



Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska –Curie

European Training Network RurAction

10 Positions for Early-Stage Researchers¹ offered

Application Deadline 26.03.2017

The European Training Network RurAction (“Social Entrepreneurship in Structurally Weak Rural Regions: Analysing Innovative Troubleshooters in Action”) announces **10 positions for Early-Stage Researchers** with the option of awarding the doctoral degree. The positions last **36 months** and are expected to begin between September and November 2017. Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) with a strong interest in research about regional development, social entrepreneurship and social innovations are invited to apply for positions at leading research institutions and acknowledged social enterprises in **Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Poland and Portugal**.

Project

RurAction is an integrated research and doctorate programme funded by the European Union in the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN Action. RurAction recognizes a lack of knowledge and cross-sectoral trainings at the intersection of rural development, social innovation and social entrepreneurship research. It addresses this gap by systematically integrating these three fields of research. RurAction offers a unique opportunity to 10 Early-Stage Researchers to investigate highly relevant topics about social innovations and social entrepreneurship in rural regions. The 10 Early-Stage Researchers will benefit from transnational high quality trainings, bringing together both academic education and practical skills trainings provided by social enterprises with great expertise in innovative rural development. The enrolment as PhD students in the contributing universities enables the ESRs to contribute to their institutionalized PhD courses, complementary to the RurAction trainings.

¹ Early-stage researchers are those who are, at the time of selection by the host institution, in the first four years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers and have not yet been awarded a doctoral degree. This is measured from the date when they obtained the degree which formally entitles them to embark on a doctorate.



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ESR 1-project: Dynamics of rural regions in Europe – an economic investigation

Aims: Regional studies confirm a growing economic (and social) polarisation of rural regions: While some regions are faced with serious and increasing weaknesses, in other rural regions problems are less severe. The question is which socio-economic factors create these differences. Another issue to be considered is in which ways demographic change will economically affect the regions in the future. The economic dynamics of all of the selected RURACTION regions will be investigated by statistical analyses of existing structural data. The investigation not only includes the current situation but also analyses of structural changes and the deduction of future prospects in order to provide regional (social entrepreneurial) actors with information about future challenges and potentials for acting. In addition, the ESR will be involved in the organization of RurAction events at his/her hosting university.

Supervisor: Prof. Strykiewicz (UAM), co-supervisor Prof. Ferreiro (IUL).

Institutional affiliation: The holder of the post will be enrolled as a PhD student at the Adam-Mickiewicz University Poznan (Poland), Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management. Secondments will take place at Otelo eGen (3 months, Austria), ADCMoura (3 months, Portugal) and ISCTE-IUL (3 months, Portugal).

Researcher career profile

Required:

- At the core of the MSCA-ITNs is researcher mobility. The recruited Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country he/she will be employed for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date.
- Candidates must be in the early stage of their research career (first four years, full time equivalent) and not in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strong motivation to work in a cooperative and flexible team environment.
- Be prepared to travel and fulfill all secondments.
- The fellow should contribute to the outreach of the project, especially by: 1. participation in publications in high ranked journals, elaboration of the planned practice handbook and policy briefs, 2. active participation at scientific conferences, policy Workshops etc. at national and EU level and the preparation of the planned exhibition, 3. participation in media communication, creation of a photo and video diary as a form of research auto-reflexivity



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and a documentary film and in spreading project information on EU level using European Commissions' communication tools

- Master degree, preferably in economic or human geography, (spatial) economy, regional science, geo-information (socio-economic profile).
- Fluency in English language.
- Acquaintance with: (1) databases, academic literature and expert reports related to the problems of European rural regions; (2) tools for collecting and processing data (including methods of statistical analysis) and their mapping; (3) quantitative and qualitative methods
- The skill to make a structural and a comparative analysis in a regional dimension and to formulate visions and scenarios of development.
- IT knowledge (basic communication skills).

Desirable:

- Working knowledge in Polish and/or Portuguese/Spanish language.

The position offers:

- Excellent institutional environment, a stimulating high profile research programme with international focus.
- Measures for career development opportunities (training programme, secondments).
- Salary corresponding to MSCA-ITN 2016 European Training Network (including living, mobility and family allowances).
- 3 year full-time contract

Applicants are requested to send their application in English with the **reference number RurAction ESR 1 until March 26th 2017** as a PDF file (max. 4MB) to bewerbungen@irs-net.de. The application shall comprise a letter of motivation (at least one page), a curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and language skills, a transcript of records (if applicable), two nominated referees that can be contacted and a chapter of the Master Thesis or a paper or a publication in English (if applicable).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the final interview in May 2017 in Erkner, Germany. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The UAM is explicitly committed to the principle of equal opportunities. Women are especially encouraged to apply. People with disabilities will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications.





For further information please contact the RurAction Project Manager Marie-Julie Jacquemot
 (Phone: +49 3362 793-269 E-Mail: Marie-Julie.Jacquemot@leibniz-irs.de).

