

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION

Context and Job Description

Are you a social scientist with a profound interest in water governance? Then we might be looking for you! The team Ecological Trajectories and Society (TESS) in the ESE Research Centre (UMR 8079 CNRS AGROPARISTECH) at the University of Paris-Saclay has one position available for post-doctoral researcher in the Horizon Europe-funded project *AWARD*.

The AWARD Project responds to the urgency of action due to water scarcity and climate change impacts, in the wider context of work at the crossroads of science, public policy and wider society for the development of pertinent knowledge and know-how for applications in strategic water planning.

Therefore, *AWARD* will provide evidence-based solutions to consider AWRs (Alternative Water Resources) into water supply strategic plans, based on socio-political engagement. The 4 Demo Cases of *AWARD* are already implementing AWRs (storm water, rainwater and aquifer recharge in Bucharest in Romania as well as in Milano in Italy; water reuse in Cyprus, storm water and rainwater in an industrial park in Santiago di Compostel in Spain). Through the project activities, Demo Cases will consider scaling up their actions taking in account a broader range of AWRs together with conventional water resources for planning future water supply systems at local or regional level using *AWARD* instruments (Local Water Fora, Digital Platform for decision making, training and guidance).

Societal awareness to support the decision process on AWR supply solutions will lead to the recommendations for further use of AWRs encompassing the 4 dimensions of social innovation (Technological, Capacity development, Governance & Policy, Economics & assessment). The project's digital platform, a deployment of the 'ePLANETe' suite of knowledge mediation and deliberation support tools, will consider water resources as key components of a territory's patrimonial wealth and sustainable well-being prospects. Based on the underlying methodological work, links will be made to established data frameworks such as territorial water accounts, in the wider contexts of land cover, land use, and economic and environmental accounts. The digital platform will then support the exploration of resilient scenarios for the Demo Cases, with subsequent diffusion of lessons learned both for AWRs and for evaluation and concertation methods, beyond the perimeter of the project itself, through dedicated networking activities.

The AWARD Project's general objective is thus to provide evidence-based knowledge and lessons learnt on how to effectively integrate affordable, acceptable and reliable AWRs solutions into water supply strategic planning and implementation considering the effect of global changes.

The successful candidates will, in close collaboration with an international team of researchers from a variety of natural and social science fields and various societal partners, work on the development and assessment of the innovative approaches to the governance of water.

Specifications for the Post-Doctoral Position

Tasks

The Post-doctoral Researcher will, in complementary ways, contribute to an agreed selection of the following tasks:

- State of the art: Development of an integrated analysis based on a multi-perspective representation of AWRs in a **patrimonial** approach.
- State of the art: **Strategic Foresight and planning** in the water domain.
- State of the art: Framing scenarios and evaluation procedures in a situation of **uncertainty**.
- Development of Multi-Scale Multi-Actors Strategic Foresight and Planning for the four *AWARD* case studies.

- Mobilisation of the AWARD Deliberation Support platform (with deployment of the ePLANETe suite of knowledge mediation tools) to represent **Water contributions to Territorial Sustainable Development**.
- Mobilisation of the Deliberation Support platform (deployment of the ePLANETe suite) to implement the Multi-Scale Multi-Actors Strategic Foresight and Planning, notably to construct and to compare scenarios in a deliberative perspective.
- Mobilisation of the Deliberation Support platform (ePLANETe suite) to assess knowledge quality and uncertainty in scenarios, technology assessment, and policy evaluation procedures.
- Formulate guidelines for **policy briefs** with recommendations on the science-policy-society interface and on how to foster **governance capacity** for the development of an integrated water governance.
- Contribute to the **dissemination** of the *AWARD Project* research findings (covering methods, tools, empirical results, and lessons learned) of the project.

Skill Requirements

- Recent or imminent acquisition of a PhD in one of the following fields: ecological economics, environmental governance, water policy, geography, political science, anthropology or a related field with a focus on institutional change, territorial sustainability, policy evaluation, or an allied topic.
- Well versed in social sciences applied to the environment, relevant bodies of theory and concepts, and associated methods of applied research.
- Proven qualitative research skills, and affinity with action-research methodology, and participatory methods.
- Able to demonstrate excellent scientific writing and communication skills, as well as relevant collaborative and social skills.
- Ambition and skills to collaborate with national and international partners in an interdisciplinary research team.
- Fluent written and oral communication skills in English.

Conditions of employment

The post-doctoral position is Temporary position, established as fixed term contracts under French law. Initial appointment will be for 1 year, with the principle of renewal for a second year, for a maximum duration of 24 months (for two years). The starting date is negotiable: In alignment with the *AWARD Project* work programme, a starting date in early or mid-2024 is preferred.

Salary

The salary will be determined based on experience and qualifications, in accordance with the general salary scale for university appointments in France. For reference, the gross salary is around €2,500 per month and will vary depending on experience, for a full-time Post-doc position.

Employer

The Post-doc researcher will be employees of the University of Paris-Saclay. They will be attached to the TESS team (Ecological Trajectories and Society) of the ESE Research Centre (*Ecologie, Systématique et Evolution*), under the direct scientific responsibility of Dr. Jean-Marc DOUGUET. The ESE (UMR 8079, UPSaclay, CNRS & AgroParisTech) is located in the IDEEV Building No. 680 of the University of Paris Saclay. The street address is: No.12, Road 128, University Paris Saclay, 91190 Gif sur Yvette, France.

Key Institutional Profiles at the University of Paris Saclay

The Graduate School BIOSPHERA

With 40 master's degrees, 4 doctoral schools, 29 research units, 100 research teams and a large range of shared technological systems, the Graduate School BIOSPHERA (Biology, Society, Ecology & Environment, Resources, Agriculture & Food) aims to address the major challenges facing the future of the biosphere and society. Its fields of study are fully in line with the challenges we are facing today, such as ecological transition, resource management and use, biodiversity preservation and, more broadly, global changes and their impacts. The excellence of the courses on offer and the research conducted at the University of Paris-Saclay has been recognised with, among others, the 15th place worldwide in the 2023 Shanghai ranking.

The Ecological Trajectories and Society (TESS) Research Team – within the “Ecology, Systematics and Evolution” Research Centre (UMR 8079, Paris-Saclay University / CNRS / Agroparistech)

The Ecological Trajectories and Society (TESS) research team explores the place of knowledge and representations in local ecological knowledge, the different types of knowledge, and the articulation of public policies and territorial governance as a framework for adaptation. to global changes.

TESS research encompasses various aspects of environmental and ecological studies, with emphasis on the links between biological and cultural diversity. We address topics such as ecological restoration in boreal and tropical regions, including the impact of human interventions on plant populations.

Our research approach highlights the importance of inclusive governance of landscapes, territories and socio-ecological systems, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches and the need for new narratives in ecological restoration to address the profound challenges posed by coexistence and human/non-human coevolution.

Website: <https://www.ese.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/ecological-trajectories-and-society/>