

AFECO Monthly Newsletter

March 2020

Register for Summer Semester 2020 Courses

The first registration period for the 2020 summer semester is open from March 2, 2020 and closes March 16, 2020. Check out at the AFECO [course catalogue](#) and get ready to gear up for next semester, after a much deserved break, of course! [Here](#) you can find all the official deadlines (also for phase two and three of course registration).

Friday 8 March 2020: International Women's Day

How do you spend International Women's day in Bonn? We have some ideas for you:

- There is a [film preview of "Die perfekte Kandidatin"](#) (The perfect candidate) of the director Haifaa al Mansour at the Brotfabrik (in German). It starts at 4.30 p.m. (and it's not exclusively for women ;)).
- Or how about going shopping at a fleemarket by women for women at the [Mädelsflohmarkt](#) in Bonn Beuel from 3 to 7 p.m. You pay 3€ at the entrance and can get second hand clothes from 1€ a piece.
- You could also gain some skills in fixing bikes at a [repair workshop of the ADFC Bonn](#) (cycling club) for women only. You have to register beforehand and it is 15€ (or 7.50€ for members).

There are lots of other events in Bonn and you will find the right one for you if you're in the mood to experience the vibe of Weltfrauentag. Enjoy!

Hochschulsport: registration for courses

Don't miss the registration start date for the sports courses at [Hochschulsport](#): click on the link and look at the top right corner, there you will find the registration start date for summer semester soon. However, you should definitely check the start time for registration of the particular sports course for which you wish to register, as places are taken very quickly. Have a look at the [courses](#) in advance and be inspired. Why not try a new sport this summer, like lacrosse or rowing?

Language course

If you're interested in doing a language course at the Sprachlernzentrum (SLZ), you can register from the 23rd to 30th of March. Before you can register for courses level A1.2 or higher, you will have to take a [small test](#) to classify your language level. You register for language courses via Basis. Unfortunately, the credits won't count for your AFECO Master though. Find all the information you need [here](#). - Alternatively, you could look for a tandem partner. The SLZ helps you in finding one. Just follow the steps on [this site](#) (ask your German fellows to translate it for you, you don't need to speak German to find a tandem partner for any other language).

Public Lectures at ZEF

There will be a public lecture at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) about the “Insight on the PRODIGY Project - Soil Biodiversity Governing Tipping Points in the Amazon” held by Prof. Oliver Frör from the University of Koblenz-Landau on March 12, 1.30 p.m. Find out more on the [ZEF website](#).

The former Head of the German Farmers’ Association in Brussels Willi Kampmann will hold another public lecture about the “Role of Farmers’ Organizations in Agricultural Transformation in Africa.” It will take place on March 19, 1.30 p.m. Find more information closer to the event [here](#).

Over the Border Music Diversity Festival 2020

In 2020, the Festival marks its fifth year amidst many events in Beethoven's hometown, marking the 250th anniversary of the great composer whose musical genius made him a true global citizen, humanist and visionary. This year's festival will present eight concerts **between 20 and 30 March**, featuring musical cross-border commuters from Senegalese percussionist and Burkinabe hip-hop singer to a famous Sephardic music star, with Brazilian Kizomba, Dutch blues/soul, Chile/Peruvian Cumbia and Congolese Funk in between. Tickets and more information can be found [here](#).

Internship and Job Opportunities*

[Student Assistant \(studentische Hilfskraft\)](#), Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung (ZEF)

[Student – Sustainability Certification](#), 4C Services GmbH, Köln

[Internship Assignment Global Climate Action](#), United Nations, Bonn

[Praktikum bei fairafric mit Schwerpunkt Sales & Operations](#), FAIRAFRIC, München

[Studentische Mitarbeiter*innen und Praktikant*innen gesucht \(m/w/d\)](#), Bund Heimat und Umwelt (BHU), Bonn

Check out the ILR [website](#) for PhD positions and other post-graduate job opportunities.

*job descriptions in German require fluent German skills

ILR Testimonial: Dr. Till Kuhn and Transform2Bio

Dr. Till Kuhn is a post-doc researcher at the *Economic Modeling of Agricultural Systems Group* of Dr. Wolfgang Britz. Since September 2019 he is involved in the project [Transform2Bio](#), a major project on which nearly all chairs of the ILR are working. I (Nina) asked him some questions about the project, the bioeconomy and his personal focus and interests:



Q: Please describe the project Transform2Bio.

T.K.: The region Rheinisches Revier, located between Aachen and Cologne, faces a structural change due to the phase-out of coal mining. The bioeconomy is promoted to partly fill the gap by providing jobs and a new appearance for the region. The project Transform2Bio aims to identify and analyze transformation trajectories towards a stronger bioeconomy in the region. These trajectories should be desirable from a sustainability perspective, feasible from a technological perspective and acceptable from a stakeholder perspective.

Q: What do you think are the biggest challenges for achieving a sustainable bioeconomy?

T.K.: The core question for me is the origin and the production of biomass required as input to the bioeconomy. The demand for biomass increases when larger parts of the fossil economy is replaced by the bioeconomy. Land needed for biomass production is however scarce and the intensification of existing and cultivation of additional land is often linked to environmental problems. Therefore, the focus needs to be on smart solutions of the bioeconomy which do not have unintended negative consequences.

Q: What is your focus within the project and what makes it interesting for you?

T.K.: I am working with the farm model FarmDyn on potential impacts of a stronger bioeconomy at farm-level. Thereby, I provide insights on the economic and environmental consequences of different bioeconomy scenarios for farms located in the Rheinische Revier. I enjoy working on a topic related to a current political development such as the phase-out of coal mining. Furthermore, almost all groups of ILR are involved in the project which allows me to learn more about the work of my colleagues.

Q: Is there any special feature or new approach you would like to emphasize?

T.K.: In Transform2Bio, not only farm models but also regional models are applied. The former does not consider the feedbacks from changes in non-farm activities while the latter is not detailed enough to inform about farm-level changes. In Transform2Bio, we link the two models to benefit from the advantages of both approaches.

Q: What are the potential positive effects of the project on the transformation towards a sustainable bioeconomy?

T.K.: I have the impression that there are currently numerous and partly contradictory ideas on how the Rheinische Revier should develop in the future. Transform2Bio can hopefully provide

insights on the role of the bioeconomy and thereby enable stakeholders to take better informed decisions.

We want you to contribute!

A big thank you to **Nina** who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. Contact us at afeco.info@ilr.uni-bonn.de to learn how you can contribute!