

## Who can apply?

Young researchers in post-graduate or post-doctoral studies, young scientists from Central and Eastern European Countries are particularly encouraged to apply. The course will be without registration fee.

For submission requirements please visit our website:

<http://www.agrar.hu-berlin.de/struktur/institute/wisola/fg/ress/forschung/seamlesstrainingcourse/view>

## Contact

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## Location

Conference Centre of the Institute of System Biology and Ecology, Academy of Science of the Czech Republic in Nové Hradý, website:

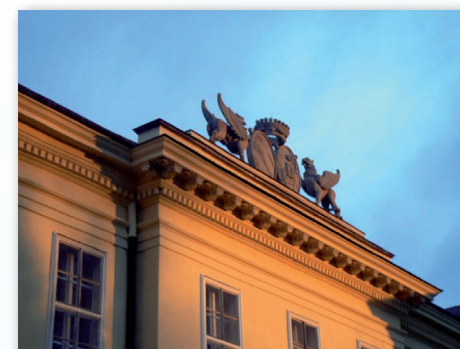
[www.usbe.cas.cz/index.php?node=465](http://www.usbe.cas.cz/index.php?node=465)

## Organisation

The course will be jointly organised by the Division of Resource Economics at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the Institute of Systems Biology and Ecology at the Department of Landscape Ecology at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe in Halle and the University of Life Sciences in Warsaw.



## Integrated Assessment of Agriculture and Sustainable Development in Central and Eastern European Countries



2-6 February 2009  
SEAMLESS-Training Course  
in  
Nové Hradý  
(Czech Republic)



## Introduction

At the latest with the better regulation strategy of the European Commission integrated assessment, i.e. the assessment of social, economic and environmental impacts of policies, have become an integral and systematic part of the political decision making processes at the European level and in Central and Eastern European countries.

The New Member states are alike affected from the current driving forces for agriculture in Europe and the world: unrest in the international food markets, increasing demands, both in quantity and quality, shifts to biofuel production at the expense of food production. These have already resulted in sharp increases in the prices of food and will very likely include land use changes with potentially negative environmental impacts.

At the same time the agricultural world is being confronted with changing societal demands, the increasing consequences of climate change on the systems viability and sustainability, and with raising environmental awareness.

Concerns about these issues have put sustainability in agricultural development prominently on policy agendas. There has been a shift from supporting agricultural production towards policies supporting sustainable (rural) development in a broader sense.

Over the past four years, a large European research consortium has developed an integrated modelling framework to support analysis of relationships between agricultural systems and sustainable development:

SEAMLESS-IF (System for Environmental and Agricultural Modelling; Linking European Science and Society – Integrated Framework; [www.seamless-ip.org](http://www.seamless-ip.org)). The SEAMLESS-IF is a computerized integrated framework to assess and compare ex ante, alternative agricultural and environmental policy options, allowing:

- analysis at the full range of scales (farm to EU and global), whilst focusing on the most important issues emerging at each scale;
- analysis of the environmental, economic, and social contributions of a multifunctional agriculture towards sustainable rural development and rural viability;
- analysis of a broad range of issues, such as climate change, environmental policies, rural development options, effects of an enlarging EU, international competition and effects on developing countries.

### Objectives of the training-course

- to present concepts for integrated assessment of agricultural systems, with a special focus on Central and Eastern Europe;
- to gain theoretical and practical understanding of the methods, models and tools used in integrated assessment of agricultural systems;
- to understand how integrated assessment and modelling can support ex ante impact assessment and decisionmaking processes;
- to understand how own specific research relates to an integrated assessment and modelling perspective;

- to recognize where are the limits and problems of integrated assessment and modelling in the policy context, particularly for Central and Eastern European countries;
- In the course, SEAMLESS-IF and its research tools are used as an example to present how concepts and models can be integrated to address complex agricultural systems and sustainable development.
- For two days (Monday/Tuesday) there will be the great opportunity to exchange information with practitioners and to discuss the role of impact assessment in Central and Eastern Europe together with policy experts from national or regional ministries and agencies.
- Computerbased models will be presented and discussed, but gaining deailed understanding of specific components is not the objective of this course. At the end of the course participants will understand how an integrated research framework and the individual research components contribute to integrated assessment of a problem and how this may contribute to decision-making.