



In the frame of [Task 5 on Training, knowledge and technology transfer](#) the COST Action “Sustainable management of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* in Europe” ([SMARTER](#)) launches this call to participate in a

Training School - 12th European Course on Basic Aerobiology

20-26 July 2015 - Faculty of Biology and Agriculture of the University of Rzeszów in southeastern Poland

SMARTER is an interdisciplinary network of experts working on the invasive plant common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*). It includes professionals involved in the control of common ragweed, health care professionals, aerobiologists, ecologists, economists, and atmospheric and agricultural modellers. Nearly 200 participants from 33 countries participate.

SMARTER provides a forum for discussing long-term management and monitoring options for Europe. We aim to develop new innovative management solutions, such as a synergy between biological, physical and chemical control measures and vegetation management. We also develop a framework to assess their cost-effectiveness in mitigating the effects of ragweed.

[SMARTER Working group 4](#) aims to evaluate the management options developed in working groups 1, 2 and 3 in terms of: Presence and spread of *Ambrosia* in Europe; Economic Impacts of *Ambrosia*; Health impacts of *Ambrosia* (e.g. spectrum and severity of allergic diseases). WG4 now offers this training school on Advanced Aerobiology in collaboration with the International Association for Aerobiology, the European Aerobiology Society, the Polish Botanical Society, and Jagiellonian University Medical College.

Organiser: Idalia Kasprzyk Ass. Prof. (Chairperson of the Organising Committee),
Department of Environmental Biology, University of Rzeszów, Rzeszów, Poland

Objectives: Aerobiology is the study of airborne particles of biological origin that are passively transported in the air, and considers their sources, release, dispersion, deposition and impacts. It has many applications including human health (e.g. allergy and the spread of airborne diseases), agriculture (e.g. phytopathology) and phenology. By the end of this course students will have: An understanding of the science and application of Aerobiology; An introduction into sampling techniques used in Aerobiology; Knowledge of laboratory techniques used in sample preparation and analysis; Expertise in identifying selected pollen and fungal spores by light microscopy (with particular focus on *Ambrosia*); An overview of the relationships between Aerobiology and health.

Participants: the training school is aimed at students and young scientists who are at the beginning of their aerobiological careers. The number of participants is limited to 25.

Grants: each participant that is eligible according to the COST regulation is offered an individual grant by the COST-Action SMARTER of € 800 after completion of the training school. Participants need to be professionally affiliated to any of the [parties of SMARTER](#) (note: people from COST International Partner Countries cannot be granted).

Procedure for participation

Application for participation: by sending [documents](#) to Idalia Kasprzyk (ecba@ur.edu.pl and kasienka.borycka@gmail.com) until **25th April 2015**. Applicants should consult the [SMARTER homepage](#) to become familiar with the aims and activities of SMARTER, specifically WG4.

Application for a grant: in case you are eligible for a grant from the COST Action SMARTER, state in your motivation letter if you are interested in obtaining a grant for participating in this Training School.

Selection and preliminary acceptance of applicants by the organizers via e-mail by **5th May 2015**.

Registration & registration fee: to **get finally accepted** the selected participants have to 1) [become a SMARTER member](#) 2) send APPLICATION FORM to above mentioned mail address AND 3) pay a registration fee of € 350 to the organizer (see bank details below) by bank transfer, both before **20th May 2015**.

Bank details:

Owner : Podkarpacki Bank Spółdzielczy o/Rzeszów

IBAN number : PL 48 8642 1126 2012 1119 9353 0001

SWIFT numer: POLUPLPR

transfer title: 12th European Course on Basic Aerobiology: First Name, Surname

Programme

The 12th ECBA will include lectures and practical sessions presented by leading European experts in aerobiology. Lectures will include: *Pollen biology, structure, & morphology; Aerodynamics and dispersal of airborne particles; Sampling technologies; The morphology of fungal spores, their production & dispersal; Statistics in aerobiology; Meteorological aspects of particle dispersal; Forecasting in Aerobiology; Quality Control in Aerobiological analysis; Pollen and allergy; Aerobiology in agriculture*. Practical sessions will focus on operating volumetric samplers, analysing microscope slides, and the identification of 30 types of pollen grains and 12 types of fungal spores.

Details of procedure:

Registration desk will be open on 19th July afternoon between 17.00-19.00 and 20th July between 8.00-9.00.

Start: Monday, 20th July at 9.00

End: Sunday, 26th July (afternoon)

Flights to and from Rzeszów must be arranged by the participants. The participants are asked to pay the registration fee in advance. It includes: Course materials, Coffee/tee breaks, Social events (Welcome Party, Gala Dinner, Excursion).

For further information please visit the official [SMARTER website](#) or contact the local organizers of the event: ecba@ur.edu.pl and kasienka.borycka@gmail.com
course website: <http://www.ur.edu.pl/wydzialy/biologiczno-rolniczy/wydarzenia/12th-ecba>