For specific questions concerning the content of the research please contact Prof. Strykiewicz
 (tadek@amu.edu.pl).



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ESR 2-project: The political framework for rural development and social entrepreneurship

Aims: The situation of structurally weak rural regions is also a matter of political support and policy measures. A quantitative online survey of experts will be conducted in the seven selected RURACTION regions. The interviewees will be policy makers from the field of regional and rural development on the regional, national and EU level. It will be examined how the experts assess the importance of structurally weak rural regions in the context of regional development policies, which programmes/measures they assess as being important (in the future), how they assess the success of the implementation of respective pro-programmes/measures and what they see as supporting or hindering factors. The experts will share their awareness regarding social entrepreneurship, assessments of its potentials for rural development, willingness to support respective initiatives, etc. This way, (e.g. regional/national) differences in policy makers' attitudes, in their motives for (not) supporting social entrepreneurship – and thus potentials for political support – will be investigated. In addition, the ESR will be involved in the organization of RurAction events at his/her hosting university.

Supervisor: Prof. Tsobanoglou (UAE), co-supervisor Dr. Lang (IfL).

Institutional affiliation: The holder of the post will be enrolled as a PhD student at the University of the Aegan (Greece), Department of Sociology. Secondments will take place at ADC Moura (3 months, Portugal), Otelo eGen (3 months, Austria), Stevia Hellas (3 months, Greece).

Researcher career profile

Required:

- At the core of the MSCA-ITNs is researcher mobility. The recruited Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country he/she will be employed for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date.
- Candidates must be in the early stage of their research career (first four years, full time equivalent) and not in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strong motivation to work in a cooperative and flexible team environment.
- Be prepared to travel and fulfill all secondments.
- The fellow should contribute to the outreach of the project, especially by: 1. participation in publications in high ranked journals, elaboration of the planned practice handbook and policy briefs, 2. active participation at scientific conferences, policy Workshops etc. at national and EU level and the preparation of the planned exhibition, 3. participation in media



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communication, creation of a photo and video diary as a form of research auto-reflexivity and a documentary film and in spreading project information on EU level using European Commissions' communication tools

- Master degree, preferably in sociology
- Fluency in English language.
- Acquaintance with: (1) databases, academic literature and expert reports related to the problems of European rural regions; (2) tools for collecting and processing data (including methods of statistical analysis) and their mapping; (3) quantitative and qualitative methods
- The skill to make a structural and a comparative analysis in a regional dimension and to formulate visions and scenarios of development.
- IT knowledge (basic communication skills).

Desirable:

- Working knowledge in Greek and/or Portuguese/Spanish language.

The position offers:

- Excellent institutional environment, a stimulating high profile research programme with international focus.
- Measures for career development opportunities (training programme, secondments).
- Salary corresponding to MSCA-ITN 2016 European Training Network (including living, mobility and family allowances).
- 3 year full-time contract

Applicants are requested to send their application in English with the **reference number RurAction ESR 2 until March 26th 2017** as a PDF file (max. 4MB) to bewerbungen@irs-net.de. The application shall comprise a letter of motivation (at least one page), a curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and language skills, a transcript of records (if applicable), two nominated referees that can be contacted and a chapter of the Master Thesis or a paper or a publication in English (if applicable).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the final interview in May 2017 in Erkner, Germany. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The UAE is explicitly committed to the principle of equal opportunities. Women are especially encouraged to apply. People with disabilities will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications.





For further information please contact the RurAction Project Manager Marie-Julie Jacquemot (Phone: +49 3362 793-269 E-Mail: Marie-Julie.Jacquemot@leibniz-irs.de).

For specific questions concerning the content of the research please contact Prof. Tsobanoglou (g.tsobanoglou@soc.aegean.gr).



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ESR 3-project: Discourses on regional problems and cultural knowledge patterns

Aims: The persistence of regional problems is also a matter of discourses on regional problems, represented by cultural narrations and media, and of cultural knowledge patterns they produce. Discourses may either reinforce negative perceptions or support the view that it is time for creative solutions. In other words, leveraging potentials for the support of innovative approaches (e.g. of social entrepreneurship) may depend on the ways in which problems typically are discursively framed and on respective cultural knowledge patterns. They may differ between different regions. Thus, in the ESR 3-project public discussions of regional problems as well as cultural knowledge patterns will be analysed and compared by conducting a qualitative discourse analysis (of regional newspaper articles) and qualitative interviews with residents. Comparative studies will be carried out for the Mid-West (IE), the Uckermark (DE) and the Mühlviertel (AT). In addition, the ESR will be involved in the organization of RurAction events at his/her hosting university.

Supervisor: Prof. Christmann (IRS), co-supervisor Dr. O’Shaughnessy (UCC).

Institutional affiliation: The holder of the post will be enrolled as a PhD student at the Technical University Berlin, Faculty VI Planning Building Environment. Secondments will take place at Ballyhoura Development LTD (3 months, Ireland), Otelo eGen (3 months, Austria), Social Impact (3 months, Germany).

