TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DRESDEN

Faculty of Environmental Sciences
Centre for International Postgraduate Studies of Environmental Management

UNEP/UNESCO/BMUV Environmental Management Training Program for Developing Countries | 2025-26 call for applications

TUD Dresden University of Technology (Germany) is offering a range of integrated environmental management courses for developing countries including emerging economies in 2025 and 2026:

92th UNEP/UNESCO/BMUV International Short Course on
Sustainable Mobility: Transforming Urban Spaces (SC92)
Application period: **11 February to 18 March 2025**
Course period*:* **21 August to 17 September 2025 (4 weeks on-site in Dresden) in a full-time format**
>> more information on page 3

93th UNEP/UNESCO/BMUV International Short Course on
Navigating Water Challenges: Climate Change and Resource Management (SC93)
Application period: **25 February to 01 April 2025**
Course period: **9 October to 5 November 2025 (4 weeks on-site in Dresden) in a full-time format**
>> more information on page 7

49th UNEP/UNESCO/BMUV International Postgraduate Course on
Environmental Management for Developing Countries (EM49)
Application period**: 18 March to 23 April 2025**
Course period: **15 January to 17 July 2026 (6 months, on-site in Dresden) in a full-time format**
>> more information on page 11

Internet: www.tu-dresden.de/cipsem
Email: unep@mailbox.tu-dresden.de

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The Centre for International Postgraduate Studies of Environmental Management (CIPSEM) offers a wide range of comprehensive and interdisciplinary training programs, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda, that address critical facets of sustainability and environmental management.

CIPSEM has designed these trainings to foster both individual and institutional capacity building in developing countries. Our goals are elevated expertise and skills of professionals engaged in environmental planning, coordination, and management within their respective countries' administrations, NGOs, and applied research institutions. Embracing a systemic, interdisciplinary approach, CIPSEM adeptly tackles the intricacies of managing environmental resources in a multifaceted manner. The focus remains on local strategies and fitting measures to safeguard the environment with ecological, socio-economic, and cultural sensitivity. Key to this approach are cross-cutting elements, including rigorous scientific practices, science-policy interfaces, and collaborative social activities. These elements bind the modular system, cultivating essential competencies for modern, sustainable management natural and urban environments on local, national and global scale.

Each course invites 21 established or aspiring experts and leaders from diverse countries. Geared towards professionals from government, science, or civil society, these courses cater to individuals already entrusted with responsibilities for sustainable development. Participants typically boast several years of relevant work experience and secure training support through their local institutions. The courses are conducted in English.

In collaboration with UNEP and UNESCO, the program aligns with the 2030 Agenda, receiving funding and support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and the German Environment Agency (UBA). The program not only facilitates intercultural skill development for both facilitators and participants but also enables them to operate effectively in a global context and collaborate with individuals from diverse backgrounds. CIPSEM serves as an outstanding opportunity for colleagues operating at the national, regional, or local levels to expand their networks, engage in mutual learning, become part of a growing international collaboration network and emerge as more impactful and recognized leaders in their respective fields.

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DRESDEN

Faculty of Environmental Sciences -
Centre for International Postgraduate Studies in Environmental Management

Sustainable Mobility: Transforming Urban Spaces (SC92)

>> 21.08 - 17.09.2025 (on-site in Dresden)

Interactive full-time course with intense personal guidance and support for building lasting networks in a peer-group of international professionals

Motivation

Rapid urbanization and growing populations in cities around the world have created significant challenges for transportation and urban planning. Traditional transportation systems that rely heavily on fossil fuels contribute to environmental degradation, air pollution, and climate change. In addition, inefficient urban planning can lead to traffic congestion, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and reduced quality of life. As cities strive to become more sustainable, the integration of holistic approaches to mobility and urban development is essential.

Sustainable mobility is at the heart of urban transformation, offering solutions to pressing environmental and socio-economic issues. By prioritizing modes that minimize carbon emissions, such as public transport, cycling and walking, cities can reduce air and noise pollution, combat climate crisis and have a positive impact on the health of their residents. In addition, sustainable mobility strategies can ensure equitable access, promoting social inclusion and improving the overall quality of life. At the same time, urban planning plays a central role in shaping the physical and social fabric of sustainable and livable cities. By promoting compact, mixed-use development patterns and optimizing infrastructure investments, cities can create more efficient, livable environments while preserving valuable natural resources. Such well-designed urban areas not only increase resilience to climate change but also stimulate economic growth and innovation.

