

## **Classification, evaluation and management of grasslands in Europe, advanced level, 5.0 credits (150 h), 30<sup>th</sup> of July - 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2012\***

*\*30 of July - 14 of August is the time for the field course. Outside this period, equivalent to one weeks work will be required for individual work.*

The course deals with European grasslands based on German conditions. Grassland ecology and biodiversity are treated in relation to natural preconditions (soil properties and climate) as well as historical and present management through hay mowing, grazing, pollarding etc. Important component of the course content are *classification* of grasslands, *evaluation* from different perspectives (agrarian economy, biology, cultural history, social and scientific values) and importance of *management* for biodiversity. Future perspectives are also applied, through discussions about the future importance of grasslands and tools for grassland conservation.

Lectures on underlying theoretical aspects and tools of analyses are combined with excursions, assignments and individual work. A project work will be performed, including planning, data collection, analysis and written and oral presentation.

The course will be held during two weeks at Herzogenhorn, close to Freiburg at in southwest Germany:



Herzogenhorn is situated at about 60 km south-east of Freiburg up in the mountains at an altitude of 1.400 m above sea level.

The mountainous zone of Herzogenhorn in the Black Forest (Schwarzwald) is a region dominated by grasslands and dairy production (and, of course, by forests). It is a typical and representative area of the Black Forest with grasslands on higher altitude and represents the situation in many Central European mountain ranges. Different sites, land use histories and

management types result in different grassland vegetation types. In the last few years, dairy production in the mountainous region of the Black Forest has been reduced substantially (low prices of milk and meat), the number of cows and the number of farm households have decreased with more than 50 %. The economical situation of the rural households is not stabilized, the future of the grasslands therefore is at risk, and will change further in the nearby future.

On a one-day excursion, we will also see and compare the situation of the grasslands in the lowlands, including the plain of the Rhine River valley (Elzwiesen) or the Kaiserstuhl.



**Preliminary programme:**

<b>Day</b>	<b>The programme of lectures and other activities</b>
<b>1: Mo 30.07</b>	Arrival of Romanian and Swedish teams; bus travel to Herzogenhorn. General introduction to the course and participants; afternoon local excursion.
<b>2: Tue 31.07</b>	Introduction to grasslands in Europe, Germany and the study area (natural conditions, history and grassland values). Afternoon excursion to different grassland types in Black Forest.
<b>3: Wed 1.08</b>	Theory of evaluation in nature conservation; Evaluation of grassland (different perspectives of value – biological values in field layer and trees, cultural heritage, economic, recreation and social values).
<b>4: Thu 2.08</b>	Classification, evaluation and management - Experiences and results from Romania and Sweden (summer school 2010 and 2011). Afternoon excursion to different grassland types in Black Forest.
<b>5: Fri 3.08</b>	Management of grasslands, history, today and the future; Excursion to farmsteads with dairy production and their economical perspectives.
<b>6: Sat 4.08</b>	Excursion to lowland grasslands in the area of Kaiserstuhl and Rhine River Valley.
<b>7: Sun 5.08</b>	Excursion to Freiburg; Late afternoon: Introduction to project work. Selection of topics and planning of the group work
<b>8: Mo 6.08</b>	Introduction to data collection (all). Data collection (in groups)
<b>9: Tue 7.08</b>	Data collection (in groups); Principles of data analysis and data management (all).
<b>10: Wed 8.08</b>	Data collection (in groups); Data analysis (in groups).
<b>11: Thu 9.08</b>	Data analysis (continued). Preparation of oral presentation.
<b>12: Fri 10.08</b>	Presentation and discussion of the results (all groups).
<b>13: Sat 11.08</b>	Writing an outline of the project, results and discussions.
<b>14: Sun 12.08</b>	Evaluation of the course, wrap-up. Departure of all teams to Freiburg and to Romania and Sweden; Wrap-up of the whole IP.

The course is given within Erasmus IP (Intensive Programme) "Classification evaluation and management of grassland in Europe." Students and teachers also come from Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg, Germany and the University for Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (USAMV) in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

### **Prerequisites**

Knowledge equivalent to 120 credits including 90 credits in any subject within social or natural science. 10 credits in plant ecology, botany or land use, should be included.

### **Additional information**

The course is receiving funding from EU. Therefore students (EU-members) will have subventions to lower the cost for travel and accommodation.

**Participants:** 10 students from Freiburg/Germany, 10 from Uppsala/Sweden and 10 from Cluj-Napoca/Romania.

**Last registration date:** 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Participants will be chosen according to study qualifications. Send the application by post or email to:

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