Researcher career profile

Required:

- At the core of the MSCA-ITNs is researcher mobility. The recruited Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country he/she will be employed for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date.
- Candidates must be in the early stage of their research career (first four years, full time equivalent) and not in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strong motivation to work in a cooperative and flexible team environment.
- Be prepared to travel and fulfill all secondments.
- The fellow should contribute to the outreach of the project, especially by: 1. participation in publications in high ranked journals, elaboration of the planned practice handbook and policy briefs, 2. active participation at scientific conferences, policy Workshops etc. at national and EU level and the preparation of the planned exhibition, 3. participation in media communication, creation of a photo and video diary as a form of research auto-reflexivity



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- Master degree, preferably in social sciences (e.g. sociology, political sciences, geography, communication science).
- Fluency in English language.
- Experiences in sociology of knowledge, discourse analysis, qualitative interviews, grounded theory analysis; knowledge in the field of regional studies.
- IT knowledge (basic communication skills).

Desirable:

- Working knowledge in German language.

The position offers:

- Excellent institutional environment, a stimulating high profile research programme with international focus.
- Measures for career development opportunities (training programme, secondments).
- Salary corresponding to MSCA-ITN 2016 European Training Network (including living, mobility and family allowances).
- 3 year full-time contract

Applicants are requested to send their application in English with the **reference number RurAction ESR 3 until March 26th 2017** as a PDF file (max. 4MB) to bewerbungen@irs-net.de. The application shall comprise a letter of motivation (at least one page), a curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and language skills, a transcript of records (if applicable), two nominated referees that can be contacted and a chapter of the Master Thesis or a paper or a publication in English (if applicable).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the final interview in May 2017 in Erkner, Germany. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The IRS is explicitly committed to the principle of equal opportunities. Women are especially encouraged to apply. People with disabilities will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications. The IRS supports the compatibility of career and family and was certified as a family-oriented employer in 2015.





For further information please contact the RurAction Project Manager Marie-Julie Jacquemot (Phone: +49 3362 793-269 E-Mail: Marie-Julie.Jacquemot@leibniz-irs.de).

For specific questions concerning the content of the research please contact Prof. Dr. Gabriela Christmann (Phone: +49 3362 793-270 E-Mail: gabriela.christmann@leibniz-irs.de).



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ESR 4-project: Social entrepreneurial actors as troubleshooters in rural regions

Aims: Social entrepreneurs are known for generating and implementing solutions for social problems. However, there has been limited research to date on what makes them troubleshooters. The aim of this project is to explore and analyse practices and institutional aspects of social entrepreneurial problem solving activities for rural regions. It will be investigated from which definition of the problem they start out, which objectives they define, which activities they engage in, which institutional measures they develop, what difficulties arise, what institutional obstacles occur, what measures are developed to overcome them, how the problem solving process is modified, what are the supportive or hindering factors for specific aspects of problem solving, which organisational structures are built, and how sustainability of problem solving is ensured. The ESR will conduct participant observation during the secondments in the Mid-West/IE, the Uckermark/DE and the Phthiotis/EL region. Furthermore qualitative interviews will be carried out with social entrepreneurial actors and regional stakeholders in order to reconstruct internal and external perspectives on the social entrepreneurial organisation of problem solving. In addition, the ESR will be involved in the organization of RurAction events at his/her hosting university.

Supervisor: Dr. O'Shaughnessy (UCC) and Dr. Enright, co-supervisor Prof. Sousa (IUL). ESR 4 will be hosted and mentored by Pádraig Casey (Ballyhoura Development, Ireland).

Institutional affiliation: The holder of the post will be enrolled as a PhD student at University College Cork (UCC) (Ireland). Secondments will take place at IfL (3 months, Germany), Social Impact (3 months, Germany) and Stevia Hellas (3 months, Greece).

Researcher career profile

Required:

- At the core of the MSCA-ITNs is researcher mobility. The recruited Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country he/she will be employed for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date.
- Candidates must be in the early stage of their research career (first four years, full time equivalent) and not in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strong motivation to work in a cooperative and flexible team environment.
- Be prepared to travel and fulfill all required secondments.



This project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 721999.

- The fellow should contribute to the outreach of the project, especially by: 1. participation in publications in high ranked journals, elaboration of the planned practice handbook and policy briefs, 2. active participation at scientific conferences, policy Workshops etc. at national and EU level and the preparation of the planned exhibition, 3. participation in media communication, creation of a photo and video diary as a form of research auto-reflexivity and a documentary film and in spreading project information on EU level using European Commissions' communication tools
- Master degree, preferably in business or social sciences
- Fluency in English language.
- Acquaintance with: (1) databases, academic literature and expert reports related to the problems of European rural regions; (2) tools for collecting and processing data (including methods of statistical analysis) and their mapping; (3) quantitative and qualitative methods
- The skill to make a structural and a comparative analysis in a regional dimension and to formulate visions and scenarios of development.
- IT knowledge (basic communication skills).

Desirable:

- Working knowledge in German and/or Greek language.
- Working experience in social enterprise.