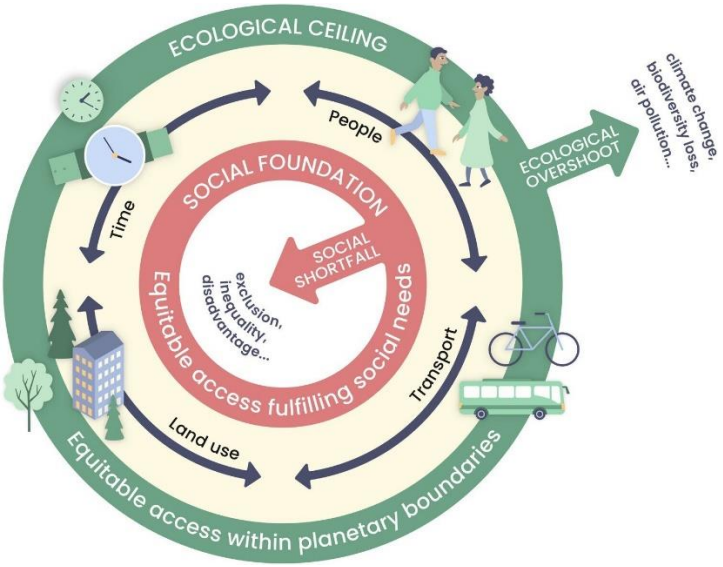

Figure 1: Conceptual model for accessibility within the safe and just space. Adapted from Raworth (Raworth, K., 2012). Credit: Transport Reviews (2023). DOI: 10.1080/01441647.2023.2240958

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CIPSEM DRESDEN concept

Achieving sustainable mobility and urban development goals will require concerted efforts and cooperation at all levels of society. Governments, businesses, communities, and individuals must work together to develop and implement forward-thinking policies, invest in resilient infrastructure, and drive behavioral changes. Leveraging the collective strength of these collaborations, cities can dismantle existing barriers and accelerate progress toward a sustainable, inclusive future for all.

Course concept and objectives

This course offers an **in-depth exploration of sustainable mobility and its role in urban development**, based on scientific research and practice. Participants will explore the principles of sustainable transport systems, resilient urban planning and policy-making. The curriculum covers a range of **topics including the environmental and socio-economic impacts of transport, the design and implementation of sustainable mobility solutions, and the integration of sustainable urban development**. Through a combination of lectures and case studies, interactive group work and project-based learning, participants will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to sustainable urban development. The short course will explore critical topics such as:

- Introduction to sustainable mobility and urban development
- Sustainable mobility and urban development in the context of the SDGs
- New Urban Agenda and its Implications for sustainable and resilient cities
- Urban planning and design for sustainability
- Environmental impacts and mitigation strategies
- Social equity and inclusive mobility
- Planetary boundaries and doughnut economics
- Theory of change and systemic transformation
- Policy and governance frameworks for sustainable mobility and urban planning

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the core concepts of sustainable mobility and urban development, including their environmental and socio-economic dimensions.
- Evaluate existing transport systems and urban planning strategies, identifying strengths and areas for improvement.
- Develop practical, science-based solutions to improve sustainable mobility in urban environments.
- Understand the role of policy and governance in promoting sustainable mobility and urban planning.

With the course-accompanying creation of individual **Post-Training Action Plans (PTAPs)**, participants prepare themselves to transfer knowledge acquired in the training into their professional action spaces.

Target group

This course is aimed **at qualified professionals who prepare and implement political decisions and practical measures towards the goals of urban sustainable development and mobility** in ministries, authorities, local government and non-governmental institutions of developing countries (including emerging economies).

We expect a high motivation to explore concepts for urban sustainability and mobility and to work towards implementing them. A first university degree (e.g. BA, BSc) in a related field is essential. Adequate communication skills in the English language and the nomination by the delegating institution for this full-time course are mandatory.

What makes participating in this course impactful?

- Experience of the CIPSEM team in conducting engaging, meaningful trainings considering the challenges in developing countries and emerging economies
- A full-time, 4-weeks learning experience combining classroom sessions, excursions and group work with guided self-study units
- Renowned international and German facilitators
- Boost of motivation through experience sharing and bonding with fellow experts
- Participants become part of a large international network of environmental experts and leaders (more than 2 800 alumni from 146 countries)
- Transfer of the gained knowledge and skills though mentored development of post-training action plans
- Alumni of this course can apply for one of several transfer-to-action fellowships supporting the implementation of the post-training action plan with 2000 €

Fellowship opportunities

The program can award 16 fully funded fellowships covering accommodation in comfortable single studio apartments, local public transport, and all tuition fees (including excursions). Also included are round-trip flights from the participant's country of origin to Dresden, insurance, and a contribution of €550 toward living expenses.

