



REGULATIONS FOR THE WETLAND FUNCTIONS MODELING CONTEST: FLOODPLAIN INNOVATORS

The **Floodplain Innovators Contest** is an international competition aimed at students across Europe, designed to foster learning about wetlands and demonstrate their critical ecological functions through creative and hands-on model building. By participating, students will engage in interdisciplinary research and teamwork, contributing to floodplain restoration awareness and sustainability efforts.

1. ELIGIBILITY:

- The competition is open to school students, age 6 to 19, from countries participating in the Restore4Life (R4L) project (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Armenia, Belgium, Portugal, Sweden, Ukraine).
- Each participating country can submit a maximum of 3 teams for the contest.
- To participate, you need a direct invitation from one of the project partners.
- To register, please complete the following [Registration form](https://forms.office.com/e/apgiSs96tk)./
<https://forms.office.com/e/apgiSs96tk>

2. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

For students age 15 to 19 years old (start from the [dedicated scenario](#) for your group of age):

- **Wetland Model:** Each team must design and create a functional wetland model that demonstrates one of the wetland functions. The model could be represented by physical models or computer models.
- **Video Documentation:** Each team must create a short DIY video (maximum 5 minutes) that shows:
 - The process of creating the wetland model
 - Explanation of the wetland function the model demonstrates
 - The team's understanding of wetland functions and the importance of floodplain restoration



For students age 11 to 15 years old (start from the [dedicated scenario](#) for your group of age):

- Wetland Hero boardgame: the game must highlight how the hero, through one of the functions of a wetland, can save the day
- or
- Wetland hero movie: Each team must create a short creative video (maximum 5 minutes) that shows:
 - The Hero and his/ her team
 - The setting stage where the action is taking place and the problem that needs to be solved
 - The explanation of the wetland function that is to be demonstrated

For students age 6 to 11 years old (start from the [dedicated scenario](#) for your group of age):

- Wetland Picture Book: Each team must design and create a book (minimum 10 pages) about the life of different animals living in wetlands. The book should describe the natural environment and the interactions with the specific animals are living in a wetland.

3. MATERIALS

- All material used should be as much as possible from recyclable, reusable sources.

4. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Model: The wetland model should be functional, representing the researched wetland function clearly and creatively.
- Video: The video should be no longer than 5 minutes and must include:
 - An introduction to the wetland function being demonstrated
 - A step-by-step explanation of how the model was built
 - A conclusion on the importance of wetlands and floodplain restoration
 - The video should be well-edited, engaging, and informative.
- Boardgame: after creating the boardgame the team must play a round to demonstrate the rules of the game and send a video recording of them playing
- Wetland hero short movie:
 - The movie should be no longer than 5 minutes
 - The movie should be well-edited, engaging, and informative.
- Wetland Book: The book is created by primary school students and scanned by teachers in order to be submitted.



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- Submission: All videos must be submitted by the deadline. Late submissions may not be considered.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Teams will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Understanding of Wetland Functions: The team's ability to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the ecological functions and importance of wetlands.
- Technical Accuracy: The model's functionality in terms of the wetland function being demonstrated (e.g., how well it simulates water filtration or flood control).
- Innovation and Creativity: The originality and ingenuity of the wetland model.

The weight of each criterion is as follow:

- Innovation and Creativity - 50%
- Wetland Functions - 30%
- Technical Accuracy - 20%

All the models/ videos submitted before the deadline will be evaluated by a panel of experts from the Restore4Life project and outside the project.

The winning teams will be announced on the Restore4Life website.

6. IMPORTANT DATES:

- Team Registration Deadline: 31st of January 2026
- Contest Submission Deadline: 31st of May 2026
- Projects evaluation and Results: 30st of June 2026

7. AWARDS:

- First, second and third place for students age 6 to 11.
- First, second and third place for students age 11 to 15.
- First, second and third place for students age 15 to 19.

Each winning team will be awarded by the country partner.



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8. CODE OF CONDUCT:

- All participants are expected to act professionally and respectfully toward others, both during the contest preparation and in communications with fellow teams, experts, and organizers.
- Plagiarism or using third-party models or videos without proper citation will result in disqualification.
- Teams must adhere to all deadlines and rules set by the contest organizers.

9. CONSENT AND COPYRIGHT:

- By entering the contest, participants grant permission for their models, videos, and other submissions to be used for educational and promotional purposes by the Restore4Life project and its partners.
- The project organizers will ensure that proper credits are given to the teams for their work.
- All the videos will be posted on the Restore4Life YouTube channel.
- Participants can create content from the submitted videos to be used on their personal or institutional accounts (Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, X, LinkedIn), using #restore4life

We look forward to your participation in this exciting international competition. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact us at cgheorghiu@wwf.ro.

Good luck! We can't wait to see your innovative wetland models!



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