



# RIVER UNIVERSITY

11 - 15 JULY 2022  
Lecturers

**MUREL TRUU**  
Tallinn  
University of  
Technology



**NELSON VENEGAS CORDERO**  
Warsaw University  
of Life Science



**MAI ANDRESSON**  
Tallinn City Government Strategy dept.



**KATI ROOSALU**  
Taltech water quality  
laboratory



**ANNALIINA AAVIK**  
TalTech University  
Library



**EWA LEŚ**  
CCB, River University founder



**PIOTR MATCZAK**  
Adam Mickiewicz  
University in Poznań



**SVEN OTSMAA**  
Tallinn Waterworks, EstWA



**TOOMAS TAMM**  
University of Life Sciences, Tartu



**TOOMAS KAPP**  
Tartu Waterwork



**ALGIS MARTSOO**  
Soomaa.com



**MARET MERISAAR**  
Estonian Water  
Association



**MARIA FALALEEVA**  
International NGO  
EKAPRAEKT



**ALVINA REIHAN**  
TTÜ, EstWA



**ANDRE STECKENREUTER**  
Innovasea - Fish Tracking



**ALEX LOTMAN**  
Estonian Fund for Nature



**KARIN KLAUS**  
Pärnu Nature House



**ANNA USHAKOVA**  
CCB, Ecocentrum



**ILONA BIEDROŃ**  
Hektary dla Natury  
Foundation



**ARVO JÄRVET**  
University of Tartu



**MAIT SEPP**  
University of Tartu



**ENE INDERMITTE**  
Tartu University, EstWA



**AILI ELTS**  
Tartu Nature  
House



**Aivar Ruukel**  
Soomaa.com



**JANA PÕLDNURK**  
EWA, Hydrological Dept of  
Estonian Environmental  
Agency



## MARIA FALALEEVA -INTERNATIONAL NGO EKAPRAEKT



Maria Falaleeva is a climate policy, urban sustainability, regional development and stakeholder engagement professional with 15 years of international experience in research, consultancy and education. She is Chair of the Board of the international NGO “EKAPRAEKT”, in Belarus.



Maria Falaleeva obtained a PhD degree in urban resilience from Belarusian State University and studied Sustainable Development in Lund University, Sweden. She worked in several EU research centres and as an independent consultant and policy advisor. Maria works for a range of national and international clients: EU, UNDP, FAO, development agencies and international organisations (SIDA, CAN, 350.org), research institutions, local administrations and NGOs.

She was a climate adaptation expert for the Belarusian national delegation at the UN FCCC COP-21 in Paris and COP-24 in Katowice. Maria is the author of the “New City for New Climate” book, academic publications, guidelines for local administrations on participatory urban governance and developing local climate adaptation plans, co-author of the text book on climate change for Belarusian Universities.

## MUREL TRUU - TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Murel Truu has a degree in economic policy and landscape architecture and a long experience in state-level environmental governance. Building on this, she has graduated from the TalTech water engineering master's course. During her studies, she was engaged in the work of TalTech Urban Water Systems Research Unit. There, she participated to implement various projects that are dealing with urban pluvial flood risk mitigation.



During the River University, she will lead an afternoon discussion on multihazard urban flood risk management.

She will introduce the work of TalTech Urban Water Systems Research Unit and the key results of her thesis, which proposes a methodology for pluvial flood risk assessment for the Estonian urban settlements.



## ALVINA REIHAN - TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, ESTWA



Alvina Reihan currently works at the Department of Environmental Engineering, Tallinn University of Technology. Alvina does research in Hydrology, Irrigation and Water Management and Water Science. Her most recent publication is 'Spatial distribution and temporal changes in river water temperature in the Baltic States'.



## NELSON VENEGAS CORDERO - WARSAW UNIVERSITOF LIFE SCIENCE



Nelson Venegas Cordero has been working on large environmental data analysis, hydrological drought, programming, hydrological modelling, and Geographic Information Systems. He is also experienced in downscaling and correction of global hydrometeorological data products for local-scale applications. Currently, his research focuses on the detection and attribution of changes in river floods in Poland.



## MAI ANDRESSON - TALLINN CITY



Mai Andresson has a master's degree in Aquaculture and various experiences related to water management, from environmental taxes to coordinating Estonian surface water monitoring. Currently, she is working as an expert or coordinator with several international projects that are connected to the environmental field or urban planning in Tallinn City.





## ANDRE STECKENREUTER - INNOVASEA



Andre Steckenreuter completed his PhD in Environmental Sciences at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, in 2012. After that, he was appointed as Scientific Officer for the Integrated Marine Observing System's Australian national animal tracking program. In his current position as Regional Manager Europe for Innovasea – Fish Tracking he is based in Cologne, Germany. He conducts regular acoustic telemetry workshops across Europe and beyond is the regional contact for all customer related support.

