



BETTER Life

Summer School

Ecosystem Services, Tourism, Community Engagement, and Conservation Strategies in National Park

September 9 - 14, 2024

Join us for an immersive Summer School focusing on socially engaged research through Ecosystem Services, Tourism, Community Engagement, and Conservation Strategies in National Parks!

Engage with experts, participate in hands-on activities, and explore innovative approaches to environmental conservation. Don't miss this opportunity to expand your knowledge and network with **50 participants from 7 countries** and many professionals in the field!

Venue: Czech Republic

- Prague
- Krkonoše National Park or Bohemian Switzerland National Park
- Kostelec nad Černými lesy



Application Deadline: **15th June 2024**

More information: <https://www.better-life-digital.eu/summerschools/>

You will get **3 ECTS** credits for participation in the summer school.



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Join us for an exciting summer school programme in the Czech Republic from September 9th to September 14th, 2024. The consortium of the Better Life project is organising the summer school for international students focusing on **socially engaged research** in life sciences. The summer school is designed for all students, not only those studying in the environment sphere, as we believe that the forest ecosystem services can be characterised as the social benefits of forest and forest management.

Programme

Get outstanding theoretical and hands-on experience in this intensive programme, which consists of classroom lectures, workshops and field trips connected with group projects in the Czech National Parks. You will be able to better understand socially engaged research by developing solutions to real-life problems in national parks. You will get to participate in the debates with stakeholders, including the local people, businesspersons, tourists and the people from the national parks. Moreover, the participants will meet other international students and will be able to discuss their ideas with the international experts from the Better Life project. The language of instruction is English (B2 level is recommended for applicants).

Previous knowledge

Previous knowledge of the issue is not required. In the last week of August (28 August), an online seminar will be organised for participants to get acquainted with the basic concepts of forest ecosystem services. On 20 August, participants will receive access to an online course on the Moodle platform, where they will find information about the research and background data.

Cultural Activities

The summer school programme is based on a field trip to the national park. In the first days, a city tour will be organised.

Programme

Sunday evening

- Ice-breaking activities.

Monday and Tuesday

- Welcome and orientation.
- Foundations of SER in life sciences (fundamentals of SER in life sciences, presentation of successful case studies, workshop on research methodology)

Wednesday to Friday

Participants will be divided into two groups. Each group will go to a different national park. The topic for Bohemian Switzerland National Park (the youngest national park in the Czech

Republic) is: **The conflict between the decision to keep Edmund’s Gorge closed to preserve natural values after the fire and the impact on tourism in the region when this destination is closed. How do business owners, locals, and visitors perceive this? How would people perceive it if the National Park allowed the area to be cleared for tourism purposes to enable boat rides in the national park?**

Krkonoše national park is the oldest national park in the Czech Republic. Students will focus on **How might the expansion of ski resorts in the Krkonoše Mountains, which may impact natural wealth preservation and ecosystem services, affect natural habitats and wild animals, given that the new infrastructure will be used year-round? How could this, in combination with overtourism, impact the region’s ecological balance?**

This activity will involve:

- Field trip to national parks, visit to the local community, hands-on experience in data collection and participant observation, group analysis, and guest speaker sessions featuring an SER expert sharing their experiences.
- Knowledge co-creation and project development
- Impact assessment

Saturday

- Project presentation and feedback.
- Closing and networking.

After the summer school ends, participants will have two months to continue working on their projects. Subsequently, we will conduct a final online presentation and evaluation, and the proposals will be presented by participating Czech students in both national parks.

Price

You will receive a grant from your nominating institution, covering most expenses. However, the travel costs may vary significantly depending on your location.

You must pay (from your grant) for accommodation, food, and travel within the Czech Republic.

You will not be charged for classes, workshops, and activities organised within the program.

How to apply

Potential participants can apply individually using the [registration form](#) or the QR code.



Deadline for applications: June 15, 2024. Once capacity is reached, applications will no longer be accepted.

Accommodation

From Sunday to Wednesday, you will be accommodated in the dormitories of CZU, with double or triple occupancy available. The rooms are pre-booked for the summer school participants (besides other options that can be found via, for example, Booking.com). Students can pay upon arrival in cash or by card. Upon arrival to the dormitory, participants must show a valid travel document (ID, passport).

During field trips and stay in Kostelec, participants will be accommodated in 2- to 4-bed rooms with shared bathroom.

Estimated Cost of Living for the Duration of the Summer School

The price of the accommodation in Prague is 15 EUR per night. You will be accommodated in the dormitories of CZU.

The national park's accommodation price is approximately 50 – 70 EUR per night with breakfast. The price depends on the national park you visit.

The last night will be in Kostelec and Černými lesy. This accommodation is also on the premises of the CZU, and the price is 20 – 30 EUR per night. The price depends on the type of accommodation.

Accommodation – 215 EUR

Food – 230 EUR

Local transport – 100 EUR

Transport to/from Prague - Vary significantly depending on where the student travels from

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