

Announcement Master Thesis:

Green Inland Waterways Transport for Sustainable Agricultural Food Chain in Small Rural Businesses

Context

Small rural businesses in Europe face unique challenges in tackling climate change while pursuing growth opportunities. However, emerging supply chain concepts can provide a pathway to address these challenges and unlock new possibilities. By embracing innovative approaches that incorporate renewable energy, autonomous systems, and data-driven technologies, rural enterprises can reduce their environmental footprint while improving profitability and competitiveness. The integration of agrifood networks with logistics operations and the adoption of digital technologies are key drivers of this transformation. These advancements can enhance resilience, provide access to new markets, and contribute to a more sustainable future, while promoting local economies and improving access to high-quality food in densely populated areas for a post-growth society.

Tasks

Students are expected after an extended literature review on the topic to describe the state of the logistics in small rural businesses in Europe. After jointly identifying a research problem with the tutor, students will design instruments to do field research to gather relevant information about the requirements for green inland waterways transport as enabler for sustainable agricultural food chains. Part of the work will address the city logistics challenges of agricultural food distribution on urban areas.

Applicants

Students are expected to demonstrate good study performance, high motivation and capability to work under tutor's guidance, independently and target-oriented on the theme. Finally, applicants should have proficiency and good communications skills in English and German. Students will benefit from a singular opportunity to work with TUL-partners-organizations, leaders on the waterway and agrifood sector on the context of an European research project.

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