

OPEN CALL FOR WORKSHOP LEADERS AT THE EMRC24

Have you ever wanted to lead a workshop at a congress and cooperate with professionals in the field while doing so? Are you interested in topics such as sustainable development, tourism, climate change, hydrology, biogeography, geography of mountains, or anything related to the Alps?

If you think you've got what it takes, apply today to be a workshop leader at the EMRC24!

We are looking for 6 workshop leaders in total – **two pairs of workshop leaders and two individual leaders!** Since we want to make our congress as scientific as possible, each workshop will also be co-lead by professionals who have been working in the Alps for their whole lives and can contribute valuable insights and practical experience to the workshops. Each workshop will have **cca 15 participants** and will be **divided into three timeslots, each lasting around 1,5 – 2 h**. Two of them will take place on Tuesday morning, while the last one will take place on Thursday afternoon, followed by a presentation of all the workshops. The scientific co-leaders will only be present on Tuesday, meaning your main tasks will be:

- To organise the third session, where all the discussed themes will be effectively synthesised, and a presentation will be prepared.
- To work with scientific co-leaders and provide them with the leadership support they need, maybe add thematic input from your own country or your own research.
- To take care of the participants during the workshops (make sure the workshops start and finish on time, note who's present etc.).
- Write a scientific article about the workshop for the scientific report and a special issue of our EM-RC-themed student magazine.

The science team will of course be assisting you and helping you all the time, and there will be at least one person from the orgateam present at workshops all the time :)

The scientific co-leaders present might change before the congress due to busy schedules or other reasons, but the covered themes should remain more or less the same. For up-to-date information, check out our website and, of course, follow us on Instagram. The planned workshops are:

- 1. Living sustainably in the national park: How protected areas influence life and tourism**
- 2. Wolves, bears, and capercaillies: Cohabiting with protected animals in the Julian Alps**
- 3. The blue gold and how to protect it: Alpine water sources and their challenges**
- 4. Melting glaciers and dying forests: Climate change and its effects in the Julian Alps**



Living sustainably in the national park: How protected areas influence life and tourism.



Scientific co-leaders: Majda Odar and Renata Cerkovnik from the Triglav National Park administration

Number of open spots for EGEA co-leaders: 1

In this workshop, we will discuss how protected areas are managed nowadays, what their development guidelines are and how all of this affects the locals in the case of Triglav National Park. This vast protected area, which spans 840 km², is home to more than 2300 inhabitants, while more than 2 million people visit it yearly. This all means that managing different interests is vital to ensuring a well-preserved nature, landscape, and cultural heritage. All of these guidelines, of course, also present an obstacle for the development of tourism, which has become the main source of income for the park's inhabitants, while also proving to be a huge incentive, boosting the area's economy and changing its social composition.

The scientific co-leaders are both geographers who have worked in the Triglav National Park for a while now, Majda Odar being the head of the Information and Education service in the park, while Renata works in the Department for sustainable development. Both have years of experience working on topics surrounding the management of protected areas, especially tourism, traffic and sustainable development as a whole.

We suggest all interested co-leaders to check out the website of the [National Park](#), to study the [Triglav National Park Management plan 2016-2025](#) (unfortunately currently only available in Slovene, but we will be in contact with the national park regarding possible translations. Until then we suggest you use the DeepL translator) and to check out the [Report on the Triglav National Park by the Council of Europe](#). This workshop is probably the most interdisciplinary of them all, focusing on how these management plans and other limiting circumstances impact all spheres of life in the park, but mainly demography, economy and tourism. Useful scientific articles on this topic include [Triglav National Park, Slovenia, and its contribution to regional development](#); [Aspects of carrying capacities and recreation management: The case of Triglav National Park, Slovenia](#) and [Local inhabitants' opinion about quality of life inside and outside the Triglav National Park](#).

Wolves, bears, and capercaillies: Cohabiting with protected animals in the Julian Alps.



Scientific co-leaders: Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation and Dinaricum society

Number of open spots for EGEA co-leaders: 1

The Julian Alps are home to more than 7000 animal species, many of them protected. While the locals have more or less successfully lived side by side with other species for decades, increasing pressures such as the development of winter tourism, increased traffic, and the spread of second homes, among others, have all led to a rise in conflicts, making the question of protected species an important political topic in the region as well. We will focus on two specific challenges in the area: firstly, the conflict between the expansion of the Kranjska Gora ski resort and the habitats of the capercaillie or wood grouse, and secondly, the management of large carnivores, especially wolves and bears, and their associated conflicts.

This workshop focuses on the wild side of the Julian Alps area and especially how it's increasingly coming into conflict with the other activities in the park, especially farming and the development of tourism. Each scientific organisation co-leading the workshop will lead one session, the colleagues from the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation focusing especially on the issue of the habitat of the capercaillie and the surrounding conflicts with the Kranjska Gora ski resort, while the colleagues from the Society for the preservation, exploration and sustainable development of the Dinarides Dinaricum will focus on the topic of large carnivores (lynx, wolves and bears) and the related conflicts, especially with farmers. This workshop presents a sort of combination of physical and human geography with a mixture of both biogeography and especially conflict management and spatial planning.