The position offers:

- Excellent institutional environment, a stimulating high profile research programme with international focus.
- Excellent environment working within a social enterprise.
- Measures for career development opportunities (training programme, secondments).
- Salary corresponding to MSCA-ITN 2016 European Training Network (including living, mobility and family allowances).
- 3 year full-time contract

Applicants are requested to send their application in English with the **reference number RurAction ESR 4 until March 26th 2017** as a PDF file (max. 4MB) to bewerbungen@irs-net.de. The application shall comprise a letter of motivation (at least one page), a curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and language skills, a transcript of records (if applicable), two nominated referees that can be contacted and a chapter of the Master Thesis or a paper or a publication in English (if applicable).



Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the final interview in May 2017 in Erkner, Germany. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

UCC is explicitly committed to the principle of equal opportunities. Women are especially encouraged to apply. People with disabilities will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications.

For further information please contact the RurAction Project Manager Marie-Julie Jacquemot (Phone: +49 3362 793-269 E-Mail: Marie-Julie.Jacquemot@leibniz-irs.de).

For specific questions concerning the content of the research please contact Dr. O'Shaughnessy (mary.oshaughnessy@ucc.ie), Dr. Enright (P.Enright@ucc.ie) or Pádraig Casey (pcasey@ballyhoura.org).





ESR 5-project: Social entrepreneurship as a collaborative process

Aims and tasks: The ESR 5-project focuses on processes of collaboration and networking. The main research interest is in how social entrepreneurs proceed and succeed with developing new ideas and problem solving mechanisms in collaboration with different stakeholders and how, as collective actors, they bring together the capacities of different people. It will be examined how social entrepreneurial actors network in rural regions, which stakeholders are involved in the problem solving process, to what extent social enterprises are the result of collaborative processes and collaborative action. Furthermore, it is of interest what kind of supportive or hindering factors in terms of (regional and supra-regional) networks can be identified. The research will further conceptualise social enterprise as a collaborative endeavor and will be executed by qualitative interviews and qualitative network analyses in selected social enterprises. The ESR will implement a qualitative, comparative and transnational case study located in two to three out of the following regions: Uckermark (DE), Phthiotis (EL), Pilski (PL) and Baixo Alentejo (PT). In addition, the ESR will be involved in the organization of RurAction events at Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL).

Supervisor: Prof. Lentz (IfL), Dr. Lang (IfL), co-supervisor Prof. Stryjakiewicz (UAM).

Institutional affiliation: The holder of the post will be enrolled in the interdisciplinary Graduate Centre “Humanities and Social Sciences” at the University of Leipzig and will join the Graduate School “Global and Area Studies”. Secondments will take place at Stevia Hellas (3 months, Greece), ADC Moura (3 months, Portugal) and Social Impact (3 months, Germany).

Researcher career profile

Required:

- At the core of the MSCA-ITNs is researcher mobility. The recruited Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country he/she will be employed for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date.
- Candidates must be in the early stage of their research career (first four years, full time equivalent) and not in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strong motivation to work in a cooperative and flexible team environment.
- Be prepared to travel and fulfill all secondments.



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- The fellow should contribute to the outreach of the project, especially by: 1. participation in publications in high ranked journals, elaboration of the planned practice handbook and policy briefs, 2. active participation at scientific conferences, policy Workshops etc. at national and EU level and the preparation of the planned exhibition, 3. participation in media communication, creation of a photo and video diary as a form of research auto-reflexivity and a documentary film and in spreading project information on EU level using European Commissions' communication tools
- Master degree, preferably in social sciences, geography, European studies, economics.
- Excellent English language capacities.
- Acquaintance with: (1) literature related to rural development and/ or (social) entrepreneurship; (2) social science tools for collecting and processing data; (3) qualitative social science methods.
- IT knowledge (basic communication skills).

Desirable:

- Working knowledge in German and/or Greek/Portuguese/Spanish language.
- Experience with comparative analyses and case study research.
- Knowledge in regional studies and regional development.

The position offers:

- Excellent institutional environment, a stimulating high profile research programme with international focus.
- Measures for career development opportunities (training programme, secondments).
- Salary corresponding to MSCA-ITN 2016 European Training Network (including living, mobility and family allowances).
- 3 year full-time contract

Applicants are requested to send their application in English with the **reference number RurAction ESR 5 until March 26th 2017** as a PDF file (max. 4MB) to bewerbungen@irs-net.de. The application shall comprise a letter of motivation (at least one page), a curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and language skills, a transcript of records (if applicable), two nominated referees that can be contacted and a chapter of the Master Thesis or a paper or a publication in English (if applicable).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the final interview in May 2017 in Erkner, Germany. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.



The IfL is explicitly committed to the principle of equal opportunities. Women are especially encouraged to apply. People with disabilities will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications.

For further information please contact the RurAction Project Manager Marie-Julie Jacquemot (Phone: +49 3362 793-269 E-Mail: Marie-Julie.Jacquemot@leibniz-irs.de).