## KATI ROOSALU - TALTECH WATER QUALITY LABORATORY



Kati Roosalu has a Master's Degree in Chemical and Environmental Technology (TalTech). She is working in Tallinn University of Technology as a researcher involved in surface water quality studies, including nutrient cycling, loads, trends, and other topics related to water quality assessment. On the other hand, she deals with water analyses and quality management in the Taltech water quality research and testing laboratory.

## ANNALIINA AAVIK - TALTECH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



Annaliina Aavik has a Master's Degree in Theoretical Physics from the University of Edinburgh and is currently working at TalTech University Library as the School of Science Subject Librarian. In her position she is a contact person between the library and academic units and provides many services including information retrieval, referencing aide, consultations, and trainings.

## ALEX LOTMAN - ESTONIAN FUND FOR NATURE



Alex Lotman studied Biology at Tartu University and has worked as a teacher in Tartu Nature house, as an environmental inspector, as the director of Matsalu Nature Reserve and as a journalist. He was a member of the Parliament of Estonia from 2007 to 2011 where he was promoted Chairman of the Environmental and Agricultural Committee of the European Parliamentary Assembly. Since 2011 he works as a marine expert in the Estonian Fund for Nature.

## KARIN KLAUS - PÄRNU NATURE HOUSE



Karin Klaus is a teacher at the Pärnu Nature House that is a center which aims to tell the visitors stories about biodiversity in Estonian nature and in the rest of the world.



## ANNA USHAKOVA - ECOCENTRUM, COALITION CLEAN BALTIC



Anna Ushakova graduated in International Cooperation in Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development from St. Petersburg State University, as well as in Ecology from Northern (Arctic) Federal University. She is a Project Manager in the Water Program (Ecocentrum, St. Petersburg) of Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and the Leader of the CCB Maritime Working Area. She has been working on the CCB report on climate change adaptation measures in the Baltic Sea region river basins elaborated through analysis of the risks to the river basins caused by climate change. For the report, she analyzed data from FRMP, RBMP and reports of EU Baltic States, practices and tools in flood risk management from Baltic countries including Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. In addition, she led the information campaign #BalticClimate about the impact of climate change on rivers in the Baltic catchment. She managed to collect and analyze cases from CCB Member Organizations and shared in social media experiences from different countries in the Baltic Sea Region about: climate change effects on the river basins in our region, increase in river flooding and droughts events, adaptation measures in BSR and how can they be improved. Her fields of activity are: water quality, water and climate, and ecological education.



## EWA LEŚ - COALITION CLEAN BALTIC, RIVER UNIVERSITY FOUNDER



Ewa Leś is the originator and founder of River University/Rzeczny Uniwersytet (2018). She is a biologist by profession, looking toward people and their perception of the environment. Ewa is also the co-founder of Koalicja Ratujmy Rzeki/Save The Rivers Coalition (KRR), a social & expert initiative for the protection of natural rivers in Poland (2016), a member of the EEB water working group, an observer of the International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River against Pollution, co-creator and coordinator of the first Water Round Table in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Environment (2009-2011). She was engaged in creating a Partnership for the Baltic initiative (2007-2011). For more than 15 years she has been working with freshwater ecosystems.

Nominated for the Ashoka SHE SAYS program which supports women changemakers and social entrepreneurs, she is also an expert in water conservation and management in the UN Climate Leadership Program.

## PIOTR MATCZAK - UNIVERSITY IN POZNAŃ



Piotr Matczak is the Head of the Department of the Studies on Social Dynamics at the Faculty of Sociology, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. He was Secretary of the Risk Studies Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences (2009-11), a member of The Commission of Climatology, Water Resources and Air Quality Protection of the Poznan Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences (2019-2022). He publishes on flood risk governance, adaptation to climate change, ecosystem services. He was Principal Investigator in several EU and Polish National Research Centre research projects, concerning flood risk governance, crisis management, ecosystem services. Piotr is editor of "Society and Natural Resources", "Water" and "Geographies" journals.

He co-edited a special issue titled "Flood Risk Governance for More Resilience" in the "Water" journal. He published in: "PNAS", "Environmental Science & Policy", "Weather, Climate and Society", "Ecosystem Services", "Ecology and Society", "Earth's Future", "Global Environmental Change", "WIREs Water".



