



ERASMUS BLENDED
INTENSIVE PROGRAMME
(BIP)



UrbanWaterSECURITY



Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)

Blended Intensive Mobility Programmes (BIPs) are an innovation of the new Erasmus+ Programme 2021-27, in the action KA131 “Mobility of Students and Staff of Higher Education Institutions”. These are short-term intensive programmes that use innovative learning and teaching methods, including the use of online collaboration.

During these intensive blended mobility programmes, groups of students or staff undertake a short-term mobility activity with a physical presence abroad as learners, combined with a mandatory virtual component that facilitates collaborative online learning and teamwork. The virtual component brings learners together so that they can work together online and simultaneously on specific tasks that are integrated into the intensive blended mobility programme and count towards the overall learning outcomes. In addition, intensive blended mobility programmes may be open to students and staff from higher education institutions other than the organizing institutions.

Intensive Programmes are organized by at least 3 Higher Education Institutions holding the Erasmus+ Charter and located in 3 different Programme Countries. In order to be implemented, at least 15 (or 20) students from the 2 (or more) participating institutions coming from different countries than the Institution hosting the programme must participate in them.

The duration of the programme includes mobility with physical presence for a period of 5 to 30 days, which is necessarily combined with virtual activity, with no limitation on the duration of the virtual activity. The programme must award at least 3 ECTS.

On December 4, 2024, the Erasmus+ Management Committee approved funding under the Erasmus+ Programme (Action KA131, Plan 2024) for the organization of a BIP project in collaboration with Università Degli Studi di Salerno and Open University of Cyprus. This project will take place in September 2025 within the Department of Environment. The approved funding, up to €6,000, is contingent upon the participation of 15 students from the partner institutions and is intended to cover the organizational costs of the BIP. These costs may include catering for coffee breaks, educational materials, contracts for organizational support, excursion arrangements, and related expenses. Travel and subsistence for incoming staff and students will be funded through the Erasmus+ programme of their respective home institutions.

Introduction to the Academy

The UrbanWaterSecurity Academy is an international initiative dedicated to advanced training in the sustainable management of urban water resources. Through a multidisciplinary approach, the Academy aims to develop essential skills and knowledge to address the challenges associated with urban water security, a critical issue in the face of rapid urbanization and climate change.

Founded to meet the growing need for innovative and sustainable water management solutions, the Academy is supported by leading academic institutions and international organizations. The Academy provides a unique learning experience that combines theoretical knowledge with practical applications, focusing on innovative solutions to enhance water quality, optimize water usage, and ensure resource resilience in urban environments. It brings together young researchers, professionals, and industry experts to exchange ideas, collaborate on sustainable projects, and promote a resilient urban water future.

Past Editions of the Academy

In previous editions, the UrbanWaterSecurity Academy has hosted students and early-career researchers from around the world, each edition building on the success of the last to provide in-depth insights into urban water security. The Academy's structure has included lectures by renowned experts, interactive workshops, and site visits to facilities demonstrating cutting-edge water technologies. These activities foster an environment where participants can gain valuable skills, engage in real-world problem-solving, and build a global network of water professionals.

The UrbanWaterSecurity Academy has successfully organized three editions to date:

- First Edition (2022): Held in Salerno, Italy, this inaugural edition laid the foundation for the Academy's mission to address urban water security challenges.
- Second Edition (2023): Conducted in Athens, Greece, from August 30 to September 2, 2023.
- Third Edition (2024): Took place in Paestum, Italy, from June 14 to June 16, 2024, at the Oleandri Resort.

Throughout these editions, the Academy has featured lectures by distinguished experts, including: Damià Barceló, Dionysios (Dion) Dionysiou, Zhen (Jason) He, Gregory Vladimir Korshin, Gerasimos Lyberatos, Raul Muñoz, How Yong Ng, Susan Richardson, Mohammad J. Taherzadeh, Johannes Vrouwenvelder. These experts have provided participants with in-depth insights into urban water security, combining theoretical knowledge with practical applications.

Through past collaborations, the Academy has become a recognized platform for promoting best practices in water management and engaging participants in the latest advancements in water

technologies. These experiences have proven invaluable, equipping participants with the expertise to tackle complex water issues on a global scale.

UWS25 | The Upcoming Edition in Kos, Greece

The fourth edition of the UrbanWaterSecurity Academy will be held on the island of Kos, Greece, from September 3 to 6, 2025, in conjunction with the CEST2025 Conference (Conference on Environmental Science and Technology).

This year's Academy is organized by the Waste Management Laboratory of the Department of Environment at the University of the Aegean, in cooperation with the Sanitary Environmental Engineering Division (SEED) of the University of Salerno and the Open University of Cyprus.

This edition promises a comprehensive curriculum designed to prepare participants to address critical urban water challenges.

Programme of UrbanWaterSecurity Academy:

- **Lectures by Leading Experts:** Covering topics on urban water management, resilience in water systems, and the latest in water treatment technologies.
- **Interactive Workshops:** Practical sessions that allow participants to apply theoretical knowledge in simulated real-world scenarios.
- **Panel Discussions and Q&A Sessions:** Opportunities for participants to engage directly with experts on emerging issues and future trends in urban water security.
- **Technical Tours:** Visits to local facilities, providing insights into advanced water management practices implemented in Kos island.