For specific questions concerning the content of the research please contact Prof. Lentz (s_lentz@ifl-leipzig.de) or Dr. Lang (t_lang@ifl-leipzig.de).





ESR 6-project: Tackling social and economic exclusion in a sustainable manner

Aims: One important question when it comes to solving social problems is how social entrepreneurs address social and economic exclusion. Many peripheral rural locations continue to reflect a strong reliance on agriculture and/or other production-based employment which is often part-time and low-paid. Furthermore, poorly developed and inefficient physical infrastructures often characterise rural locations. Consequently, rural based social enterprises have evolved as a mechanism of regional services delivery, including the integration of people at risk of social and economic exclusion including the unemployed and/or underemployed. ESR 6 analyses the social entrepreneurial strategies developed by social enterprises to tackle rural-based social and economic exclusion. This entails an examination of the types of services delivered, of the contributions to tackling regional social and economic exclusion including job creation, and also of the strategies adopted by individual social enterprises to sustain themselves. The ESR will conduct document these experiences through an analysis of secondary data, collection of both qualitative and quantitative primary data, and qualitative interviews with both social enterprise actors and costumers of the services in the RURATION regions Mid-West (IE), Phthiotis (EL) and Baixo Alentejo (PT). In addition, the ESR will be involved in the organization of RurAction events at his/her hosting university.

Supervisor: Dr. O'Shaughnessy (UCC), Professor Thia Hennessy, co-supervisor Dr. Lang (IfL)

Institutional affiliation: The holder of the post will be enrolled as a PhD student at the University College Cork. Secondments will take place at Ballyhoura Development Ltd (3 months, Ireland), Stevia Hellas (3 months, Greece) and ADC Moura (3 months, Portugal).

Researcher career profile

Required:

- At the core of the MSCA-ITNs is researcher mobility. The recruited Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country he/she will be employed for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date.
- Candidates must be in the early stage of their research career (first four years, full time equivalent) and not in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strong motivation to work in a cooperative and flexible team environment.
- Be prepared to travel and fulfill all secondments.
- The fellow should contribute to the outreach of the project, especially by: 1. participation in publications in high ranked journals, elaboration of the planned practice handbook and



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policy briefs, 2. active participation at scientific conferences, policy Workshops etc. at national and EU level and the preparation of the planned exhibition, 3. participation in media communication, creation of a photo and video diary as a form of research auto-reflexivity and a documentary film and in spreading project information on EU level using European Commissions' communication tools

- Master degree, preferably in business or social sciences
- Fluency in English language.
- Acquaintance with: (1) databases, academic literature and expert reports related to the problems of European rural regions; (2) tools for collecting and processing data (including methods of statistical analysis) and their mapping; (3) quantitative and qualitative methods.
- The skill to make a structural and a comparative analysis in a regional dimension and to formulate visions and scenarios of development.
- IT knowledge (basic communication skills).

Desirable:

- Working knowledge in Greek and/or Portuguese/Spanish language.

The position offers:

- Excellent institutional environment, a stimulating high profile research programme with international focus.
- Measures for career development opportunities (training programme, secondments).
- Salary corresponding to MSCA-ITN 2016 European Training Network (including living, mobility and family allowances).
- 3 year full-time contract

Applicants are requested to send their application in English with the **reference number RurAction ESR 6 until March 26th 2017** as a PDF file (max. 4MB) to bewerbungen@irs-net.de. The application shall comprise a letter of motivation (at least one page), a curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and language skills, a transcript of records (if applicable), two nominated referees that can be contacted and a chapter of the Master Thesis or a paper or a publication in English (if applicable).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the final interview in May 2017 in Erkner, Germany. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

UCC is explicitly committed to the principle of equal opportunities. Women are especially encouraged to apply. People with disabilities will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications.





For further information please contact the RurAction Project Manager Marie-Julie Jacquemot
(Phone: +49 3362 793-269 E-Mail: Marie-Julie.Jacquemot@leibniz-irs.de).

For specific questions concerning the content of the research please contact Dr. O'Shaughnessy
(mary.oshaughnessy@ucc.ie) or Dr. Enright (P.Enright@ucc.ie).



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ESR 7-project: The emergence of social innovation in rural areas

Aims: Usually, populations in rural regions are supposed to be hostile to innovations. They are seen as tradition-ally minded groups which are inclined to preserve existing assets. Following this observation, social innovations which by definition create novelty would be a challenge. Hence, social entrepreneurs aiming at creating innovative solutions for regional development would have to make particular efforts to convince residents and to empower them for being innovative, otherwise they would not be socially accepted. ESR 7 investigates how social entrepreneurial actors seek to generate creativity in rural regions, how they get residents involved and empowered, which forms of participation they develop, and which are supporting and hindering factors for successful participation. Furthermore, it will be a question which type of innovation is created in rural regions, in how far social innovations partially refer to traditional elements, however combining them in a new way. The ESR will carry out participant observation and qualitative expert interviews with involved actors in the RURACTION regions Uckermark (DE), Mühlviertel (AT) and Phthiotis (EL). In addition, the ESR will be involved in the organization of RurAction events at his/her hosting university.