Five additional, partial, fellowships can be awarded among those applicants, who are able to contribute transportation to and from Dresden, insurance, and living expenses other than housing. The partial fellowships include housing in comfortable single studio apartments, public transportation, and all tuition (including excursions).
For these partial fellowships, also applicants who currently reside in a non-DAC country are eligible, if their origin and (prospective) area of professional engagement is in a DAC country.

Application & participation

Qualified professionals are welcome to apply for this training from **11 February until 18 March 2025** on CIPSEM's online application portal. The Steering Committee selects 21 (16+5) participants of this course by **May 2025.** Selected participants will be informed via email. Successful participants are awarded a **Certificate of Proficiency in Sustainable Mobility: Transforming Urban Spaces.**

For more information and to apply, please visit https://tud.de/cipsem/upcoming

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Navigating Water Challenges: Climate Change and Resource Management (SC93) >> 09.10 – 05.11.2025 (on-site in Dresden)

Interactive full-time course with intense personal guidance and support for building lasting networks in a peer-group of international professionals

Motivation

Water is a fundamental resource that sustains life, ecosystems and human societies. But water is more than a resource. It's a lifeline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that underpin global progress. Its importance cuts across multiple sectors, from health and agriculture to energy and infrastructure. At the heart of SDG 6 is the imperative to ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation, a basic human right. This access is not only about meeting basic needs, but also about empowering communities, ensuring biodiversity, driving economic growth, and promoting resilience in the face of climate change.

The growing impacts of climate change pose significant challenges to the availability, quality and management of water resources worldwide. Changes in temperature, precipitation patterns and extreme weather events are altering the hydrological cycle, affecting water supply and demand, and exacerbating water scarcity and quality issues. These challenges are further complicated by increasing population pressure, urbanization, agricultural and industrial activities, which increase demand for water and stress already fragile water systems.

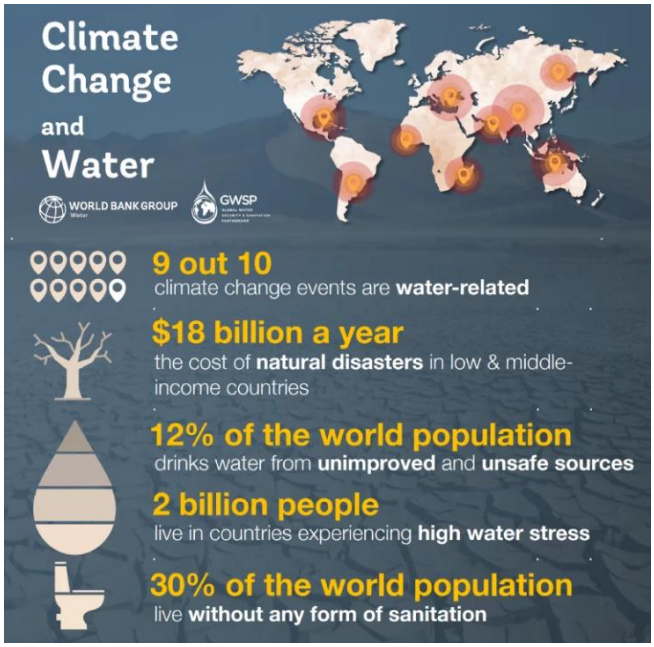

Figure 2: Water and Climate Change (Source: World Bank Group, 2023).

To effectively address these complex issues, there is an urgent need for professionals with advanced scientific knowledge and practical skills in water resources management and climate change adaptation. This course is designed to meet this need by providing participants with a deep understanding of the interplay between hydrological processes and climate dynamics, and equipping them with the tools to develop and implement effective management strategies.