This edition will feature prestigious educators, each a global leader in urban water science and technology, including winners of the prestigious PSIPW awards. Their expertise will broaden participants' perspectives and prepare them to lead impactful change. Participants will engage in six specialized modules comprising 6 comprehensive classes, six class Wworks, and one technical tour.

UWS25 | Programme Structure and Plan of Study

The UrbanWaterSecurity Academy offers intensive training designed for undergraduate, master's and Ph.D. students. This programme meets the growing demand for expertise in urban water security by providing a comprehensive understanding of fundamental principles, practical applications, and innovative technologies for urban water management. The Academy encourages participants to integrate technical knowledge with broader environmental and societal contexts, equipping them to address present and future water challenges in urban environments. The

curriculum is developed by a distinguished programme committee, which ensures high-quality instruction by selecting top-tier experts in the field.

The Academy programme will include:

- **Lectures by Leading Experts:** Providing both theoretical foundations and real-world case studies, these sessions will highlight innovations in urban water security, resource recovery, and resilience planning.
- **Hands-On Workshops:** Interactive sessions focusing on urban water system design, management of emerging contaminants, and climate adaptation strategies, complemented by hands-on demonstrations.
- **Discussions and Q&A Sessions:** Opportunities for participants to engage with experts on current challenges, future developments, and critical trends in urban water security.
- **Technical Tours:** Field visits to water management facilities in Kos, Greece, offering firsthand insights into advanced practices in urban water treatment and sustainable resource management.

This edition will feature prestigious educators, each a global leader in urban water science and technology, included winners of the prestigious PSIPW awards. Their expertise will broaden participants' perspectives and prepare them to lead impactful change. Participants will engage in six specialized modules comprising 6 comprehensive classes, six class workshops, and one technical tour.

The programme will cover:

- Class 1: Fundamentals of Urban Water Security (3 lectures)
- Class 2: Innovative Water Treatment and Reuse Technologies (4 lectures)
- Class 3: Resource Recovery and Circular Water Systems (3 lectures)
- Class 4: Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Urban Water Systems (3 lectures)
- Class 5: Management of Emerging Contaminants (3 lectures)
- Class 6: Water Security Policy and Governance (2 lectures)
- N.7 Class Works
- N.1 Technical visit
- Academy Commencement and Closing Ceremony

Proposed programme structure

2 Sept Physical	3 Sept Physical	4 Sept Physical	5 Sept Physical	6 Sept Physical	12 Sept Virtual	19 Sept Virtual	26 Sept Virtual	30 Sept Virtual
Class 1: Fundamentals of Urban Water Security (2-3 lectures)	Class 2: Innovative Water Treatment and Reuse Technologies (3-4 lectures)	Class 3: Resource Recovery and Circular Water Systems (2-3 lectures)	Class 4: Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Urban Water Systems (2-3 lectures)	Class 6: Water Security Policy and Governance (2-3 lectures)	Class Works on topics 1 & 2	Class Works on topics 3 & 4	Class Works on topics 5 & 6	Projects' presentations
Class 1: Fundamentals of Urban Water Security (2-3 lectures)	Class 2: Innovative Water Treatment and Reuse Technologies (3-4 lectures)	Class 3: Resource Recovery and Circular Water Systems (2-3 lectures)	Class 5: Management of Emerging Contaminants (3-4 lectures)	N.7 Class Work N.1 Technical visit Project selection				Final evaluation

The 2025 UrbanWaterSecurity Academy in Kos, Greece, represents a critical opportunity for young professionals to immerse themselves in the latest research and technologies in urban water security. With the support of esteemed partners and organizations, the Academy continues its mission to empower the next generation of water leaders, building a resilient future for urban water management globally.

BIP: requirements

- **Minimum 3 institutions from 3 Programme Countries:** University of the Aegean, Università Degli Studi di Salerno, Open University of Cyprus
- **Minimum 15 participants on a funded Erasmus+ mobility:** 5 from Università Degli Studi di Salerno, 5 Open University of Cyprus
- **Must award a minimum of 3 ECTS credits :** 3 ECTS
- **Physical component:** minimum 5 days and maximum 30 days : 2-6 September 2025
- **Virtual component (mandatory):** no requirements

Student selection criteria

This Academy is addressed to students regularly enrolled at the University of Salerno and at the Open University of Cyprus on the Master's degree course, and PhD students.

- **Academic merit:** weighted average. The weighted average is calculated by multiplying each grade by the number of credits of the corresponding exam. All the values thus obtained are added together and finally divided by the total number of credits earned on the activities with a grade.
- **Degree grade for students enrolled in master's degree courses** (A score will be assigned based on the degree grade: up to 100/110 = 30 points; from 101 to 110 = 30 points plus one point for each grade above 100 (e.g. 104 = 34 points). Graduates with honors will be assigned 42 points;
- **Specialist/master's degree grade for students enrolled in doctoral courses.** A score will be assigned based on the degree grade as specified below: up to 100/110 = 60 points; from 101 to 110 = 60 points + one point for each grade above 100 (e.g. 104 = 64 points); graduates with honors will be assigned 72 points.
- **Mandatory interview.** The interview is assigned a score from 0 to 40 points, of which 1-5 points may be awarded for language certifications relevant to the mobility. Participants who achieve a score of at least 10 will be usefully placed in the ranking.

Contact point:

1. Waste Management Laboratory of the Department of Environment at the University of the Aegean.
Prof. Demetris F. Lekkas: dlekkas@env.aegean.gr
2. Sanitary Environmental Engineering Division (SEED) of the University of Salerno.
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