## ILONA BIEDROŃ - HEKTARY DLA NATURY FOUNDATION



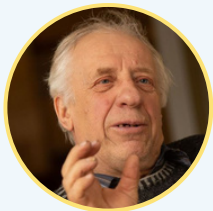
Ilona Biedroń got a MSc in Environmental Engineering, conducting doctoral research on drought risk and mitigation measures. She is the Vice President of the Hektary Dla Natury Foundation and Coordinator of the WaterLANDS project at the Wetlands Conservation Centre. She has experience in preparing key methodologies, analyses and databases for the development of water management plans, drought mitigation, flood risk management and in conducting public consultations in this area. Ilona was coordinator and manager of a number of projects carried out for the benefit of water administration in Poland, including the project entitled "Development of the National Programme for Surface Waters' Restoration". She also headed a team ordered by the Polish Ministry of the Environment to develop guidelines on how to properly manage watercourses in terms of water maintenance and hydrotechnical works.

## SVEN OTSMAA - TALLINN WATERWORKS, ESTWA



Sven Otsmaa has studied Geology at the Tartu University and he worked in various consultancy enterprises as a groundwater specialist. Sven has taken additional courses in Water Management in TALtech and currently works in the Tallinn Waterworks. He is the vice-chair of Est WA and one of the promoters of the annual summer excursions.

## ARVO JÄRVET - UNIVERSITY OF TARTU



Arvo Järvet is educated in physical geography (PhD) at the University of Tartu. From 1991 to 2017 he worked as a lecturer of hydrology in the Department of Geography, University of Tartu. His main research topics are long-term fluctuations and trends of hydrological parameters, water quality transformation of lakes and reservoirs, the impact of climate change on water resources and water management planning. He is also interested in historical water facilities (water mills, dams and water towers). Arvo has published over one hundred scientific and popular articles and edited 18 books. He is an honorary member of the Estonian Geographical Society.



## MAIT SEPP - UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

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Mait Sepp is educated in natural geography (PhD). He is researcher at the Department of Geography, University of Tartu. Mait investigated the impact of oil shale mines on the runoff of rivers in North-Eastern Estonia. He also analysed regime shifts in climatological and hydrological time series. Mait teaches hydrology at the University of Tartu.



## TOOMAS TAMM - UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES, TOOMAS KAPP, TARTU WATERWORKS

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Toomas Tamm is a researcher on hydrological modeling. He was the chair of Estonian Water Association until 2019. Since 2017 Toomas is the Head of the Chair Rural Buildings and Water Management at the Estonian University of Life Sciences.



## TOOMAS KAPP - TARTU WATERWORKS

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Toomas Kapp is the Head of the Tartu Waterworks that governs water, sewerage and storm water networks in the city of Tartu, Estonia.





## ENE INDERMITTE - TARTU UNIVERSITY, BOARD OF ESTWA



Ene Indermitte was elected to the board of EstWA last summer. She is working as Tartu University Chair of Hygiene and among other topics has contributed to studies on environmental and health risk management.



## AILI ELTS - TARTU NATURE HOUSE



Aili Elts works at Tartu Nature house as a teacher and for many years has been actively involved in the activities of The Baltic Sea Project. Environmental education and awareness raising has always been her passion. Aili is also working as the coordinator of Eco-Schools programme in Tartu Nature House.



## ALGIS MARTSOO - SOOMAA.COM



Algis Martsoo liked the lessons of math and physics while studying at Pärnu Secondary School. Later, he studied forestry at the University of Life Sciences in Tartu as well as ecotourism and nature tourism. He works as a private entrepreneur (nature guide) in Soomaa National Park for a few months per year and for the rest of the the time he restores old buildings or builds eco-trails. Altogether, 25 km of those have been finalised.



## AIVAR RUUKEL - SOOMAA.COM



Aivar Ruukel is a nature guide in Soomaa National Park. He is the co-owner and founder of [www.soomaa.com](http://www.soomaa.com) - local nature tour operator in Soomaa National Park in Estonia. Aivar is also Board Member of Global Ecotourism Network, Estonian Nature Tourism Association and Estonian Dugout Boat Society. His work as a promoter of sustainable tourism development in Soomaa national park, was recognized with the silver medal in 2017.



## JANA PÕLDNURK - ESTWA, ESTONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY, BOARD OF ESTWA



Jana Põldnurk graduated from Tartu Secondary School no 10 and received a MSc Degree in environmental protection from a private university. Her PhD thesis (2014) covered the topic of municipal waste management. She has worked as the pro-rector of the EuroUniversity and currently is the Head of the Hydrological Department of the Estonian Environmental Agency. Jana is fond of sports and various outdoor activities. She is also Member of the Board of EstWA.

## MARET MERISAAR - ESTONIAN WATER ASSOCIATION



Maret Merisaar graduated from Tartu University as a biologist. She worked as a researcher in Tallinn Technical University on Baltic Sea Environment issues and obtained a PhD degree in water protection in agriculture. She has been active in several national and international ENGOs and written guidelines on public participation in environmental decision making.

For several years, she has been working at CCB as Water Policy Officer. Today she is back in Taltech managing projects and teaching future engineers on environment protection and sustainable development. Since 2019 she is the Chairperson of the Estonian Water Association.