Course concept and objectives

This comprehensive course program examines the complex relationship between water resources and climate change. The short course is **structured around a comprehensive exploration of the scientific, technical and policy dimensions of water resources management in the context of climate change**. It combines theoretical knowledge with practical applications, using a multidisciplinary approach to ensure a holistic understanding of the issues at hand. Participants will explore the **scientific principles of hydrology and climate systems, analyse the impacts of climate change on water resources, and develop strategies for sustainable water management**. Through this blend of theoretical and practical knowledge, this course provides participants with the tools to assess risks, design adaptive measures, and implement effective water management practices in the face of climate variability and change. The short course will explore critical topics such as:

- Examination of how climate change impacts these processes and the subsequent effects on water resources and water-dependent ecosystems
- Planetary boundaries and doughnut economics
- Water challenges and management in the context of the SDGs
- Impact and risk assessment of climate change on water resources and water-dependent ecosystems
- Adaptive water management strategies
- Review of international and national policies and regulatory frameworks for water resources and climate change.

- Discussion on the role of governance, stakeholder engagement, and community participation in effective water management

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the basic hydrologic processes and how they are influenced by climatic factors
- Learn to assess the impacts of climate change on water resources, including changes in precipitation patterns, water availability, water quality and their effects on water uses, water-dependent ecosystems and biodiversity
- Design and implement adaptive strategies for sustainable water management in response to climate change challenges
- Apply techniques for assessing and managing risks associated with water resources under changing climatic conditions
- Understand the role of policy and governance in water resources management and adaptation to climate change
- Explore technological innovations and best practices in water conservation, water recycling, and efficient water use.

With the course-accompanying creation of individual **Post-Training Action Plans (PTAPs)**, participants prepare themselves to transfer knowledge acquired in the training into their professional action spaces.

Target groups

This course is aimed at **qualified professionals who prepare and implement political decisions and practical measures** in ministries, authorities, local government and non-governmental institutions of developing countries (including emerging economies) **working on resource sustainability and water issues as well as sustainable societal development.**

We expect a high motivation to explore concepts for water management and climate change and to work towards implementing them. A first university degree (e.g., BA, BSc) in a related field is essential. Adequate communication skills in the English language and the nomination by the delegating institution for this full-time course are mandatory.

What makes participating in this course impactful?

- Experience of the CIPSEM team in conducting engaging, meaningful trainings considering the challenges in developing countries and emerging economies
- A full-time, 4-weeks learning experience combining classroom sessions, excursions and group work with guided self-study units
- Renowned international and German facilitators
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Application and participation

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Faculty of Environmental Sciences -
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49th UNEP/UNESCO/BMUV International Postgraduate Course on Environmental Management for Developing Countries (EM49)

>> 15.01.2026 – 17.07.2026 (on-site in Dresden)

Motivation

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations in 2015 marked a significant milestone in global sustainable development. For the first time, the world collectively committed to pursuing a comprehensive set of common goals. These encompassed critical areas ranging from climate action to promoting sustainable economic growth, from securing life under water to promoting sustainable cities, from addressing hunger and poverty to advocating for responsible consumption and production, and from reducing inequalities to promoting inclusive industrialization.

Course concept and objectives

The 2030 Agenda, encapsulated in the SDGs (Figure 3), recognizes that the preservation of our biosphere depends on responsible and sustainable stewardship of planet Earth. It underscores the interconnectedness of various aspects of human activity with the health and vitality of our environment, and emphasizes the need for a holistic and forward-looking approach to global challenges. Globally, however, the realization of the ambitious goals set by the SDGs has fallen significantly behind schedule. To address this challenge and align with the goals of these important international agreements, the UNEP/UNESCO/BMUV 6-month course takes an integrated and interdisciplinary approach, encompassing key facets of sustainability and environmental management.

Figure 3: The SDGs wedding cake – economies and societies as embedded parts of the biosphere (Source: Rockström and Sukhdev 2016, Azote Images for Stockholm Resilience Centre)

The curriculum (Figure 4) is organized into several modules covering conservation and restoration ecology, water and atmosphere, soil and land resources, sustainable urban and regional development, waste management, circular economy and resource efficiency, renewable energy and energy efficiency, climate change, and natural resource governance. **An overarching science-policy interface frames all disciplines.**

