

Circular economy: Sustainability Implications and Guiding Progress (CRESTING)

Job Title: PhD position Development of a sustainability indicator system to assess and communicate Circular Economy (CE) practices at company level

Job Description:

Project summary

This position is as a result of an EU-funded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Innovative Training Networks (ITN) programme on '*Circular Economy: sustainability implications and guiding progress (CRESTING)*'. CRESTING. It will bring together 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) based in eight universities across six EU countries. Each ESR will research a specific topic relating to a different aspect of establishing and understanding the Circular Economy.

CRESTING is divided between 5 work packages (WP) analysing: i) current discourse and policy contexts (WP1); corporate engagement with the CE (WP2); ii) understanding public sector engagement in the CE (WP3); iii) the potential for local economic development and employment from the CE (WP4); and iv) measuring life cycle impacts and developing sustainability indicators relevant to the CE (WP5). With multidisciplinary and international supervisory teams including non-academic partners within each WP, CRESTING will 1) analyse the sustainability implications of the CE; 2) analyse the spatial dimension of the CE and 3) translate these analyses into specific actions for managing the transformation to the CE. This Early Stage Researcher (ESR) in Aberta University will contribute to CRESTING WP 5, with the following objectives: to investigate the issue of the assessment and communication of Sustainability and Circular Economy practices and projects, by 1) understanding the main methodological issues relating to measurement and proposing suitable indicators, methods and tools for measuring both the extent and effects of CE sustainability, in different sectorial contexts and at different scales. 2) Developing indicators that are useful in measuring the extent of circularity in private sector organisations. The analysis will be conducted both from the perspective of theoretical/scientific contributions and from the perspective of the end users, such as companies and practitioners.

Objectives and Methods:

- i) Provide a systematic review of indicator frameworks and indicators to assess Circular Economy performance at company level;
- ii) Develop an open and participatory sustainability indicator system to assess Circular Economy performance at company level in a case study with multiple stakeholders;
- iii) Test and validate the sustainability indicator system to assess Circular Economy performance to be used in the future at company level.

ESRs are members of staff at the institutions where they are studying for their PhD. The responsibilities of the posts include attending project workshops, undertaking relevant training, engaging in communication and dissemination activities, contributing to the reports required for the project. All ESR must work full time on their project.

Expected Results:

1) Completion of the doctorate, to be supervised and examined by Dr. Sandra Caeiro (Portuguese Distance Learning University, Aberta, Portugal) and Prof. Roberta Salomone (University of Messina, Italy) and awarded by Aberta University; 2) completion of CRESTING's research training programme (30 ECT credits); 3) completion of secondment; 4) production of Career Development Plan; 5) production of scholarly output and a policy brief; 6) dissemination to the public and other stakeholders.

Planned secondments:

Secondment host: Taiwan CE Network: Foundation promoting CE in Taiwan (around 3 months);

Mobility Institution: University of Messina, Messina, Italy (around 3 months), and University "G. d'Annunzio", Pescara Italy (around 2 months), (research training and support).

Number of positions available: 1

Research Fields: Environment and Sustainability Sciences

Career Stage: Early Stage Researcher (ESR) or 0-4 yrs (Post graduate)

Research Profiles: First Stage Researcher (R1)

Benefits

The selected candidate will be appointed under a 36-months full-time employment contract with full social security and fiscal coverage, as foreseen by the Portuguese national legislation and institutional practices. The remuneration will be compliant with the rules of the ITN-MSCA, as by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Work Programme 2016-17, 'European Union Contribution and Applicable Rates'. The gross amount per year of the allowances includes the salary (37320€*country-specific correction coefficient-PT), the mobility allowance (7200€) and a family allowance if eligible (6000€). These gross amounts include all compulsory deductions under national applicable legislation (taxes depend on the country of the host institution) which in Portugal the monthly net salary is approximately 1500€, excluding the family allowance.

Type of Contract: Fixed-term; commence in June 2018.

Status: Full-Time

Working Hours (hours per week): 40 hours/week

Company/Institute:

Universidade Aberta

Palácio Ceia

Rua da Escola Politécnica, 141

1269-001 Lisbon – Portugal

Closing Date: Midnight (UK time) March 28th, 2018

Comment/web site for additional job details:

Cresting.hull.ac.uk

If you are interested and you satisfy the requirements in the job profile, we encourage you to send your application by email to crestring@hull.ac.uk. This should include a CV, a cover letter explaining how you meet the essential criteria in the person specification and expectations from participation in CRESTING and the names of three referees.

For further information, please contact: Dr. Pauline Deutz (p.deutz@hull.ac.uk)

Requirements

1. Required Education Level
 - Degree: Master Degree
 - Degree Field: Related discipline or interdisciplinary field, covering environment/sustainability aspects and including evidence of training in related issues such as policy, governance, business, management, economics, human geography, public administration.

2. Required Languages

Language: English

Language Level: Excellent

3. Additional Requirements

General evaluation criteria can be consulted on the Applicant Guidance available on <http://cresting.hull.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Recruitment-brochure-compressed.pdf>

4. Eligibility requirements

ESR appointment is full-time, fixed-term for 3 years.

Candidates matching the required profile for the available position will be interviewed until a successful candidate is appointed.

There are strict eligibility rules associated with the recruitment of Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) in Marie Curie Initial Training Networks.

Applicants need to fully comply with the three eligibility criteria:

- 1. Early Stage Researcher (ESR):** ESR are those who, at the time of recruitment, are in the first four years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers. This time is measured from the date when they obtained the degree which formally entitles them to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the research training is provided, irrespective of whether or not a doctorate was envisaged.
- 2. Conditions of international mobility of researchers:** Researchers are required to undertake trans-national mobility (i.e. move from one country to another) when taking up the appointment. At the time of appointment by the host organisation, researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment. Short stays, such as holidays, are not taken into account.
- 3. English language:** Network fellows (ESRs) must demonstrate that their ability to understand and express themselves in both written and spoken English is sufficiently high for them to derive the full benefit from the network training. Non-native English speakers are required to provide evidence of English language competency before the appointment is made. An IELTS score of 6.5, or equivalent, is the minimum requirement.