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PhD position within EU founded project *PollinERA* on pesticide-pollinator interactions

We seek for a highly motivated and creative candidate, with good communication skills and a strong capacity for PhD position at the Institute of Nature Conservation, Polish Academy of Sciences (INC PAS), Kraków, Poland. We offer full-time position for 48 months from March 2024 to February 2028 (the start of work may be postponed by a maximum of 1 month) in the EU-funded project *PollinERA* – “Understanding pesticide-Pollinator interactions to support EU Environmental Risk Assessment and policy”.

Study field: ecology, ecotoxicology, physiological ecology, landscape ecology

Location of the project: Institute of Nature Conservation Polish Academy of Sciences (INC PAS) and Institute of Environmental Sciences, Jagiellonian University (IES JU), Krakow, Poland

Supervisor: Dr Agnieszka Bednarska (prof. INC PAS)

Scholarship: 6600 PLN monthly for 48 months (tax-free, but Social Security contributions and health insurance will be deducted, which gives net scholarship of ca. 5800 PLN monthly). This monthly scholarship ensures a satisfactory standard of living in Poland, where the costs of living are lower than in Western Europe. *PollinERA* will cover costs of business trips (i.e., travel and accommodation costs during project meetings and scientific conferences). There are financial bonuses to the scholarship in INC PAS such as publication rewards, and the possibility to apply for own research projects. The costs associated with the PhD courses and PhD defence will be covered by the Doctoral School and INC PAS.

Recruitment process: Recruitment to the project will be combined with the recruitment to the Doctoral School of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, so it is required that the candidate submit a set of documents specified in Appendix No. 2 to the Rules for Admission (<https://www.botany.pl/index.php/en/teaching-en/doctoral-school-en/admissions-en>; see also below). The selection will be based on the qualifications of the candidates including scientific achievements, experience, awards, internships, skills, and competences. An interview with pre-selected candidates will be a part of the selection of candidates. The successful candidate will be admitted to the Doctoral School and obliged to carry out the duties of a doctoral student arising from the rules of the Doctoral School and the program of study (for Terms and Conditions of the Doctoral School and Program of Study see the webpage <https://www.botany.pl/index.php/en/teaching-en/doctoral-school-en/about-the-doctoral-school-en>)

Candidates should contact me and email the required documents by 25 February 2024:
bednarska@iop.krakow.pl or a.bednarska@uj.edu.pl

Pre-selected candidates will be invited to an interview in early March 2024.





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Short description of *PollinERA* project:

PollinERA addresses HORIZON-CL6-2023-BIODIV-01-1 Area B and will move the evaluation of the risk and impacts of pesticides and suggestions for mitigation beyond the current situation of assessing single pesticides in isolation on honeybees to an ecologically consistent assessment of effects on insect pollinators using a systems approach. The *PollinERA* specific objectives are to:

- Fill ecotoxicological data gaps to enable realistic prediction of the source and routes of exposure and the impact of pesticides on pollinators and their sensitivity to individual pesticides and mixtures.
- Develop and test a co-monitoring scheme for pesticides and pollinators across European cropping systems and landscapes, developing risk indicators and mixture exposure information.
- Develop models for predicting pesticide toxicological effects on pollinators for chemicals and organisms, improve toxicokinetic/toxicodynamic (TKTD) and population models, and predict environmental fate.
- Develop a population-level systems-based approach to risk and policy assessment considering multiple stressors and long-term spatiotemporal dynamics at a landscape scale and generate an open database for pollinator/pesticide data and tools.

The project involves partners from eight European countries: Denmark (project coordinator), Poland, Sweden, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Bulgaria, and Slovenia.

Tasks for doctoral student: The doctoral student will actively participate in tasks related to pollinator exposure and sensitivity by linking specific traits (morphological, physiological, ecological) to the external exposure and intrinsic sensitivity, studying toxicity effects (lethal and sublethal) of multi-pesticide exposure on a few selected species, both as adults and as larvae, generating toxicokinetic data to support TKTD models, and to develop standardized ecotoxicological tests for new test organisms suitable in the risk assessment. These tasks involve participation in field studies, laboratory experiments, business trips and professional networking. Significant participation in data analysis, preparation of reports and publications in scientific journals and presenting the project output to scientific audience is expected as well as the fulfillment of the doctoral student's obligations arising from the rules of the Doctoral School and the program of study.

Requirements for candidates:

- MSc degree in biology or ecology or a related education / specialization (biochemistry or biotechnology).
- Knowledge in ecotoxicology and ecology.
- Experience in laboratory study and data analysis.
- Physical ability to work in a variety of field conditions.
- Good spoken and written English skills.

Previous research experience in studies on insects, scientific writing, dissemination of scientific results and professional experience abroad, knowledge of the Polish language and a driving license are assets.





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APPLICATION FOR THE PhD POSITION

For details and templates of required documents for admission to Doctoral School in academic year 2023/2024, please see <https://www.botany.pl/index.php/en/teaching-en/doctoral-school-en/admissions-en>

- 1) Application for admission to the Doctoral School along with reasons therefor, i.e., a letter of interest, detailing the qualifications of the candidate for the position, his/her research experience, and how this position will help to fulfil personal career goals (see Doctoral School webpage for the template attached as Appendix No. 6 to the Rules for Admission);
- 2) Consent to the processing of personal data for the purposes of the admission procedure in accordance with the template thereof attached as Appendix No. 7 to the Rules for Admissions;
- 3) CV specifying a list of scientific achievements, employment record and participation in scientific projects, conferences, workshops, training and internships, together with list of publications;
- 4) Contact information to two academic referees or people with whom a candidate have worked;
- 5) Personal data form (see webpage for template);
- 6) 2 photos + one photo in electronic form (passport-sized format); these can be submitted later, only by a selected candidate;
- 7) Diploma certifying completion of Master studies or a document confirming the fulfilment of the conditions set out in § 2 sec. 6-8 of Recruitment Rules; in the case of a diploma of study abroad, it should be endorsed with an apostille clause;
- 8) Certificate or diploma certifying completion of studies, confirming English language competencies at no less than B2 level; the list of certificates is specified in Appendix No. 8 to these Rules for Admissions;
- 9) Photocopy of the student's record book/diploma supplement containing the relevant entries;
- 10) Statement concerning previously commenced doctoral studies or doctoral programme, or education at another doctoral school;
- 11) Information on the doctoral scholarship received at the doctoral school and the period for which it has been paid;
- 12) A copy of the abstract of the Master's thesis in Polish or English;
- 13) A statement of no health-related contraindications to carry out the tasks provided for under the research theme concerned;
- 14) A statement to the effect that the person can use electronic equipment in order to attend classes held with the use of distance learning methods and techniques;
- 15) Declaration of disability.

Documents should be combined into a single pdf and sent by email to the address bednarska@iop.krakow.pl or a.bednarska@uj.edu.pl until 25 February 2024.

