Restore4Life
RESTORING WETLANDS
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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

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

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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.

- 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: 15th of February 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

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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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