Supervisor: Prof. Hulgård (RUC), co-supervisor Prof. Christmann (IRS)

Institutional affiliation: The holder of the post will be enrolled as a PhD student at the Roskilde Universitet, Department of People and Technology. Secondments will take place at Social Impact (3 months, Germany), Otelo eGen (3 months, Austria) and Stevia Hellas (3 months, Greece).

Researcher career profile

Required:

- At the core of the MSCA-ITNs is researcher mobility. The recruited Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country he/she will be employed for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date.
- Candidates must be in the early stage of their research career (first four years, full time equivalent) and not in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strong motivation to work in a cooperative and flexible team environment.
- Be prepared to travel and fulfill all secondments.
- The fellow should contribute to the outreach of the project, especially by: 1. participation in publications in high ranked journals, elaboration of the planned practice handbook and policy briefs, 2. active participation at scientific conferences, policy Workshops etc. at national and EU level and the preparation of the planned exhibition, 3.



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participation in media communication, creation of a photo and video diary as a form of research auto-reflexivity and a documentary film and in spreading project information on EU level using European Commissions' communication tools

- Master degree, preferably in social entrepreneurship or social sciences.
- Fluency in English language.
- IT knowledge (basic communication skills).

Desirable:

- Working knowledge in German and/or Greek language.
- Working knowledge in Danish language.

The position offers:

- Excellent institutional environment, a stimulating high profile research programme with international focus.
- Measures for career development opportunities (training programme, secondments).
- Salary corresponding to MSCA-ITN 2016 European Training Network (including living, mobility and family allowances).
- 3 year full-time contract

Applicants are requested to send their application in English with the **reference number RurAction ESR 7 until March 26th 2017** as a PDF file (max. 4MB) to bewerbungen@irs-net.de. The application shall comprise a letter of motivation (at least one page), a curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and language skills, a transcript of records (if applicable), two nominated referees that can be contacted and a chapter of the Master Thesis or a paper or a publication in English (if applicable).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the final interview in May 2017 in Erkner, Germany. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The RUC is explicitly committed to the principle of equal opportunities. Women are especially encouraged to apply. People with disabilities will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications.

For further information please contact the RurAction Project Manager Marie-Julie Jacquemot (Phone: +49 3362 793-269 E-Mail: Marie-Julie.Jacquemot@leibniz-irs.de).

For specific questions concerning the content of the research please contact Prof. Hulgård (hulg@ruc.dk).



ESR 8-project: The spatial spread of social innovations. How and under which conditions do innovative social practices “travel”?

Aims: To be considered a social innovation, individual projects offering a novel social practice require a spatial spread of the practice. ESR 8 analyses the spread of innovative solutions as part of an innovation biography. This will be done for RURACTION initiatives in the Mühlviertel (AT), the Uckermark (DE) and the Baixo Alentejo (PT) region. The regional (and international) spatial spread of the innovative approach will be observed. It is a task of the project to reconstruct the courses of the spreads, to examine driving forces (such as key individuals, the media) and to investigate in how far the original practices are modified by the “mobility process” of social innovation. Qualitative interviews with involved actors and document analyses will be the methodological tools of the ESR 8-project. In addition, the ESR will be involved in the organization of RurAction events at his/her hosting university.

Supervisor: Prof. Christmann (IRS), co-supervisor Prof. Hulgård (RUC).

Institutional affiliation: The holder of the post will be enrolled as a PhD student at the Technical University Berlin, Faculty VI Planning Building Environment. Secondments will take place at Otelo eGen (3 months, Austria), Social Impact (3 months, Germany), ADC Moura (3 months, Portugal).

Researcher career profile

Required:

- At the core of the MSCA-ITNs is researcher mobility. The recruited Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country he/she will be employed for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date.
- Candidates must be in the early stage of their research career (first four years, full time equivalent) and not in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strong motivation to work in a cooperative and flexible team environment.
- Be prepared to travel and fulfill all secondments.
- The fellow should contribute to the outreach of the project, especially by: 1. participation in publications in high ranked journals, elaboration of the planned practice handbook and policy briefs, 2. active participation at scientific conferences, policy Workshops etc. at national and EU level and the preparation of the planned exhibition, 3. participation in media communication, creation of a photo and video diary as a form of research auto-reflexivity and a documentary film and in spreading project information on EU level using European



Commissions' communication tools

- Master degree, preferably in sociology or geography
- Fluency in English language.
- IT knowledge (basic communication skills).
- Experiences in qualitative research methods, particularly with guideline interviews and with grounded theory analysis; knowledge in the field of innovation research or of the policy mobility approach.

Desirable:

- Working knowledge in German and/or Portuguese/Spanish language.

