

	Implementation schedule	Title of the lecture	Partner University	Lecturer	Participation
DAY 1	Monday 16/02/2026 10.00-13.00 CET	Agrobiodiversity	UROS	Bettina Eichler-Löbermann	Online
Description	<p><i>Agriculture is a major driver of biodiversity loss due to land conversion, habitat destruction, and intensive farming practices. The expansion of croplands and pastures often replaces forests, wetlands, and grasslands, resulting in the degradation of natural habitats and the decline of species diversity. To address these challenges, sustainable land use systems are essential for enhancing biodiversity within agricultural landscapes.</i></p> <p><i>Agrobiodiversity encompasses the variety of crops, livestock, and associated species and genes used in agricultural production. This course provides foundational knowledge on agrobiodiversity and ecosystem services in agricultural areas. Students will understand the importance of genetic diversity in agriculture and the impacts of agricultural activities on surrounding ecosystems. They will also develop the ability to evaluate farming systems in relation to food security, resilience, soil health, and environmental protection.</i></p>				
DAY 2	Tuesday 17/02/2026 12.00-15.00 CET	Using the Molecular Ecology Approach to Wildlife Monitoring	SETU	Andrew Harrington	Online
	<p><i>In the field of ecology, genetic techniques provide a useful tool to answer important questions about wildlife populations, and are becoming increasingly powerful and more widely used in wildlife studies in an approach known as “Molecular Ecology”. This course aims to provide an overview of the molecular ecology approach, with an explanation of the genetic toolbox available to researchers for use in wildlife studies, such as DNA assays used for species identification, sex typing, DNA sequencing, microsatellite genotyping, and DNA metabarcoding. The use of these tools will be illustrated with case studies of research carried out on different wildlife species, with a particular focus on European wild mammal species.</i></p>				
DAY 3	Wednesday 18/02/2026 10.00-13.00 CET	eDNA as Biodiversity genetic tool in aquatic and coastal environments.	AUA	Evanthia Chatzoglou	Online

Description	<p><i>The course explores the use of environmental DNA (eDNA) as a cutting-edge tool for monitoring biodiversity and in marine, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems. It will be shown how genetic material (through skin cells, waste, mucus, and other material), shed by organisms into water, can be collected and analyzed to allow the detection of species presence, including rare or invasive species. The course covers sampling techniques, molecular analysis, and data interpretation processes for ecological assessment. Emphasis is placed on the advantages or disentanglements of eDNA use, over traditional surveying methods. Practical applications in conservation biology, environmental management, and ecological research will also be discussed.</i></p>				
DAY 4	<p>Thursday 19/02/2026 10.00-13.00 CET</p>	<p>Marine fisheries assessment</p>	<p>AUA</p>	<p>Stefanos Kalogirou</p>	<p>Online</p>
	<p><i>The course aims to provide a clear and comprehensive introduction to the principles and practices of fisheries science. It includes an overview of fisheries and stock concepts, exploring why assessing fish populations is essential for preventing overfishing and ensuring sustainability. Students learn about the life of a fish population, including key processes such as growth, recruitment, and mortality, which determine how fish numbers change over time. The course also examines how assessment results are used to guide management decisions, such as setting quotas, implementing closed seasons, establishing marine protected areas and highlights the human and ecosystem dimensions of fisheries with examples from local and Mediterranean fisheries to connect theory with real-world applications.</i></p>				
DAY 5	<p>Friday 20/02/2026 10.00-13.00 CET</p>	<p>Coastal biodiversity monitoring and adaptive management</p>	<p>FREDU</p>	<p>Constantinos Kounnamas</p>	<p>Online</p>
Description	<p><i>This course focuses on biodiversity monitoring in coastal areas, with particular emphasis on reporting obligations under the EU Habitats Directive (Article 17). It covers key aspects of monitoring design, data collection, and assessment of conservation status, as well as the integration of ecological and socio-economic information to support management decisions. The latter is achieved through the introduction of the evaluation of coastal social-ecological systems through the Conservation & Human Use Index (CHUI), which addresses limitations of Elinor Ostrom's Social-Ecological Systems Framework (SESF). Using this approach, participants learn to analyze interactions among ecosystems, governance structures, and resource users. By the end of the course, students will be able to assess ecosystem conditions, identify pressures and management responses, and contribute effectively to evidence-based policy-making and adaptive coastal management.</i></p>				