

Join the 2nd European FreshProject “Urban algae”

Background:

Urban algae was selected the 2nd Collaborative European Freshwater Science Project for Young Researchers ("FreshProject"), a joint initiative by the European Federation of Freshwater Sciences (EFFS) board, the European Fresh and Young Researchers (EFYR) and the representatives of the Fresh Blood for Fresh Water (FBFW) meetings.



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Pond in a city park (Retiro) Madrid (Spain) with increased allochthonous matter input.

Aims of the project:

The Urban algae project aims to study the ecological status of urban ponds and their ecosystem services together with the citizen's perceptions. To this end, we will combine a sampling campaign during the summer 2018 in multiple locations across Europe with an online citizen survey questionnaire. With this set-up, we want to know what the public thinks about their ponds and if this related to the ecological status of the relevant ponds.

The second important goal of this initiative is to create an international collaborative network for young and early career scientists in Europe. This project provides an excellent chance to actively participate in an interdisciplinary project and to meet other young researchers!



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Pond with poor water quality in a residential area in Berlin, used for swimming.

Join us!

We are now looking for young freshwater scientists (with both natural and social backgrounds) to form teams and to join our Europe-wide study on ecosystem services of urban ponds. In order to be able to participate, it is necessary to:

- Be a Master / PhD student or two-year Postdoc (maximum)
- Form a team of at least two members
- Have access to basic limnological equipment (sensors for pH, temperature, conductivity and dissolved oxygen, a Secchi disk) and a boat
- Be already members or join one of the EFFS-federated Societies (see <http://www.freshwatersciences.eu>)
- Have access to at least two pond sites, allowance to access field sites and perform measurements or take samples and insurance for fieldwork
- Participate in the virtual meetings with the whole *Urban Algae* consortium

So far, we have participants in Berlin (DE), Wageningen (NL), Trento (IT), Reading (UK), České Budějovice (CZ), Innsbruck (AU), Granada (ES) and Lyon (FR). We are looking for more teams to expand the number of cities and regions, **but especially of young freshwater scientists** in the project!

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What implies becoming a member of the Urban algae project?

Urban algae is a collaborative project. We aim to have an active working group among all the members and that not all the working load lies on the coordination team. This means that we will create working groups to split the duties (online citizen’s survey preparation and translation, field protocols, lab protocols, analyses of data, identification of phytoplankton, statistical analyses... and more). The project covers consumables, transport of samples and sample analyses at IGB (Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Germany) and NIOO (Netherlands Institute of Ecology, The Netherlands) and online seminars.

We will need you to visit the ponds once before summer to make sure they fulfill the conditions. Further, your team has to carry out a field sampling between July and August 2018 (this implies one punctual sampling of each pond). After sampling is completed, the online citizen’s survey will need to be distributed during fall (September to November 2018).

During November 2018 till March 2019 each team will receive FlowCAM images to identify phytoplankton from their ponds. Afterwards, both sampling and citizen’s survey results will be analyzed and the results will be presented at SEFS 2019 in Croatia. We aim to publish the results in an international peer-reviewed journal.

How to apply:

To participate in the project, please read and fill in the online questionnaire [[here](#)]. We strongly motivate social scientists to apply as well. To further promote diversity in science, we specifically encourage candidates of all genders as well as cultural and ethnic backgrounds to apply. The application is open until April 23rd (midnight GMT 2018) as the project will start in May 2018.

For further questions do not hesitate to contact us:

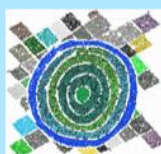


Pond in city park for recreation in Berlin (Germany).

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We are looking forward to an exciting collaborative project with interesting results.

Fresh regards,
the Urban algae team



Twitter: @urbanalgae2018

ResearchGate: [https://www.researchgate.net/project/Urban-
algae-Ecological-Status-and-the-Perception-of-Ecosystem-
Services-of-Urban-Ponds](https://www.researchgate.net/project/Urban-algae-Ecological-Status-and-the-Perception-of-Ecosystem-Services-of-Urban-Ponds)