The position offers:

- Excellent institutional environment, a stimulating high profile research programme with international focus.
- Measures for career development opportunities (training programme, secondments).
- Salary corresponding to MSCA-ITN 2016 European Training Network (including living, mobility and family allowances).
- 3 year full-time contract

Applicants are requested to send their application in English with the **reference number RurAction ESR 8 until March 26th 2017** as a PDF file (max. 4MB) to bewerbungen@irs-net.de. The application shall comprise a letter of motivation (at least one page), a curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and language skills, a transcript of records (if applicable), two nominated referees that can be contacted and a chapter of the Master Thesis or a paper or a publication in English (if applicable).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the final interview in May 2017 in Erkner, Germany. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The IRS is explicitly committed to the principle of equal opportunities. Women are especially encouraged to apply. People with disabilities will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications. The IRS supports the compatibility of career and family and was certified as a family-oriented employer in 2015.

For further information please contact the RurAction Project Manager Marie-Julie Jacquemot (Phone: +49 3362 793-269 E-Mail: Marie-Julie.Jacquemot@leibniz-irs.de).

For specific questions concerning the content of the research please contact Prof. Dr. Gabriela Christmann (Phone: +49 3362 793-270 E-Mail: gabriela.christmann@leibniz-irs.de).





ESR 9-project: The impact of innovative solutions on regional discourses and the perception of rural development

Aims: Contrary to the ESR 3-project, ESR 9 does not look back to discourses prior to, but parallel to the implementation and the spread of the innovative approaches. It will be examined in how far the implementation of innovative approaches triggers media responses, how they are portrayed in the reports, and how approaches of problem solving are discursively further processed in the respective regions. Furthermore, it will be investigated in how far residents are aware of such innovative approaches to solutions and how they perceive potentials for the development of their region. A qualitative discourse analysis (regional newspaper articles) and qualitative interviews with selected regional residents and decision makers will be conducted for the Mid-West (IE), the Uckermark (DE) and the Mühlviertel (AT). ESR 3 and ESR 9 will work as a tandem, i.e. they exchange empirical findings and jointly discuss results.

Relevant subjects to be covered in the cumulative dissertation employing qualitative and/or quantitative methods of empirical social science include but are not strictly limited to the following:

- Impact of regionally implemented innovation and entrepreneurship practices on regional discourses
- Emergence of organizational fields linked to the regionally implemented innovation and entrepreneurship practices
- The interplay between (changes in) institutional logics regionally implemented innovation and entrepreneurship practices
- Multilevel analysis of the interdependence between resources for and legitimacy of regionally implemented innovation and entrepreneurship practices
- Scaling regionally implemented niche innovations to regime-level changes
- Analysis of place-based institutions relevant for regionally implemented innovation and entrepreneurship practices
- Comparative analysis of regionally implemented innovation practices between international contexts (Austrian, Greece, Irish and Polish case regions) and between corporate and social entrepreneurship

Supervisor: Prof. Fink (Institute for Innovation Management at Johannes Kepler University Linz – JKU, Austria), co-supervisor Prof. Tsobanoglu (UAE). The practical supervisor is Martin Hollinetz and practical co-supervisor is Wolfgang Mader (Otelo eGen).

Institutional affiliation: The holder of the post will be enrolled as a PhD student at JKU. Secondments will take place at Ballyhoura Development Lt (3 months, Ireland), IRS (3 months, Germany) and Social Impact (3 months, Germany).



This project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 721999.

Researcher career profile

Required:

- At the core of the MSCA-ITNs is researcher mobility. The recruited Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country he/she will be employed for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date.
- Candidates must be in the early stage of their research career (first four years, full time equivalent) and not in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strong motivation to work in a cooperative and flexible team environment.
- Be prepared to travel and fulfill all secondments.
- The fellow should contribute to the outreach of the project, especially by: 1. participation in publications in high ranked journals, elaboration of the planned practice handbook and policy briefs, 2. active participation at scientific conferences, policy Workshops etc. at national and EU level and the preparation of the planned exhibition, 3. participation in media communication, creation of a photo and video diary as a form of research auto-reflexivity and a documentary film and in spreading project information on EU level using European Commissions' communication tools
- Master degree, preferably in Business and Social Science and Sociology
- Excellent social skills and communication skills and intercultural sensitivity
- Fluency in English language (written and oral).
- Good working knowledge in German language

Desirable:

- Strong theoretical background in business studies and/or sociology with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation and regional development
- Ability to work in a research team and experience in field work
- SPSS, Stata or any other software package for quantitative data analysis
- Atlas, Nvivo or any other software package for qualitative data analysis
- Publication record in international peer-reviewed journals
- Publication record at international conferences with peer-review procedure

The position offers:

- Excellent institutional environment, a stimulating high profile research program with international focus.
- Opportunity to carve out and populate your own niche in the scientific discourse



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- Strong potential for further developing a strong publication record
- International experience in diverse academic institutions
- Mentoring by leading experts in the field
- Measures for career development opportunities (training program, secondments).
- Salary corresponding to MSCA-ITN 2016 European Training Network (including living, mobility and family allowances).
- 3 year full-time contract

Applicants are requested to send their application in English with the **reference number RurAction ESR 9 until March 26th 2017** as a PDF file (max. 4MB) to bewerbungen@irs-net.de. The application shall comprise a letter of motivation (at least one page), a curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and language skills, a transcript of records (if applicable), two nominated referees that can be contacted and a chapter of the Master Thesis or a paper or a publication in English (if applicable).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the final interview in May 2017 in Erkner, Germany. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The JKU is explicitly committed to the principle of equal opportunities. Women are especially encouraged to apply. People with disabilities will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications.