Useful links include the Management activities section of the [Report on the Triglav National Park by the Council of Europe](#), the website of the EU project [Life WOLFALPS EU](#), the [Large carnivores section on the website of the Slovene government](#), report on the [Prevention of damages caused by the large carnivores in the Alps](#) and others. News articles can also be useful, since this issue has quite an important spot in the Slovene media and political sphere. These include articles such as [Wildlife secured quiet spaces in Triglav National Park](#), [The capercaillie needs its peace](#) (in Slovene), [Wolves causing more and more trouble in the Triglav National Park](#) (in Slovene) and others.

The blue gold and how to protect it: Alpine water sources and their challenges.



Scientific co-leaders: Institute for water and possibly one more TBA

Number of open spots for EGEA co-leaders: 2

The area of Triglav National Park, with up to 3000 mm of annual precipitation and over 250 springs, presents one of the most water-rich areas of Central Europe and an important reservoir of drinking water for the whole country. While these resources are plentiful, they aren't infinite, as has already been demonstrated in the exceptionally dry year of 2022, where many springs ran dry and the alpine lakes faced the worst algal blooms to date. That's why the preservation of these reserves and water-friendly spatial planning are even more important, while research into the geological, biological, and other characteristics of these water sources is a major topic.

The workshop leaders in this workshop have more time to work with since the scientific co-leaders will probably be present for only one session. We are still working with possible scientific co-leaders since our previous ones pulled out at the last minute, but we will update you on the progress on the website. The possible topics include the various water sources in the Julian Alps, their protection, pollution from tourism, mountain huts, ski resorts etc., the problem of microplastics, the eutrophication of water sources, including the famous Triglav lakes etc. Practical exercises and/or fieldwork would be especially cool in this workshop, also because the congress location is located in the immediate vicinity of the Pišnica river and Jasna artificial lakes.

Useful articles might include [Monitoring and assessment of anthropogenic activities in mountain lakes: a case of the Fifth Triglav Lake in the Julian Alps](#), [Geophysical investigations in the Radovna River Spring area \(Julian Alps, NW Slovenia\)](#), [An online platform supporting the analysis of water adaptation measures in the Alps](#), while the chapter [Water Resources in Slovenia](#) might also be useful.

Melting glaciers and dying forests: Climate change and its effects in the Julian Alps.



Scientific co-leaders: Anton Melik Geographical Institute
Number of open spots for EGEA co-leaders: 2

Climate change will be the defining factor responsible for the rapid change of the fragile mountainous landscape in the coming decades. The tiny Triglav glacier, the last glacier in the Julian Alps, has already felt the wrath of it, its size diminishing from 14 hectares in 1946 to less than a hectare nowadays. Climate change drastically affects the water cycle, producing more and more green winters while also altering the alpine vegetation. While certain species, including invasives, are on the rise, many habitats, but especially forests, are less lucky, being prone to severe natural disasters and a change in species composition.

Probably the most physical geography-oriented workshop topic, the co-leaders will work together with scientists from the Anton Melik Geographical Institute, who have been studying the effects of climate change on the Slovene Alps for decades, most famously tracking the changes in the Triglav glacier. Topics here can include the effects of climate change on forests and vegetation in the park, on the geomorphological processes, on the economic activities in the park (such as skiing), and others. It is also probably the workshop where GIS activities can be included the easiest.

For more insights, you can check out the topic of [Alpine climate change](#) by the Slovenian Environmental Agency, the projects on [The impact of climate change on avalanches in Slovenia](#), the [Climate natural disasters and response of the protection, rescue and relief system in the Republic of Slovenia](#) and the article [The Triglav Glacier: Seventy Years of Regular Observations](#) by the Anton Melik Geographical Institute and this recent article [Triglav glacier under imminent threat](#). Also useful can be the recent article from the University of Ljubljana on [Predicting the potential ecological niche distribution of Slovenian forests under climate change using MaxEnt modelling](#).

Each workshop leader will get a fixed spot at the congress, among other things. You can apply to be a workshop leader **until the 15th of January** by sending us an application to **emrc2024@egea.eu**. For workshops needing two co-leaders, please send us one application together with your co-leader. If you want to lead one of these workshops but don't have a co-leader, please tell us that in the application, and we will try to pair you with similar applicants.

Your application should include the following information:

- Why are you the best person/pair to organise this workshop?
- What are your previous experiences with organising similar activities or working on/researching the proposed topic?
- How do you imagine your input in the workshop? How can you help the scientific co-leaders, and what can you add to their input?
- Ideas on how you will structure the third workshop session.
- How will you try and make the workshop as practical and as little classroom focused as possible (also working with our limitations of having very limited inside space for workshops)?
- How will you present the topic at the end? Of course, you can simply make a poster, but we encourage a unique presentation that will make hungover Egeans jealous that they missed the scientific presentations ;)

If you have any more questions regarding the workshops, don't hesitate to **contact us at emrc2024@egea.eu**.

p. s. There is no open call for training leaders since those will be chosen by the Training team.

