



# Call for Participation

## BACKGROUND

After the success of the first and second Caucasus Summer Schools (CSS2016 and CSS 2021) it is our pleasure to announce and invite you to the Third Caucasus Summer School (CSS2023).

The school will be the third in a series of Caucasus Summer Schools held from 2016 to 2023 by the Caucasus Network for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions (Sustainable Caucasus) the coordination unit of the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region (SNC-mt).

The third school will be organised under the project Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in the South Caucasus (SCAC) supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

## TOPIC: Natural Disaster Risk Assessment for Safe Mountain Tourism: Identification and Mapping

**DURATION:** 9 days (including travel days)

**DATES:** 20-28 August, 2023

**THE LOCATION** Ozurgeti, Anaseuli (Georgia), Agricultural University of Georgia, Institute of Subtropical Crops and Tea Industry

**THE VENUE** Located in a beautiful area, among subtropical landscapes, not far from the Black Sea coast. This is Guria, a Georgian province with its distinct cultural, historical and natural characteristics. Institute of Subtropical Crops and Tea Industry has a long and fruitful history and keeps the memory of many remarkable scientists who worked for the benefit of science. Fieldwork will cover the mountains of Guria.

## OBJECTIVE

Mountains are among the most significant and remarkable tourist destinations all over the world, and every year the tourist flow is increasing year after year, drawn by the beauty of the mountains, rich cultural heritage and sporting attractions. Tourism is a source of income and an economic opportunity for many rural mountain communities; it can also help to revive local traditions and intensify agricultural activities, while also protecting the environment.

At the same time, mountainous areas are particularly prone to natural disasters, and the risk and frequency of these hazards are even more aggravated by climate change. Therefore, tourism safety in the mountains, especially the safety of tourist trails is closely linked with the

abovementioned natural phenomenon. The primary concern in planning mountain tourism is to ensure the safety of tourists in the face of potential natural disasters.

Third Summer School aims to give students knowledge about identifying and assessing the risks of mountain disasters and their causes; provide them with basic skills in disaster risk mapping; introduce the principles of disaster risk management (DRM); and integrate this knowledge into the expertise and requirements of safe mountain tourism in cooperation with the local population.

During the seven-day course, participants will learn:

- factors and classification of natural mountain disasters and their primary and long-term consequences;
- what is disaster risk and principles of disaster risk assessment;
- the basic principles of disaster risk management (DRM);
- what researchers need to know about regional and local mountain tourism and how the local population is or could be involved;
- practical methods for mapping, planning and assessing the quality and safety of the tourist routes;
- how to perform the real-time monitoring and mapping of hazardous processes and disaster risks.

#### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

The Caucasus Summer School is open to young researchers (masters, graduate and doctoral students) worldwide with a priority of participants from the countries of the Caucasus region. We would be very glad to see the participants of the second Caucasus Summer School (2021) and involve alumni of the first school as assistants and/or lecturers as appropriate.

Participation will be limited to a maximum of 22-24 students.

#### **COURSE CONTENT**

**The CSS-2023's program** contains a combination of various formats such as lectures, fieldwork and classwork, which facilitate the acquisition and consolidation of knowledge and skills. Fieldwork will take place in the mountains of Guria.

**The training process** will be held by a team of leading specialists from the Caucasus, Carpathian and Alpine universities, as well as practitioners.

**Evaluation of the acquired knowledge** At the end of the course, team project presentations', accompanied with annotated natural hazards risk map will be evaluated by the team of teachers.

The entire course will be full of testing of personal residual knowledge on information from lectures and field seminars.

The end result of joint teamwork is expected to be a comprehensive zoning of the mountainous territory based on the level of risk of natural disasters for tourists and tourism infrastructure.

At the end of the course, participants receive **certificates of attendance**.

**GETTING THERE:** participants will be met in Tbilisi and / or Batumi and taken to the CSS-2023 venue.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Download the Call for Applications in PDF format here

Download the Application Form here

Please send Application Forms to: [summerschool@caucasus-mt.net](mailto:summerschool@caucasus-mt.net)

**DEADLINES:**

Submission deadline: June 1, 2023

Notification of application acceptance: June 15, 2023

**PARTICIPANT SELECTION**

Participants will be selected based on motivation letters, knowledge of the school's theme and basic geographic information system skills. Basic skills will be tested through express tests and quizzes.

The field kit of the school participant implies a personal computer (laptops), field clothing and camping equipment. The school plans big day trips and independent routes, which will be provided with methodical materials and food sets.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

All digital materials and maps will be provided by the organisers.

The language of training is English.

The programme and daily schedule of the course will be announced later.

If you have any questions please contact Ana Abulashvili: [aabulashvili@sd-caucasus.com](mailto:aabulashvili@sd-caucasus.com) or visit: <https://www.caucasus-mt.net>