

## SEASONAL SCHOOL

### **WAT-CHANGE - Water-related ecosystem services and nature-based solutions for adapting societies to climate change**

#### ***A one-week crash-course on nature-based solutions at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna – Pisa (Italy)***

The programme combines state-of-the-art research, hands-on field experience, and direct interaction with leading scientists, practitioners, and policymakers working on nature-based solutions for climate resilience.

Climate change is increasingly challenging conventional approaches to water resources management, creating an urgent need for low-energy, low-impact solutions that enhance the resilience of ecosystems, societies, and economies.

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the **WAT-CHANGE Seasonal School** introduces participants to the rapidly expanding field of **nature-based solutions** that deliver **water-related ecosystem services** through a cross-disciplinary approach. In particular, the programme covers nature-based solutions for water supply, wastewater and polluted water treatment, flood risk mitigation measures, managed aquifer recharge, river restoration, constructed wetlands, and sustainable drainage systems.

The programme consists of **20 hours of interactive, cross-disciplinary** lectures delivered by academics and industry professionals with hands-on laboratory sessions and field activities. **Three field visits will allow participants to experience real-world blue and green infrastructure first-hand.** In particular, we will visit:

- **the Massaciuccoli wetland and the phytotreatment area for treating the nutrient-rich rural drainage;**
- **constructed wetlands for the treatment of agronomic process wastewater;**
- **the ecohydrological infrastructures of the Val di Cornia area.** This area has recently been recognized by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme as a site of global importance for ecohydrology.

The field activities will provide direct exposure to technical solutions, their practical implementation, market uptake, and the regulatory framework governing their application. Participants will also gain hands-on experience in surface water and groundwater monitoring and sampling techniques.

By the end of the course, participants will have acquired the knowledge and skills to understand the functions and impacts of the main nature-based solutions used to address the most common water resources management challenges, and to undertake their preliminary design.

The Seasonal School is organised within the EU PRIMA INVESTWATER project <https://investwater-prima.com/>

**The WAT-CHANGE Seasonal School is accredited by IAH Italy.**

**IAH Italy student members are eligible to apply for financial support to attend the WAT-CHANGE Seasonal School. For further details, please check:**

<https://www.iahitaly.it/news/premi-iah-italy-ets/contributi-partecipazioni-corsi-formazione>

#### **WHAT IS A SEASONAL SCHOOL AT SCUOLA SUPERIORE SANT'ANNA**

The Seasonal Schools are short, intensive, high-level training programmes, strongly interdisciplinary, and focused on the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna frontier research topics. They are open to University students enrolled in Bachelor's, Master's and PhD programmes, with academic records comparable to those of Sant'Anna students. The Seasonal Schools are also opportunities for meetings and exchanges with other high-achieving students from all Italy as well as from abroad, to experience the facilities and laboratories of Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna.

**Course dates: 9 – 13 November 2026**

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**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 28 September 2026**

Apply to the Seasonal School: <https://www.santannapisa.it/it/formazione/seasonalschool/wat-change-water-ecosystem-climate-change-26-27>

For further information please contact: [rudy.rossetto@santannapisa.it](mailto:rudy.rossetto@santannapisa.it) (course coordinator).