



Summer School

“Ecosystem Services within an Agricultural Landscape”

to be held in Novi Sad, Serbia, from 5th – 9th of July, 2021

Organizers:

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (former Szent Istvan University)



Ecosystem services (ES) can be defined as direct and/or indirect contributions of ecosystems to human well-being, regardless they are providing *Provisioning, Regulating, Supporting, or Cultural* services. The roles of ES are especially valuable on areas where anthropogenic influence is significant. Within the Pannonian plain dominant features of the landscape are huge areas of arable land, where in most cases, intensive agriculture has been practiced. Such landscapes are dominating plains of south Slovakia, Hungary and especially in the Northern part of Serbia, the Province of Vojvodina where around 85% of land is arable. In these areas, agriculture is the major driver of energy and matter flow within cultivated ecosystems, while natural ecosystems are marginalized and their diversity is depleting. In turn, it leads to deterioration of water and soil resources, soil erosion and pest outbreaks. Therefore, re-examining and assessing the potentials of ES is urgently needed.



Often people are not aware how strong impact biodiversity and services which nature offers are important for our existence. Therefore, this Summer School (SS) will contribute to deepening the understanding on ES through interactive education, which would include combination of lectures, field work and workshops. Such content will enable students to gain basic knowledge on ES, to master practical tools for their assessment and to exercise solving practical problems presented during the field trips. In this way, through applying active learning, students will obtain comprehensive experience by adopting both theory and practice. Moreover, international atmosphere and different background knowledge will contribute to developing social skills, such as tolerance and dialogue, which seems to be major issue when it comes to application and further utilization of ES, in contrast to traditional approaches on agricultural landscape management.

Who can attend the SS?

The SS is intended for PhD and master studies, but also extremely motivated bachelor students would be considered. Priority will have students who attend courses related to environmental protection, biotechnology, nature conservation, or related fields. Also concerning social aspect of ES, those who are enrolled in interdisciplinary courses encompassing social & environmental sciences are also welcome.

How many participants?

The SS is intended for **10 students from CASEE universities** excluding Serbia and **5 students from Serbia**, whose **expenses would be fully covered**. Besides, additionally **5 self-financing students** may attend it and in this case the cost would be 170 €/per student covering accommodation & food, or 70 €/per student without accommodation.

Documents for application:

- a short CV (indicating study program and year, average grades per year, language proficiency, extracurricular activities, etc.),
- Motivation letter and
- Recommendation letter signed by supervisor/professor.

Completed documents should be sent by each applicant to jasna.grabic@polj.uns.ac.rs by 25th of May.

Important dates:

7th of May - announcing the summer school (SS)

7th – 25th, May - receiving students' applications for the SS

1st June decision on selected students/participant of the SS

5-9th July – Summer School

Additional documentation: Due to current COVID-19 pandemic situation additional documents/certificates might be required depending on state's attitudes concerning international travel.

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