



Postgraduate Course

Natural disturbances and restoration activities in European forests

Sunday 10 – Saturday 16 May 2026

Alpine Study Center of Tuscia University in Pieve Tesino, Italy



SCOPE

Europe's forests are under increasing pressure from climate change and natural disturbances. At the same time, the Nature Restoration Regulation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy pushes for urgent forests restoration. This Summer School of the Euroleague for Life Sciences (ELLS) deals with how to approach and adapt to this, and how sudden disturbances can steer restoration activities, at scales from local to Europe wide.

The Summer School will be held at the beautiful Alpine Study Center of Tuscia University in Pieve Tesino, Italy. This venue is perfect for the purpose, as it is surrounded by forests with a range of management practices, which experienced multiple large-scale disturbances (windstorms and bark beetle outbreaks) since 2018.

Participants will be introduced to topics like adaptation to disturbances, conservation, restoration challenges, monitoring and stakeholder issues. They will see up-close how forest management can help disturbed forest stands to recover and increase their resilience. The programme will include hands-on exercises with the EFISCEN-space model.

COURSE SET-UP

The course starts on Sunday afternoon with welcome drinks, followed by introductory poster pitches by the participants.

Each day there will be morning lectures by experts, covering different aspects of the main theme. The focus will be on ecology, on social and sustainability aspects, economics, integrated management and governance.

In the afternoons, participants will work in small teams on a specific group work assignment. They will use EFISCEN-space and its parameterisation for a small region in the Italian Alps. This way, participants will learn to handle and understand the model and then apply to different questions. The experts will be present for 2-3 days to interact with the participants.

On Saturday, the group projects are presented before the Summer School is wrapped-up, so all can make their way home in the afternoon.

The Summer School will include excursion and field visit in the local area, to allow for interaction and exchange of ideas with the stakeholders, and to illustrate the challenges on the ground.

COURSE ORGANISERS

- Anna Barbati, Università degli Studi della Tuscia, Italy
- Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Forest Ecology & Management, Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands
- Graduate School Production Ecology and Resource Conservation PE&RC, Wageningen, the Netherlands

LECTURERS

- Rodolfo Picchio, Università degli Studi della Tuscia
- Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat, EFIMED Barcelona
- Debojyoti Chakraborty, Austrian Research Centre for Forests, Vienna
- Marco Patacca, Forest Ecology & Management, Wageningen University & Research & Technical University of Munich
- Albert Ciceu, Austrian Research Centre for Forests, BFW, Vienna
- Francesco Latterini, Institute of Dendrology, PAS, Poznan
- Alba Viana Soto, School of Life Sciences, Technical University of Munich
- Giorgio Alberti, University of Udine

COURSE FEES¹

Category	Fee
PhD candidates of Wageningen University Graduate Schools	€ 375,-
ELLS members ²	€ 750,-
All other academic participants	€ 830,-
Non academic participants	€ 1100,-

¹ The fee includes course materials, accommodation and all meals. It does **not include travel costs**.

² Find out who is ELLS member: www.euroleague-study.org/en

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

See: <https://www.pe-rc.nl/courses-retreats/natural-disturbances-and-restoration-activities-european-forests>

Or scan the QR code:

For further information, please contact: miriam.vanheist@wur.nl

