

Summer School

1st call for applications

Building interdisciplinary tools for long-term contaminated site management

hosted by
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
in Leipzig, Germany
16 - 20 June 2014

PURPOSE

The European Environment Agency has identified 250,000 sites with contaminated soil and another 160,000 with contaminated groundwater. And with many thousands more sites as yet undiscovered, the cost of 'losing' all of this land is huge. So how should decisions to remediate, re-purpose, or neglect a contaminated site be made? This summer school will develop innovative answers to these complex issues using quantitative, crossdisciplinary tools and analysis. Participants will be able to:

- Handle uncertainty in scientific data
- Collect and analyse qualitative risk-perception data
- Evaluate both the social and environmental cost of re-purposing contaminated land
- Effectively present data to stakeholders

APPROACH

The summer school develops the fundamental building blocks of site management (handling scientific uncertainty) to cover decision making at the local scale (public understanding of risk) and regional scale (constructive conflict resolution). Scenarios covered emphasise innovative options such as the cost of re-using brownfields for energy production. With a hands-on approach that includes modelling tutorials and a visit to a remediation site, participants will be challenged to use scientific and socio-economic data to develop sustainable site administration plans. The course is organised as a series of group exercises, which will culminate each group presenting their site management proposal to the school.

PROGRAMME

Monday 16 June:

- Getting 'the facts': what kind of scientific data is needed and how can it be used to make predictions (including Bayesian uncertainty analysis)
- Group dinner and opportunity for students to informally present their own work

Tuesday 17 June:

- Visit to Leuna industrial area with talks by site managers and researchers involved in its remediation

Wednesday 18 June:

- Methods for integrating human health risks and perceived human health risks into management decisions

Thursday 19 June:

- How can we get best value from contaminated land? Calculating the cost of repurposing brownfields for energy production

Friday 20 June:

- Group presentations: converting information to present to policy makers (½ day)



Further information

WHO WE ARE

Three networks of experienced researchers and practitioners from across disciplines present this summer school:

LIAISE is a Network of Excellence established by the European Commission to improve the application of impact assessments by bridging existing operational gaps between researchers and practitioners (www.liaise-noe.eu)

ADVOCATE is a Marie Curie Initial Training Network aimed at developing and promoting in situ techniques for the sustainable remediation of contaminated land and water (www.theadvocateproject.eu)

TIMBRE aims to build better infrastructure for revitalising contaminated megasites, funded through the European Commission's FP7 (www.timbre-project.eu)

COURSE ORGANISERS

Matthias Groß – LIAISE project coordinator, Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany

Melanie Heyde – Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany

Vivien Weiss – Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany

Naomi Wells – Department of Catchment Hydrology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Halle (Saale), Germany

Steve Thornton – ADVOCATE project coordinator, Groundwater Protection and Restoration Group, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Participants may be starting out in their career (e.g., PhD students) or more experienced researchers/ practitioners looking to expand their repertoire. Candidates with backgrounds in natural sciences, economics, social sciences, and policy are equally encouraged to apply. Prerequisites for participation are competency in spoken and written English and command of basic computer programmes (e.g., Excel).

HOW TO APPLY

Send a completed and signed application, an up-to-date CV, and contact information for one reference to Naomi Wells (naomi.wells@ufz.de) or Vivien Weiss (vivien.weiss@ufz.de) by no later than **07 March 2014**. All application documents should be sent as email attachments in .pdf or .doc/.docx form, and must be written in English. Fifteen applicants will be chosen to participate.

CREDIT

For PhD students, full attendance of this summer school is worth 1 credit point, plus 0.5 extra credit points for delivering a relevant presentation.

COSTS

Thanks to financial support from the ADVOCATE and TIMBRE networks, the fee for the summer school is 120€ This cost covers accommodation (single hotel room + breakfast, for up to four nights), all lunches and coffee breaks, the site tour, and the summer school dinner on 17 June. For participants who do not require accommodation, a reduced participation fee of 60€ applies. However, participants will need to cover their own transportation costs to and from Leipzig. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available.



Application for the ADVOCATE – LIAISE Joint Summer School 2014

Name:

Affiliation:

Position (and year of study, if relevant)

Email:

Tel:

Address:

Statement of motivation

A brief paragraph (<300 words) describing what you hope to gain from the summer school and what contributions you will make to the course as a participant

Statement of experience

A brief paragraph (<300 words) describing your experience using quantitative and qualitative data evaluation techniques, work with contaminated sites/ remediation, and your main discipline of research (e.g., natural sciences, economics, etc.)

Signature _____

Date _____

