

TRAINING SCHOOL, 7.-9. MAY 2025, LJUBLJANA

SHAPING TOMORROW: TOOLS FOR FUTURES THINKING & GROUP DECISION-MAKING

COST “MARGISTAR” TRAINING SCHOOL

“Shaping tomorrow” is a COST Action [Margistar](#) training school designed to equip participants with practical tools and techniques and advanced methodologies for exploring and shaping the future. Participants will be introduced to practical tools and techniques for futures thinking including scenario planning, horizon scanning, the 7 Questions framework, Issues Papers, the Futures Wheel, Driver Mapping, and Backcasting, amongst others. The program also enables learning collaborative decision-making, group facilitation techniques, multicriteria decision methods, and GIS-based tools for ecosystem analysis.

The mornings at Day 1 and Day 2 will be filled with lectures, while there will be **practical exercises** and hands-on training on the use of methods in the afternoons. Day 3 is dedicated to a **field trip** to [Kočevje region](#) to meet unique developmental challenges and successful solutions.

2 days of interactive learning & lectures + 1 day field trip

Explore futures thinking tools and techniques

Learn multicriteria decision methods and modelling

For MSc students, PhD candidates, researchers

Deadline for applications: March 15th, 2025.

VENUE: BIOTECHNICAL FACULTY

Address: Večna pot 83
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Contact: dr. Andrej Ficko
(andrej.ficko@bf.uni-lj.si)

<https://www.bf.uni-lj.si/en/units/forestry/>

7. – 9. May 2025



7.-8. MAY 2025, LJUBLJANA

Lecturers:

Prof. Theo Lynn (DCU Business School, Dublin)

Professor Theo Lynn is Full Professor of Digital Business and Associate Dean for Research at DCU Business School. He specializes in the role of digital technologies in transforming business and society.



Prof. Petra Grošelj (UL Biotechnical Faculty, Ljubljana)

Professor Petra Grošelj is Assistant Professor of Biostatistics and Biometrics at the Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana. She specializes in operations research, multi-criteria decision-making methods, fuzzy methods and game theory.



Dr. Antonio T. Monteiro (University of Lisbon, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning)

Dr. Antonio Monteiro's work focuses on monitoring interactions between human-biodiversity-climate change through satellite data and statistical modeling to support sustainable development of mountain ecosystems and communities.



Prof. Andrej Ficko (UL Biotechnical Faculty, Ljubljana)

Professor Andrej Ficko is Associate Professor of Forest Management Planning at the Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana. He focuses on natural resource planning, management of private forests, and transdisciplinary sustainability challenges.



9. 5. 2025, FIELD TRIP TO KOČEVJE REGION

Kočevje, once a remote area faces various development challenges. About a decade ago, strategic changes in municipal management sparked a turnaround. We will visit the **Business Incubator Kočevje**, a public institute for entrepreneurship, education, and innovation. At its heart, Kočevje remains a very green municipality with 90% forest cover. Planning to solve multiple developmental challenges and shaping potential future trajectories remains essential to ensure a prosperous future for the region. We will learn about participation in forest planning by **the Slovenia Forest Service** and forest management in the area. Some parts of the region were closed for public access for decades. We will visit **Bunker Škrilj** which was built during the Cold War and is located 72 meters below the surface. In the event of a nuclear strike, it could sustain life for up to 100 days without external assistance. Our journey will continue towards the scenic **Kolpa Valley**, a border river with neighboring Croatia, and one of the least developed municipalities in Slovenia, Osilnica.



PROGRAM:

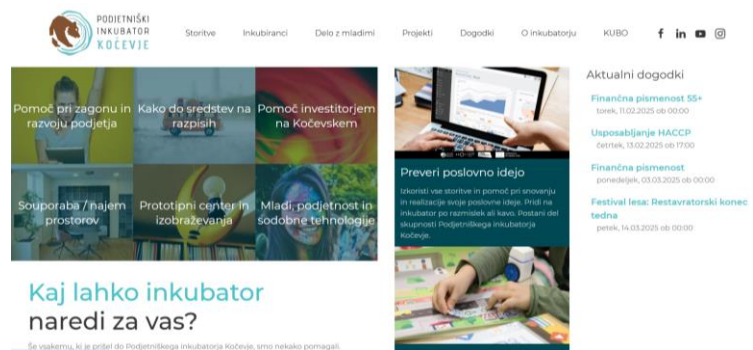
7. MAY 2025, LJUBLJANA

08:00 – 09:30	Theo Lynn: Introduction to Futures Thinking Tools & Techniques
09:50 – 11:00	Theo Lynn: Mindsets and Skillsets for Futures Thinking
11:00 – 12:00	Futures Exercise 1: Seven Questions
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 14:00	Futures Exercise 2: Futures Wheel
14:00 – 15:30	Futures Exercise 3: Driver Mapping & Axes of Uncertainty
15:30 – 16:00	Close and General Discussion

8. MAY 2025, LJUBLJANA

08:00 – 10:00	Petra Grošelj: Group Decisions in Multi-Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) Introduction to MCDM methods for evaluating multiple scenarios
10:00 – 12:00	Petra Grošelj: Applying MCDM techniques to a real-world example and exploring different strategies for aggregating individual opinions into group decisions
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 15:00	Antonio Monteiro: Satellite earth observation + climate data for tracking responses of mountain pastoral systems to climate extremes
15:00 – 16:30	Antonio Monteiro: Scenario analysis

9. MAY 2025, LJUBLJANA – KOČEVJE – ŠKRILJ – OSILNICA - LJUBLJANA



DETAILS

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Training School applicants must be engaged in a research programme as postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows, or early-stage researchers (within five years of obtaining their PhD). They must also be employed at a research institution in a COST country or an accepted NNC institution. Participant eligibility will be determined by COST rules and the MARGISTAR selection committee.

The Training School will be conducted in English, and trainees are expected to have a good working knowledge of the language. A laptop is necessary.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Selected participants will receive a daily allowance (up to €192) which will cover the incurred accommodation, meals, and local travel expenses.

The daily allowance will be paid after the Training School (with possible exceptions for participants from ITC countries). Consult the COST Vademecum (Section 4 (p. 25, Meetings – Financial Support)) to determine whether you can be reimbursed for long-distance travel expenses.

APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Interested candidates must submit their **CV**, **motivation letter**, and a short **description of their scientific background** to the Training School coordinators:

Andrej Ficko (andrej.ficko@bf.uni-lj.si)

Maruša Čotar (marusa.cotar@bf.uni-lj.si)

Antonio T. Monteiro (monteiroantonio@edu.ulisboa.pt)

Deadline: **March 15th, 2025.**

The MARGISTAR Selection Committee will select up to 15 applicants for reimbursement based on the quality of applications, the suitability of the trainees, and COST principles. Female candidates and applicants from ITC countries are especially encouraged to apply. For more information, do not hesitate to contact us. To receive financial support, eligible participants must create an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> before accepting their e-COST invitation.

LOGISTICS

Venue:

Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Forestry and Renewable Forest Resources
Večna pot 83, 1000 Ljubljana

Schedule:

The Training School will begin on Wednesday, May 7, at 8:00 AM, and conclude on Friday, May 9, at 7:00 PM.

Accommodation:

Selected participants will receive information about accommodation options at a later stage.

