

COURSE

Nature Benefits: from Theory to Practice (TUNE IT)

January
till june
2024



Have you struggled to communicate or identify the comprehensive value of the nature area you are working in? The richness in biodiversity, the soil health, the air quality, the climate mitigation, the serenity of natural landscapes: they all influence our well-being. However, it may be quite troublesome to identify and quantify the range of various benefits.

The social and economic value of conservation, management and restoration of natural areas and its associated nature benefits lie at the core of this Erasmus+ financed new course on Nature Benefits from Theory to Practice (TUNE IT). The course will provide you with valuable information to help you communicate the value of your area, manage your planning or attract new funding.

If you seek to improve your skills in these areas of the ecosystem services and nature's benefits, then our course might be your solution.

Who is it meant for?

- » Professionals or volunteers who are active as nature and/or site managers.
- » Local administrators or regional managers whose main activity is to protect, restore or manage nature areas and ensure their natural benefits contribute to the common good.

By whom is the course developed?

Ten organizations from five countries across Europe and two international Non-Governmental Organisations have joined our common and extensive cross-cutting knowledge and expertise to develop this tailored course: Natuurpunt Beheer (Belgium), Wageningen University and Research (The Netherlands), Eurosite – the European Land Conservation

Network (international), Stichting IVN (The Netherlands), Natuurmonumenten (The Netherlands), Geonatura Ltd Consultancy in Nature Protection (Croatia), Ecosystem Services Partnership (international), Doga Koruma Merkezi Vakfi (Turkey), the Danube-Carpathian Programme (Ukraine), Natuurpunt Natuuracademie (Belgium).

What do we offer?

We have developed a course taught in English comprising three learning modules:

Module 1: Learning the Basics

In the first module you will learn about the basics on ecosystem services and the associated nature benefits in terms of theory, tools and models applicable. During the course a hands-on exercise will enable you to put your knowledge and experience into practice. At the end of Module 1 the participants will exchange their findings and discuss their results.

Module 2: Putting it into Practice

The second module will enable you to elaborate on your experience (at a site or regional level) on how to use nature benefits in your daily work. Based on your own interest and/or needs of your organization, you will have the opportunity to explore in greater detail how to use nature benefits:

- 1 in communication to various stakeholders
- 2 while choosing alternative solutions for development of the area or planning restoration projects
- 3 for finding alternative sources of financing
- 4 for planning the management of their site

The participants will be coached by trainers and will discuss their work with the other colleagues in the course.

Module 3: Planning for Future Action

To assist and encourage you in continuing to work on this issue after the course ends, in the last module an action plan will be developed. This action plan will elaborate on the possible steps you can take in your own daily work and which steps might be needed in your own organisation to embed nature benefits in the management practice.

What will you be able to do at the end of the course?

This course aims to build on your existing skills and enable you to put in practice the knowledge acquired during this training with particular focus on the following areas: (1) communicating nature benefits, (2) assessing changes in nature benefits as result of plans and projects executed, (3) inclusion of nature benefits in the management plans and planning in general, and (4) reviewing options for alternative sources of funding.



CONTACT AND REGISTRATION

For more information about the course, registration and deadlines:
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Please note in your calendar the opening of the registration for the course on 15 November 2023. There is a limited number of places available and we hope to see many of you among the participants.

When & where?

The three learning Modules will be organised as follows:

Module 1 will take place in person at the Wageningen University and Research (Wageningen, The Netherlands) from the January 30th to February 1st 2024;

Module 2 will take place online between April 8th and 11th 2024;

Module 3 will take place in person (in Zagreb, Croatia) on June 4th and online on June 6th 2024.

Please note that all costs for the participants affiliated with the partner organisations will be covered by the Erasmus+ TUNE IT project, including course fee, course materials and travel and accommodation costs.

We expect participants from at least 4 or 5 different European countries, so the course will be delivered in English.

Travelling arrangements should be made taking into account that the presence of the participants is required from the beginning until the end of each Module. Please ensure that your arrival/departure arrangements will follow this requirement.

