

CALL FOR APPLICANTS

**“Our Mediterranean ecosystems' health is in danger. Time to restore it!”**

Natural Heritage Mission's  
1st Summer School



18-20 June 2024

*National Institute of Biology,  
Marine Biology Station Piran, Slovenia*



**Natural  
heritage**

**Interreg  
Euro-MED**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# Scope and Learning objectives



The new EU Nature Restoration Law, a hotly contested pillar of the European Green Deal, will force EU countries to restore at least 20% of the bloc's land and seas by the end of the decade, and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. Plans are ambitious, but what about their practical implementation? Are individuals that should be involved in it ready? Do they have sufficient knowledge? Is society aware of the need to restore natural habitats and how it can play a part into the whole process, as it is established in the restoration law?

This paucity of information is the reason behind choosing the EU restoration law as the main theme for the 1st summer school organised in the framework of the Natural Heritage Mission.

The main learning objectives of the summer school are:

- to provide deeper understanding of the EU Restoration Law tailored to the needs of those decision makers and other profiles directly engaged in its implementation.
- to foster knowledge sharing. Newcomers or less experienced participants will have an opportunity to exchange experience and ideas with the participants who have more knowledge in the field.
- to present good practice examples related to the restoration of the natural habitats, including two thematic projects on wetlands (a field visit in a restored wetland is also included).
- to introduce the tools and approaches available to identify most vulnerable ecosystems and areas to prioritise for restoration action.
- to share approaches to tackle socio-economic trade-offs and values related to biodiversity and ecosystem functionality.
- to introduce monitoring standards and methods for reporting on ecosystem health and restoration actions.
- to present tools for engagement and focus on society's role in restoration projects.
- to explore funding opportunities for restoration projects.
- to capacitate on communicating nature protection needs and conservation project ideas.

Moreover, the training school is designed in a participatory way, given its combination of lectures by invited speakers and work in teams.

An experienced team of invited trainers and Natural Heritage Mission partners will make sure that the summer school objectives will be achieved through a 3-day intensive training in Piran, Slovenia.

## Organisation



The summer school will be organised by the Natural Heritage Mission and hosted by its partner National Institute of Biology, at the Marine Biology Station in Piran, Slovenia. Participation in the summer training school is free of charge. A limited number of participants (upon request) will be eligible for travel expenses reimbursement. For cases where travel expenses are covered, accommodation is offered in 2-people shared rooms.

## Calendar



The summer school will be organised over 3 days of activities including:

- Training and lectures.
- Study visit in a local ecosystem.
- Team work in interactive formats.
- A capitalisation and graduation ceremony.

Besides the official (scientific) training programme, a social programme will be prepared as well. This will include events such as mediterranean picnic, social dinner, and farewell dinner.

## Requirements for admission



The summer school is open to up to 30 participants from the countries addressed in the context of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme: see the list of countries here: [Interreg Euro-MED • Interreg.eu](https://www.interreg.eu/interreg-euro-med)

As the summer school topic is very specific – EU restoration law, we strongly advise that participants have at least a basic knowledge about it and/or are taking part in its implementation (e.g., as practitioners working in public institutions or NGOs).

The training school's working language will be English, thus participants are requested to have an adequate level of English proficiency (B2 level).

## How to apply?



All applicants are requested to fill in a registration form, including a CV and a letter of motivation, which will be evaluated by the selection commission.

In the motivation letter, the applicant shall explain what is his/her expertise related to the topic of the course, how he/she is involved in nature restoration activities and indicate a specific restoration case study he/she is working on/interested in.

Applications for admission should be submitted no later than **15th April 2024, 23:00 CET.**

## Selection procedure



The selection commission will be appointed by the Natural Heritage Mission's steering committee. The selection procedure will be carried out according to the terms and conditions of the selection commission work.

Selection will be performed based on the evaluation of:

- Previous experience and relevance of the current professional role in applying restoration actions in practice and policies in the Mediterranean region (5 points).
- Motivation to participate in the summer school (3 points)
- Relevance of specific case study proposed (2 points)

The total maximum points that an applicant can receive is 10.

The final selection will also take into account geographical distribution and gender balance.

Up to 30 applicants will be selected.

Successful candidates will be chosen according to the total evaluation results.

## Approval



All candidates will be informed about the outcome of the evaluation by **26th April 2024**.

Before the summer school starts successful candidates will be contacted by organisers and provided guidance on how to properly prepare their participation in the summer school.

## Attendance and awarding of diploma



Participants are requested to attend 100% of the planned educational activities. Educational activities can be skipped only by providing a justified reason (e.g., illness, transport delays, etc.)

At the end of the course, the attendance certificate will be given to participants who attended 100% of the educational activities.

## Processing of personal data



The National Institute of Biology, Marine Biology Station Piran, will ensure that all personal data provided by candidates be handled in accordance with EU GDPR law as well as the Slovenian law on data protection.



**Natural  
heritage**

**Interreg  
Euro-MED**



Co-funded by  
the European Union