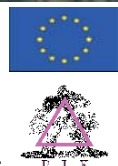




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Summer School – Objectives

Changes in climate, biodiversity, nitrogen deposition and land use are affecting European ecosystems and all services they provide to society. The vulnerability of these services to such changes can now be assessed through modern scientific techniques.

The AVEC summer school will present the state of the art of such vulnerability assessments to students and scientists in environmental sciences and related disciplines. Specifically, the summer school will focus on:

- the driving forces and processes of environmental change in Europe;
- the evaluation of ecosystem services provided to society;
- a simulation of a vulnerability assessment, using computer models in combination with a dialogue between scientists and stakeholders.

During the workshop, selected experts will present vulnerability assessment techniques. Working groups will carry out example studies, and discuss implications of findings for actual European ecosystems and their services.

Participants' Contributions

Participants are invited to present their own research activities in relation to vulnerability studies. During **interactive sessions** they will be given the possibility to present and discuss their approach and results. With these events and other forms of exchange we aim to foster interactions between all participants.

Summer School – Programme

The international summer school will provide:

- insights into the theory and practice of **vulnerability assessment** including information on scenario techniques (climate and land use), ecosystem modelling approaches for selected ecosystem services and stakeholder involvement;
- **lively discussions** on the relevance of ecosystem services, their relevance to society and their exposure and response to global change;
- **excursions** to the surroundings and to the Parc National du Mercantour;
- **practical tutorial** on establishing a stakeholder dialogue, modelling experience and dissemination of the results.

Selected keynote lectures and the outcome of the participants' teamwork will be published.

What is AVEC?

The EU-concerted action AVEC connects various European scenario-orientated assessment projects by creating opportunities for intensive exchange. An important goal of AVEC is to foster a growing **European network** of research on the issue of ecosystem vulnerability. The summer school is a major milestone towards archiving this goal. More information on the AVEC and its activities can be found at:
<http://www.pik-potsdam.de/avec>

Summer School – Conveners

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Cramer, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany

Prof. Dr. Rik Leemans, Wageningen University (WU), The Netherlands

Dr. Uta Fritsch, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany

Selected Speakers

Dr. Robert Baxter, University of Durham, United Kingdom

Prof. Dr. Christian Körner, University of Basel, Switzerland

Dr. Gerhard Petschel-Held, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany

Dr. Sandra Lavorel, Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive, Montpellier, France

Prof. Dr. Volkmar Wolters, University of Gießen, Germany

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Dates and Location

The summer school will be held from Sunday, September 14th 2003, until Saturday, September 27th 2003 in Peyresq (<http://www.peyresq.net>) France. Peyresq is a small village, situated about 1 500 m above sea level in the French Alps, close to the Parc National du Mercantour. The village is managed by the »Fondation Peiresc«, which has assigned the village as a location for scientific and cultural meetings.



There are no registration fees and accommodation is provided. Travel costs must be covered by participants. A limited number of travel scholarships are available on justified request.

Summer School – Participants

The AVEC summer school is open to young graduate and post-graduate scientists from the EU or associated countries, as well as a small number of students from developing countries.

Successful candidates should currently be involved in global change studies or vulnerability assessment projects and have a strong interest in interdisciplinary environmental issues. Adequate English skills are required.

The deadline for submission of applications is 31st January 2002. Applications received after the deadline or incomplete applications will not be considered. Application forms can be found at: <http://www.pik-potsdam.de/avec>.

The summer school is limited to 25 participants, who will be selected by the summer school conveners. Applicants will be notified by the end of May 2003.

Application Requirements

Please send by post before 31st January 2002:

- 1) the completed application form;
- 2) a motivation letter, indicating why and in which way your attendance could benefit your research career;
- 3) letters of support from two referees.

If you have any further questions, please contact:
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