

12th WWW-YES-2012

World Wide Workshop for Young Environmental Scientists

“Urban water, resources and risks”

20 - 26 May 2012, Arcueil, France (Paris suburb)

leesu.univ-paris-est.fr/yes/



Context

Growing population worldwide, economic development and increasing degradation of freshwater resources make the actual management of urban waters unsustainable for the world of tomorrow. Competition between water users, inadequate technologies or inappropriate managerial approaches makes better and adequate capacity building necessary. Restrictions nowadays, limit more and more the PhD students to present and discuss their research results at an international level.

WWW-YES is a doctoral workshop, entirely conducted in English, in the field of urban waters, created by LEESU (formerly CEREVE) to contribute to capacity building in environmental sciences at PhD level. Since its first edition in 2002, 194 postgraduates have been trained. The aim of WWW-YES is to give an extra opportunity to young researchers to present their work and to build up their knowledge network.

The participants are selected using the excellence of the proposed research topic as main criteria. Nevertheless, at the same level of quality, candidates from developing countries are prioritized. The applicants should be preparing or have obtained a PhD since less than 3 years. The workshop is multidisciplinary, joining natural science (urban hydrology, chemistry, ecology ...) and social sciences (architecture, management, decision making ...), in order to improve trans-disciplinary discussion and social commitment of the scientific research in the field of integrated water management. WWW-YES is characterized by a non formal work environment stimulating

scientific creativity, exchange and discussion between participants. The number of selected participants is therefore limited to 25 and all participants are accommodated at the same site, close to the workshop site.

The WWW-YES workshop is linked to a set of French events called ‘University for water and sustainable development’ and ‘festival de l’Oh!’ (Water festival). These events are annual citizen awareness campaigns organized by the Val-de-Marne County focussing on urban water related issues (www.festival-oh.org).

Programme

Individual research project presentation and discussion

The main program consists of 3 days of **oral presentations**, where each participant presents and discusses his recent research project. Contrarily to international conferences, the discussion is chaired by another participant, having previously reviewed the related manuscript. The extensive discussion of each paper and oral presentation helps the author to improve his manuscript before final publication within a specific proceedings collection of the Open Source HAL collection (<http://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/WWW-YES/>).

Field visit

A half-day **technical visit** is organised in the field of urban river, urban drainage, storm-water source control or waste-water treatment with special emphasis to understand the underlying research. The visit is accompanied by scientists and project managers charged of the project, to ensure an optimal transfer of knowledge.



Drinking water survey and public meeting

Each participant is requested to conduct a survey on the drinking water resource, production and distribution within a city of his choice.

Results of all these drinking water surveys are shared by all participants, summarised and presented to a public of citizens and elected representatives of the Paris conurbation. This experience of presentation and discussion with a large non-scientific public is an important experience of the necessary contribution of environmental scientists to society issues. Translation from/to English is provided for an effective discussion between the workshop participants and the audience.

Research project building-up

During one and half day of the workshop, the participants prepare a proposal for international scientific research, under the guidance of senior experts. The topics for these proposals have been elaborated previously together with the local government and other actors of decentralized cooperation, active in the field of water supply, sanitation and natural resources restoration.

The training is introduced by a **short course about scientific proposal writing** and accompanied by senior scientists who have experienced European (FP5, FP6 ...) or Brazilian (PROSAB ...) research projects. Each research proposal is presented both as an 'expression of interest' and as a plenary presentation to

panel of senior scientists and practitioners. The aim of this role game is to obtain a first "field experience" with setting up of an international research project and showing to the authors of the proposal how to obtain financial support for its realization.

Organisation & support

Information about the workshop, as well on-line application and previous edition reports and pictures, are available on the web site of the event: leesu.univ-paris-est.fr/yes/ Specific questions can be sent to www-yes@leesu.enpc.fr

All participants receive a formal certificate at the end of the workshop. The participation to the WWW-YES workshop can be validated as training in the form of ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) by the University Paris-Est "Ville-Transport-Territoires" Doctoral School.

No inscription fee is charged to participants but they need to find support for their travel costs to/from the workshop location.

Scientific committee

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Daniel Thévenot – LEESU, Université Paris-Est
Martin Seidl – LEESU, Université Paris-Est and HER UFMG
Brigitte Vinçon Leite - LEESU, Université Paris-Est
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