



PROPOSITION FOR STUDENT INTERNSHIP (3 months)

Understanding human nature-connection and public engagement in the context of wetland restoration

1 Context

Developing a sustainable society requires we know the complexity and interrelationships of various social, technological, and natural systems. We offer a 3-month internship for the student willing to participate actively in research focused on socio-ecological systems.

The internship will be held within the framework of an international project, “A socio-ecological evaluation of wetlands restoration and reintroduction programs in favor of the emblematic European pond turtle and associated biodiversity: a pan-European approach” (www.emysr.cnrs.fr).

Within the project, we are working out the ways in which individuals and society may take responsible actions toward ecosystems and biodiversity.

2 The essence of the internship

The internship consists of exploratory work on the determinants of the frequentation or non-frequentation of wetlands as nature areas, on the potential effects of the reintroduction of an emblematic species, such as the European pond turtle, and on the support that the restoration and reintroduction policies carried out there receive or not. Overall, it questions the conditions for a renewed and sustainable reconnection and cohabitation with vulnerable areas despite their importance for biodiversity. It concerns the Latvian reintroduction site Lake Sila, Silene region.

The survey will mainly target members of the local community, including - frequentation of wetlands as natural areas and conditions for supporting their restoration. The other part of the research will be carried out through interviews with the managers of the natural areas concerned.

The empirical work will be preceded by bibliographic work to consolidate the problem and construct the interview grids. It will be based in particular on two bodies of literature relating to representations of wetlands and reintroduction operations on the one hand and to reconnection and attachments to nature on the other.

Assisting in research activities on the project site would include:

- Collecting elements for the documentary and institutional analysis on the Latvian site, based upon the catalog of formal documents proposed by the research team (max 2 days, off-site, e.g. home office).

- Conducting and transcribing interviews with people in public spaces to test the small survey protocol based on the criteria of attachment and attractiveness of natural environments, the place of emblematic species, and include knowledge of restoration operations (max. 5 days per project site, with a research team member(s), on-site).
- Some interviews with institutional stakeholders on the Latvian site conducted within the research team might also take place, depending on the exact arrangements. (max. 3 days including transcription).
- Carrying out a first analysis of the collected data with the assistance of the research team member (max. 5 days, off-site).
- Providing thoughts, reflections and knowledge to help evolve the research (tools and content) (max. 1 day, off-site).
- Researching the media coverage and grey literature on project sites (if available), with the priority given to the Latvian site, species reintroduction/nature conservation, and human-nature connection in general, in order to analyze the social narrative(s) on the above-mentioned issues (max. 2 days, off-site)

3 Profile of the candidate

An ideal candidate:

- has a background in social sciences; alternatively has a background in natural sciences, and is willing to widen the interdisciplinary competencies
- has knowledge of ethnographic data analysis
- has experience in the facilitation of working groups or teams
- knows Latvian local environment
- is willing to conduct interviews with the local community in Latvia
- speaks and writes Latvian and English
- has a deep interest in biodiversity

Host laboratory and supervision

The host research center of the internship is HIVE – Systems Collective Design Lab, Collegium Civitas, Poland. The trainee will be hosted on the premises of the Collegium Civitas in Warsaw (Plac Defilad 1, 00-901 Warsaw).

The internship will be supervised by Krzysztof Kasianiuk (political scientist at Collegium Civitas) and Patrycja Romaniuk, doctoral student in sociology at the Graduate School of Social Research (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of Polish Academy of Sciences). The internee will also interact regularly with members of the international teams involved in the Emys-R project, especially Life Science and Technology Institute, Daugavpils University, 13 Vienibas Str., LV-5401 Daugavpils.

Compensation

5000 PLN (ca. 1000 €), based on a 260 hours timesheet

Duration of the internship: 3 months in Spring 2023.

4 For a Candidate

Please, send the letter of intent and CV to: nauka@civitas.edu.pl.