban challenges through more inclusive and integrative approaches is crucial. Specifically, the course emphasized a transition from automobile-focused design to creating streets that are livable for all.

The study area for the course included the Kallio–Sörnäinen–Kalasatama neighbourhoods near Helsinki city centre. These areas represent various stages of urban development: Kallio is well-established, Sörnäinen is undergoing transformation, and Kalasatama is a newer development. Their distinct streetscapes offer diverse conditions for supporting the coexistence of different forms of life.

Students in the Studio 1 course were tasked with analysing selected areas, urban challenge themes, and specific situations, drawing on theories and issues from multiple disciplines. Through their projects, students were expected to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of urban dynamics across spatial and temporal scales, considering local, regional, national, and global impacts.



I would like to express my gratitude to NORDTEK for enabling and nurturing this scientific and academic partnership.



Skirmantė Mozūriūnaitė  
Head of Doctoral School  
VILNIUS TECH