



STUDENTS' RESEARCH COMPETITION & WRITING SEMINAR SERIES ON SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT & WATER DIPLOMACY IN CENTRAL ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN

2023-2024

BACKGROUND

Organised within the ERASMUS+ HWCA project the students' research competition & writing seminar series on sustainable water resources management & water diplomacy in Central Asia and Afghanistan aimed at building the capacities of the young scientists in the water sector. These regions need capacity-building opportunities focused on the enhancement of research skills and academic writing. There is a lack of local researchers, in particular, specialized in water resources in this region. The student competition & writing seminar series will be a great opportunity to foster current efforts for professional development, strengthening research skills and academic writing of young researchers.

The students' competition starting in October 2023 will gather abstracts of scientific papers (**Please find further requirements in Annex 1**) submitted by the participants for the Technical Check by November 6, 2023. Authors of the best 20 papers selected will need to provide finalized versions of their papers for the review process by mid-December. The review process will be conducted by Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev¹ (and the Selection Committee composed by professors from EU partner universities of ERASMUS+ HWCA project consortia).

Authors of the 10 best papers (5 coming from Erasmus+ HWCA consortia partner universities) will take part in the writing seminar series starting in January 2024 with an Info session where participants receive general information about the seminar and paper submission guidelines for the [Central Asian Journal of Water Research \(CAJWR\)](#). Moreover, participants of the seminar series will be given the opportunity to undertake three online courses on Moodle platform.

The structure for the writing seminar series:

Info session– general hints and highlights on scientific writing and research paper
1. A) Introduction (30 min) B) General discussion of papers (30 min)
2. A) Methodology (30 min) B) General Discussion of papers (30 min)
3. A) Discussion part of the paper (30 min) B) General Discussion of papers (30 min)
4. A) Results (30 min) B) General Discussion of papers (30 min)
5.

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A) Conclusion (30 min)
B) General Discussion of papers (30 min)
6 Case studies: presentation and discussion of the student papers

The Selection Committee will be part of the selection process of the best papers and subsequently, selection of authors who will participate in the writing seminar series. At the end, the Selection Committee will provide a written assessment of the papers.

The students' competition as well as the writing seminar series will be organized in two rounds. The first round is foreseen for the 2023-2024 years, and the second round for the 2024-2025 years concluded by the final Conference within the ERASMUS+ HWCA project held after Aral Sea Summer School. The final conference will provide a space for presenting awarded papers and results of the two rounds of the students' competition and writing seminar series.

OBJECTIVE

- train MA students and young water professionals from Central Asia and Afghanistan by equipping them with scientific preliminary research skills and academic writing

GOALS

- produce a scientific paper of a quality sufficient for submission in the Central Asian Journal of Water Research
- contribute to the professional development of students and young water professionals by giving them an opportunity to present and discuss their research in a constructive and international atmosphere within the 6-month writing seminar series

TARGET GROUP

- MA students of the ERASMUS+ HWCA consortia partner universities from Central Asia: Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Saken Seifullin Kazakh Agro Technical University, M.Kh. Dulaty Taraz State University, Institution of Higher Education Kyrgyz National Agrarian University Named after K.I. Skryabin, Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Tajik Agrarian University named after Shirinshoh Shohtemur, Turkmen Oba Hojalyk Instituty, Magtymguly Adyndaky Turkmen Dowletuniwersiteti, Jahon Iqtisodiyoti Va Diplomatya Universiteti (University Of World Economy And Diplomacy), Toshkent Irrigasiya Va Qishloq Xo Jaligini Mexanizatsiyalash Muhandislari Institutu

- MA/PhD students from Central Asia and Afghanistan coming from other universities as well as other interested young scientists



TIMEFRAME

Date	Oct 2023	6.11.2023	20.11.2023	Mid-Dec 2023	Mid-Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jul 2024	Sep/Oct 2024	6.11.2024	20.11.2024	Mid-Dec 2025	Mid-Jan 2025	Jan 2025	Jul/Sep 2025
Activity														
Start of 1 st round of the competition	█													
Submission of abstracts		█												
Technical Check			█											
Finalization of papers				█										
Assessment of Dr. Iskandar Abdulaev and Selection Committee					█									
Info session + Start of the 1 st round of writing seminar series						█								
ToT in Bud/Delft							█							
Start of the 2 nd round of the competition								█						
Submission of abstracts									█					
Technical Check										█				
Finalization of papers											█			
Assessment of Dr. Iskandar Abdulaev and Selection Committee												█		
Info session + Start of the 2 nd round of writing seminar series													█	
Final Conference within ERASMUS+ HWCA														█

AWARD

The best paper selected by Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev and Selection Committee will be awarded a place at the Aral Sea Summer School 2024 (for the 2nd round Aral Sea Summer School 2025). Authors of the other 5 best papers will be awarded with the presenting opportunity within the ToT in Budapest/IHE Delft held in July 2024 (for the 2nd round Final Conference within the ERASMUS+ HWCA project). The certificates will be issued to all participants, including the award certificate for the best paper awards.

Annex 1

Submission guidelines

Applicants should submit

- An extended abstract up to 1500-2000 words that outlines the topic, rationale, theoretical approach, and, if applicable, empirical application. It is also advisable to inform whether the submitted piece is part of a compilation dissertation (article-based dissertation) or part of a monograph dissertation (chapter, overview). Every abstract should include the name and affiliation of a young scholar.
- Brief CV with the list of publications
- Motivation letter explaining your motivation to participate in the writing seminar series and your expectations.

Please send your submission via the following link (also available at Taplink) **to be indicated later**



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Abstracts should be written in Russian or English (preferred), covering Central Asia and/or Afghanistan with reference to sustainable Water resources management or Water diplomacy, other topics within thematic clusters of CAJWR are also eligible: Climate and Environment; Water Law and Governance; Socio-economics; Water infrastructure and Management systems

Major deadlines

- Start of the 1st round of the competition October 2023
- Abstracts submission by November 6, 2023 (6 PM Almaty time)
- Technical Check by November 20, 2023
- Deadline for submission of finalized papers Mid-Dec 2023
- Selection of best 10 papers and assessment by Dr Iskandar Abdullaev and Selection Committee by Mid-Jan 2024
- Info session and the start of the online colloquium - January 2024
- Selection of the best papers - June 2024

The scientific paper series seeks research evidence about new scientific inventions and novel ways of applications of scientific discoveries in the above-mentioned areas, as well as an important account of functioning, contextualization and customization of both novel and existing applications of science as pertinent to countries in Central Asia.

For the evaluation process of the papers, the Selection Committee will be created and composed by professors from DKU and EU partner universities from the ERASMUS+ HWCA project:

1. Dr. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, Vice-rector for International Cooperation, UNESCO Chair Holder in Water Management in Central Asia at Kazakh-German University (Deutsch-Kasachische Universität). Research interest: water governance
2. Marton Krasnai, BUDAPESTI CORVINUS EGYETEM
3. Jenniver Sehring – Stichting IHE DELFT Institute for Water Education
4. Larissa D'Angelo – Università Degli Studi Di Bergamo
5. Pr Jean-Paul DEROIN – Université De Reims Champagne-Ardenne

In selecting the participants for the writing seminar series, the Selection Committee will take into consideration the quality of the scientific paper meeting the following criteria:

- innovation and significance to the research community
- rigorous research questions and methods
- clear findings, results and outcomes
- the contribution to the theory