

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### Trinational Fall School

# ***“Transdisciplinary approaches to the sustainability of water use: case studies from the Upper Rhine”***

7-11 October 2024 at the University of Strasbourg (France)

### What is it about?

Only a very small proportion of the world's water is available in the form of surface water or groundwater to support life-sustaining processes on earth, yet short-sightedness and vested interests in the management of rivers and lakes are causing lasting damage.

The trinational Fall School offers **20 doctoral and master's students from various disciplines** the opportunity to **interactively learn transdisciplinary methods for the transfer of knowledge from research to the practice of water management** and to test them on the basis of three case studies in the Upper Rhine region.

After an introduction to the methodology, participants will discuss topics such as renaturalisation, environmental perception and participatory engagement, water use conflicts with the relevant **experts and stakeholders on site** (2 excursions, 1 kayak tour). The **solutions** developed in teams will be further developed together and documented in a video.

### Who can take part?

**17 doctoral students and advanced Master's students from the 5 Eucor universities** (Basel, Freiburg, Mulhouse/Colmar, Strasbourg and Karlsruhe) and 3 from the other 4 EPICUR universities **from all disciplines** who are interested in transdisciplinary water research and would like to further their education in this field. **No prior knowledge required.**

### Application

Please send your application (**CV, letter of motivation and brief description of your doctoral project, maximum 2 A4 pages in total, PDF format**) in **English by 12 July 2024** to [td-fallschool@eucor-uni.org](mailto:td-fallschool@eucor-uni.org)

Participants are expected to speak **English** (main working language) and **French or/and German**. The **selection criteria** relate to the composition of **an international and interdisciplinary group** as well as the **motivation** of the candidates.

A **selection committee** made up of representatives from the partner organisations will meet in mid/end July. You will receive a **response** to your application **by the beginning of August** at the latest.

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## Information & contact

The **participation fee is €150** per participant.

Further information about the program and the organisation can be found [on the Eucor website](#).

For further information, please contact **Mrs Sofia Ganter (UFR)** at [td-fallschool@eucor-uni.org](mailto:td-fallschool@eucor-uni.org)

The Fall School is organised within the framework of **Eucor** in cooperation with the Universities of **Strasbourg** (lead Eucor Chair “Water and Sustainability”), **Freiburg** (coordination) & **Basel**, the OneWater-Eau Bien Commun project, the UNESCO Chair “Rivers and World Heritage”, the Ecole Nationale du Génie de l’Eau et de l’Environnement de Strasbourg (ENGEES) and the **Ökoinstitut Freiburg**.

## Special thanks

for their share of the funding go to

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**Program of the Trinational Fall School 2024 “Transdisciplinary approaches to the sustainability of water use: case studies from the Upper Rhine”**

	Day 1 (07/10/24) Getting started at Strasbourg	Day 2 (08/10/24) How to restore rivers in heavily disturbed environments?	Day 3 (09/10/24) How to incentivize nature restoration and conservation?	Day 4 (10/10/24) How to understand and solve water conflicts in their complexity?	Day 5 (11/10/24) Time to act: From problem-solving concepts to project implementation
Morning	Arrival, welcome in Strasbourg, getting to know each other	<b>Case study 1</b> Visit to the island of Rohrschollen, where a LIFE+ river restoration project was carried out: Scientists, NGOs and planners report	<b>Case study 2</b> Kayak tour in the floodplains of the Rhine: perceiving nature with all your senses	Short presentations and debate on the topic: "WEFE-Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus - just hot air or THE solution to water conflicts?" in preparation for the excursion	Group work to evaluate the case studies: "What makes socio-ecological sustainability projects successful: How can problems be tackled in a transdisciplinary, transcultural way?" (followed by the development of a joint paper)
	Presentation of the topic, presentation of the program				
Lunch					
Afternoon	Boat trip on the River Ill through the city of Strasbourg ("Batorama" tour), topic "Water in urban socio-ecosystems"	Workshop "How can we restore biodiversity and ecosystem functions under restricted conditions (too little space, lack of or untimely flood events, droughts, lack of drag force of water, lack of sediments)? Which transdisciplinary approaches could help? / using the example of the Upper Rhine restoration"	Debate on environmental education: How does the public perceive the environment? Who is the "public"? Do we need individual programs for specific social groups? What role can social media play? How to generate interest, how to provide the "impetus" for engagement, how to maintain "momentum" in environmental projects?"	<b>Case study 3</b> Visit to a farm in the Rhine Valley and discussion with farmers and NGOs about water conflicts, pesticide pollution and "inherited" environmental problems from the past	Conclusion of the Fall School Criticism and feedback
	Introduction to transdisciplinary research for sustainable hydrosystem management				
	Introduction of the participants, their backgrounds and expectations of the course content and presentation of the group work				Journey home
Dinner					
Evening	Apéro dinatoire/icebreaker/drinks and finger food	Free evening	Cultural program: Debate on transculturality in the trinational Upper Rhine Valley	Free evening/Party	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"></span> Theoretical Input         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"></span> Excursion         </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFA07A; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"></span> Hands-on session         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #6495ED; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"></span> Get-together         </div> </div>