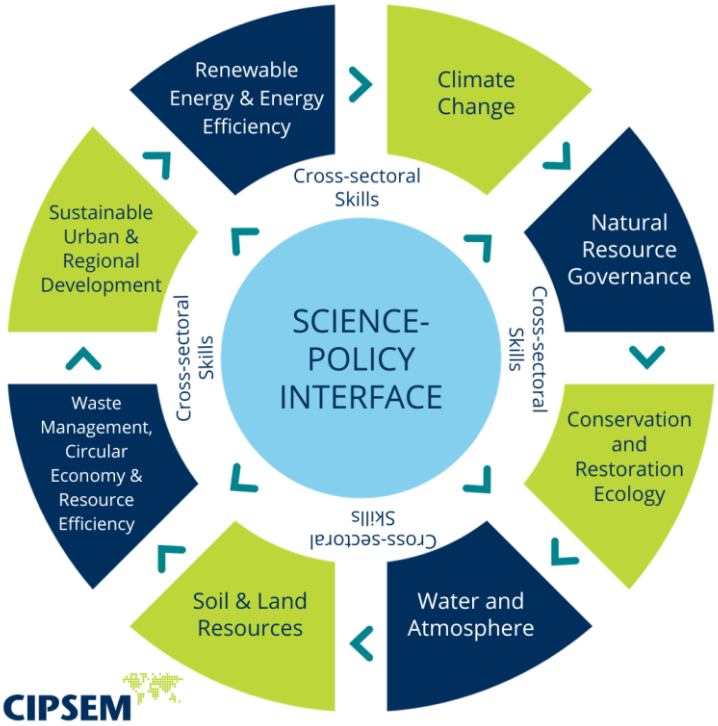

Figure 4: Modular structure of the course contents of the UNEP/UNESCO/BMUV International Postgraduate Course on Environmental Management for Developing Countries (EM)

In addition, all participants will acquire basic **skills with cross-sectoral relevance**, such as policy advice, presentation skills, project planning and management, which can be **applied in the context of their local realities**, as well as communication across disciplines and cultures, participatory governance practices, and understanding of geo-information.

CIPSEM follows an **integrative and interdisciplinary approach to teaching**, which not only provides knowledge about global environmental processes and methods for sustainable resource management, but also fosters the ability to think holistically about environmental problems and solutions. The overall approach is to **combine academic knowledge with local, traditional and professional expertise.** The curriculum is **enhanced by practical exercises, group work, interaction with fellow participants from different regions of the world and a variety of excursions**. For example, each year participants spend a few days at the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm (INA - BfN). The conference center is located in the beautiful nature of the small island of Vilm near Rügen in the Baltic Sea.

The lectures are given by professors of TUD Dresden University of Technology and experts from various national and international institutions - from the German Environment Agency, the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, UNU-FLORES, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Leibniz Institute of

Ecological Urban and Regional Development, among many others. The course program also includes contributions from CIPSEM alumni. **Participants are required to carry out a research project, in the form of a scientific paper, on a specific environmental topic of their choice** and to present the results of this work in a symposium at the end of the course.

"Upon completing the course, participants will be equipped to design and implement multi- and interdisciplinary strategies for sustainable development, tailored to address environmental protection and management while integrating ecological, socio-economic, political, and cultural considerations."

Target groups

This course is particularly designed for **qualified professionals and future leaders** of public governance and administration at the national, regional and local level requiring an overall-competence in environmental matters. However, professionals from science, economy or civil society who already bear responsibility for sustainable development in their countries are welcome to apply as well. To be eligible, **candidates need to originate from and work in developing countries, including emerging economies**. Applicants also need to have several years of professional practice in the course's scope for a mutually beneficial exchange of experiences. A first university degree (e.g. BA, BSc,), adequate communication **skills in the English language, and the delegating institution's nomination are mandatory.**

Figure 5: Impressions from past trainings on environmental management (photos by CIPSEM)

Application and participation

Qualified professionals are welcome to apply for this training from **18 March until 23 April 2025** on CIPSEM's online application portal. The Steering Committee selects 21 participants of this course by **July 2025**. Selected participants will be informed via email.

Participants stay in our comfortable single studio apartments and receive a stipend to cover basic living expenses (550 €/month). In addition, flights, health insurance, public transport tickets, costs of overnight stays for excursions etc., will be covered. The course office will provide additional manifold assistance.

Participants successfully completing this course will be awarded a **Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management.**

For more information and to apply, please visit https://tud.de/cipsem/upcoming

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Figure 6: EM-Participants during the festive opening ceremony of 2025 (by Christin Nitzsche / CIPSEM)

TUD Dresden University of Technology
Centre for International Postgraduate Studies of Environmental Management (CIPSEM)
01062 Dresden

Visitor Address: Zellescher Weg 41c, Ground floor, 01217 Dresden

Tel.: +49 351 463 82010
Email: unep@mailbox.tu-dresden.de
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/cipsem/