

Call for expression of interest to attend the 2nd TwiNSol-CECs Summer School

The **2nd TwiNSol-CECs Summer School on Innovative Technologies for Water Treatment: Removal of Micropollutants with Contaminants of Emerging Concern in Focus** (hereafter the School) will be held at Faculty of Technology Novi Sad (TFNS) in the period 8-12 June 2024.

The School is open to PhD students and early-stage researchers not just from TFNS, but also from University of Novi Sad (UNS), other higher education and research institutions from Serbia, as well as from WB countries, in order to accomplish positive impact on rising institutional, national, and regional excellence in the field of innovative technologies for CECs' removal. Additionally, in a very limited number, schools' attendees may also be senior researchers and professionals working in companies engaged in environmental protection.

Main topics of the School are:

- Membrane Technologies
- Biosorption Technologies
- Advanced Oxidation Processes.

The parallel topics important for creation of international research projects and multidisciplinary research teams on the latest challenges in front of the transition towards a toxic free environment, are also included in the School's program:

- Preparation and implementation of the Horizon Europe project
- Life Cycle Assessment: the most inclusive method to analyze environmental benefits and trade-offs resulting from complex systems.

The draft Program of the School, consisting of 5 days of theoretical and practical sessions, is available at the TwiNSol-CECs project website:

www.twinsol-cecs.com

where also the final Program will be published in due course.

The lectures will be delivered by TwiNSol-CECs researchers from NOVA University, NOVA School of Science, and Technology and TFNS, while laboratory support will be given by the TFNS researchers. The official language is English.

Due to constrains in available premises during the School, limited number of trainees will be possible to attend the practical exercises and be included in the social activities, so the applications (consisted of motivation letters and the achievements presented in the CVs in the field of interest for 2nd Summer School) sent to the Organizing Committee in accordance to the conditions of the Call will be evaluated by the Committee for Summer School Grant Approval (hereafter the Committee).

The documents used for submitted applications scoring are:

- CV (formatted as EUROPASS CV), and
- a Letter of Motivation as a one-page-long letter that explains the candidates professional interests and achievements, particularly those referring to the subject of the School and the criteria for the application scoring, as well as the expected outcomes of the School with reference to the applicant's career and how she/he will make use of the information received during the School (why attendance to the School is important for the (academic) career).

The Committee will select among the candidates with timely submitted and complete applications up to 5 grantees from Serbia (whose place of residence is more than 80 km from Novi Sad), and 5 from Western Balkan region in accordance to the Call conditions explained hereafter (**Description of Grant, Committee and the criteria for awarding the Grants, Conditions for the Grant usage**).

Additionally, 3 best ranked applicants from TFNS and/or UNS will be also selected to participate in the School.

For the limited number of trainees selected by the Committee based on the received applications under the Call conditions, all the sessions (theoretical, practical, societal) of the School are open, **while only theoretical lectures (but not practical and societal sessions, including coffee and lunch breaks) will be opened for the TFNS/UNS researchers without the applications.**

Those interested to participate in 2nd TwINSol-CECs Summer School are kindly invited to send the applications till **March 22, 2024** to twinsol-cecs@uns.ac.rs, following the Call conditions (explained hereafter) and the **DOCUMENT ON PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF ATTENDEES TO 2nd TwINSol-CECs SUMMER SCHOOL AND THE SCHOOL GRANTS AWARDING** (hereafter the Document on Procedures).

Information on the application evaluation will be sent in accordance to the following timetable:

- deadlines for informing the applicants of the selection process outcomes: preliminary list **March 27, 2024**, and the final list **April 8, 2024**,
- deadline for non-selected candidates' appeals: **7 days** after the preliminary list,
- deadline for sending a Letter of Intent: **7 days** after the final list.

Description of the Grant

The 10 Grants will be awarded to the candidates with the highest scores from the countries targeted by the Call in the following way: 5 to the best ranked candidates from Serbia (working and living at least 80 km or more from Novi Sad) and 5 from other WB countries, preferably to one representative from each WB country. If one or more WB countries (other than Serbia) have no representatives, the grant(s) will be transferred to the other country(ies) in accordance to the proportion of the country-based applications received.

The grant of 500 Euros per grantholder selected by the Committee, based on the total scoring against the criteria defined by the Call, covers:

- the accommodation cost of the grantholder for 6 night-stay with breakfast in the accommodation provided by TFNS through the institutional tender procedure, and
- the remaining share (if any) of the grant up to 500 Euros, obtained after the deduction of the cost paid by TFNS for the grantholder accommodation from the grant amount (500 Euros), representing the partial reimbursement in cash of the grantholder's costs for travel and/or meals.