For further information please contact the RurAction Project Manager Marie-Julie Jacquemot (Phone: +49 3362 793-269 E-Mail: Marie-Julie.Jacquemot@leibniz-irs.de).

For specific questions concerning the content of the research please contact Prof. Fink (Matthias.fink@jku.at) and Martin Hollinetz (martin.hollinetz@oteloegen.at).





ESR 10-project: The socio-economic impact of innovative solutions on regional development

Aims: This project is conceptualised to analyse in how far – as an effect of social entrepreneurial activities – economic, political and/or social impacts can be noted. A standardised online survey of experts will be conducted for the five RURACTION regions which are operation fields of the contributing social enterprises. An appropriate set of indicators will be adopted from existing operationalisations in databases such as the OECD Better Life Index and the European System of Social Indicators (GESIS). Actors of social enterprises, regional economic experts, regional politicians and experts of social welfare associations will be asked to assess in how far jobs have been created, the provision with goods and services has been improved, regional policy strategies for rural development have been modified, social networks have been built, further initiatives have been started, social coherence has been improved, social life has become more vivid, etc. In addition, the ESR will be involved in the organization of RurAction events at his/her hosting university.

Supervisor: Prof. Ferreiro (ISCTE-IUL), Prof. Henriques (ISCTE-IUL), Prof. Sousa (ISCTE-IUL), co-supervisor Prof. Strykiewicz (UAM).

Institutional affiliation: The holder of the post will be enrolled as a PhD student to the University Institute of Lisbon and associated to the Centre for Socio-Economic Change and Territorial Studies. Secondments will take place at ADC Moura (3 months, Portugal), Otelo eGen (3 months, Austria) and AMU (3 months, Poland).

Researcher career profile

Required:

- At the core of the MSCA-ITNs is researcher mobility. The recruited Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country he/she will be employed for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date.
- Candidates must be in the early stage of their research career (first four years, full time equivalent) and not in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strong motivation to work in a cooperative and flexible team environment.
- Be prepared to travel and fulfill all secondments.
- The fellow should contribute to the outreach of the project, especially by: 1. participation in publications in high ranked journals, elaboration of the planned practice handbook and policy briefs, 2. active participation at scientific conferences, policy Workshops etc. at national and EU level and the preparation of the planned exhibition, 3. participation in media



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communication, creation of a photo and video diary as a form of research auto-reflexivity and a documentary film and in spreading project information on EU level using European Commissions' communication tools

- Master degree, preferably in social sciences (e.g., development studies, sociology, political science, social anthropology) economics (including social and solidarity economics), geography, regional science, urban and regional planning (socio-economic profile).
- Fluency in English language.
- Acquaintance with: (1) databases, academic literature and expert reports related to the problems of European rural regions; (2) quantitative and qualitative methods as well as case study methodology aiming at the collection and processing of data (including interviews, life stories, questionnaires and methods of statistical analysis-e.g., SPSS). (3) Impact Evaluation methodologies.
- The skill to make a structural and a comparative analysis in a regional dimension.
- IT knowledge (basic communication skills).

Desirable:

- Working knowledge in Portuguese/Spanish and/or Polish language.

The position offers:

- Excellent institutional environment, a stimulating high profile research programme with international focus.
- Measures for career development opportunities (training programme, secondments).
- Salary corresponding to MSCA-ITN 2016 European Training Network (including living, mobility and family allowances).
- 3 year full-time contract

Applicants are requested to send their application in English with the **reference number RurAction ESR 10 until March 26th 2017** as a PDF file (max. 4MB) to bewerbungen@irs-net.de. The application shall comprise a letter of motivation (at least one page), a curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and language skills, a transcript of records (if applicable), two nominated referees that can be contacted and a chapter of the Master Thesis or a paper or a publication in English (if applicable).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the final interview in May 2017 in Erkner, Germany. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.





The ISCTE-IUL is explicitly committed to the principle of equal opportunities. Women are especially encouraged to apply. People with disabilities people will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications.

For further information please contact the RurAction Project Manager Marie-Julie Jacquemot (Phone: +49 3362 793-269 E-Mail: Marie-Julie.Jacquemot@leibniz-irs.de).

For specific questions concerning the content of the research please contact Prof. Ferrero (fatima.ferreiro@iscte.pt), Prof. Henriques (jose.henriques@iscte.pt) and Prof. Sousa (cristina.sousa@iscte.pt).



This project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 721999.