The Grant of 500 Euros for 10 grantholders (5 from Serbia (living at least 80 km or more from Novi Sad) and 5 from WB countries) is the cost amount included in the TwiNSol-CECs budget share of TFNS, and in accordance to GA, this is the actual cost directly linked to the Project implementation, it is identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the beneficiary's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in Serbia as a country where the TFNS is established and with the TFNS's usual cost accounting practices, it is complied with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security and is reasonable, justified and complied with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding the economy and efficiency.

Upon publishing the final ranking list, the selected grantholders must send the Letter of Intent as proof that she/he will use the Grant in compliance to the conditions of the Grant usage.

If the grantholder would be prevented to attend the School, grantholder is obliged to inform the School organizer immediately at the earliest convenience, so the organizer can arrange sending the invitation to the next succeeding applicant according to the final list of the applications, respecting also the country-based awarding as previously mentioned.

If there is no succeeding applicant on the final list, the School organizer will announce Supplementary Call for additional grantholder(s) in accordance with a maximum number of grants.

If the grantholder would withdraw their application before the start of School, despite the intention to attend the School expressed in the Letter of Intent, leaving no time for organizing the additional Call and the accompanying procedures, the organizer can directly invite potential candidates to participate in School, from either of the WB countries.

Committee and the criteria for awarding the Grants

Three members of the Committee are TwiNSol-CECs team members selected in accordance with the relevant PST decision.

The Committee will propose the text of the Call compliant to the Document, consisting of all elements described in Section 2 of the Document on Procedures. Upon approval of the Call text by PST, the Call is announced on the Project website and the project social media profiles.

The applications to the Call will be evaluated by the Committee based on the received documentation and the criteria announced by the Call. Only complete applications received in a timely manner, fully compliant with the Call conditions will be evaluated based on the criteria, scored separately up to the maximum points attributed to each of these criteria in the following way:

- Basic knowledge in unit operations (20 points)
- Previous knowledge and/or experience in water treatment (max 40 points)
- Previous experience in research within the domain of micropollutants in the environment (max 40 points).

Sufficient command of the English language is necessary for the grantholders to actively participate in the lectures, practical lessons, and discussions. It is expected that candidates provide information on the English language proficiency in the submitted CVs.

Within the procedure of grantholders selection, involvement of at least one attendee from each of the WB countries (besides 8 in total from Serbia, i.e. 5 grantholders from Serbia) will be considered. In the case that there are no applications from one or more WB countries other than Serbia, then countries from which the (complete and timely sent) applications are received will be represented in proportion to the country-based ratio of the applications received, up to 5 grants to the WB representatives.

The Committee will form a preliminary ranking list based on the scoring explained in the Call. The Organizing Committee will inform all the applicants about the preliminary ranking list. Candidates who are not selected based on the preliminary ranking list can send an appeal to the Committee by email. Appeals submitted after the deadline specified by the Call will not be taken into account.

The Committee will consider the submitted appeals and send the opinion on the received appeals to PST for the decision on the final ranking list.

Final results of the Call for expression of interest to attend the 2st TwiNSol-CECs Summer School will be published on the Project website, while the applicants will be informed by email. The candidates with the accepted applications/grants awarded will be asked to send the Letter of Intent in specified due date as a proof of the intention to attend the School.

Conditions for the Grant usage

The grantholders must send the Letter of Intent to the Organizing Committee in a due date specified in the Call.

The accommodation provided by the Grant refers to the days when the School is held according to the School program and according to the conditions contracted between TFNS and the chosen provider for the accommodation booking.

The grantholders are obliged to sign the list of attendance each day of the School. This is the request for obtaining the payment in cash (if any) as explained in the Section 3 of the Document on Procedures. An illness of the attendee and/or grantholder or other force majeure that prevents attendee and/or the grantholder from attending the School will be considered as a justified cause for canceling attendance of the School, but attendee and/or the grantholder must inform the School organizer immediately at the earliest convenience, so if applicable (adequate to the remaining time frame with respect to the School date) the organizer can arrange sending the invitation to the next succeeding applicant according to the final list of the applications, announcement of the Supplementary Call for additional grantholder(s), or direct invitation to potential candidates to participate in School, from either of the WB countries.

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