

Fellowship in Hydrology

with the Socio-ecological Research Group GETIDOS,

University of Greifswald, Germany

Background: MDG 7 and the water crisis

The UN's Millennium Development Goal 7 (Environmental Sustainability) commits its member governments to reduce by half the proportion of people without adequate access to clean drinking water and sanitation by 2015. However, current forecasts indicate that national and international institutions and their policy instruments will not be able to attain the goal, and especially not in the regions that are exposed to the most severe water crises.

In this situation, the rapidly growing group of social entrepreneurs promises new problem-solving capacity. According to Ashoka, a leading international social entrepreneurship organization, these actors develop innovative solutions for particularly pressing societal needs. They use scaling and replication of their innovations as means for societal change. They are active at the crossroads of states, markets and civil society.

What we do: Socio-ecological research group GETIDOS

GETIDOS is a socio-ecological research group based at the University of Greifswald and the Institute for Ecological Economy Research, Berlin, and sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). From 2009-13, an interdisciplinary team of scientists will investigate the role and potential of social entrepreneurs in the achievement of MDG 7.

In collaboration with social entrepreneurs, GETIDOS has set itself the following goals:

- to provide a knowledge base on social entrepreneurship initiatives in the water sector worldwide, including an online available water map
- to develop a social-ecological approach for the evaluation of social entrepreneurship initiatives in this sector (drawing on disciplinary input from ecology, environmental engineering, management science, philosophy and political science)
- to support selected social entrepreneurs in the development of the scientific dimensions of their innovations, including their replication and/or scaling
- to create a platform for sustainability oriented social entrepreneurship education, including a collaborative competition

What this is about: The Fellow Programme

Throughout the project duration, GETIDOS offers several fellowship positions in varying academic disciplines. The aim of the fellow programme is to support the preparation and follow-up of the research group's 'change studies': in-depth case studies in various countries that will allow a sufficiently deep insight into specific social entrepreneurship initiatives over a longer period of time.

Within this context, qualified young researchers with at least a first university degree (preferably Post-doc) and young practitioners from the change studies' countries will be

invited for a three-months research scholarship at either of the two partner institutes. Depending on interest and availability, a second stay can be arranged to follow up on interim developments after approximately two years.

The Change Study in Slovakia centers around the work of Slovakian Social Entrepreneurs proposing a new water paradigm that stresses the eco-systemic role of water with focus on water-climate-coupling and the power of decentralized structures.

What we offer: Job profile

Tasks and opportunities of our fellows encompass the following:

- Support in the preparation, implementation and follow-up of a change study, e.g. identifying of and contacting relevant stakeholders, preparation (and implementation) of the empirical studies, as well as organizational issues relating to the field stay.
- Participation in the rich academic life of the research group and the institute of botany and landscape ecology at the University of Greifswald (www.botanik.uni-greifswald.de).
- Independent research during stay in Germany, e.g. journal article in the field of socio-ecological research.

What we are looking for: Requirements

- Junior researcher in the fields of climate, hydrology or environmental sciences with a focus on water-climate-coupling (M.A. or diploma, preferably Postdoc)
- Proficiency in modeling and data preparation, and ample knowledge on the interface of climate and hydrology (including water uses)
- High interest in and knowledge of socio-ecological research
- Familiarity with the language and culture of Slovakia
- Proficiency in English

Duration

The fellowship position involves a three-months stay in Germany from January 2010 in Greifswald and a four-weeks period in Slovakia in summer 2010 (exact dates to be determined in communication with the organizers).

Budget and travel

The fellow will be paid a maximum of 1500 EUR per month plus travel expenses. Accommodation can be arranged in an international university guest house close to the institute where the research group is located. Fellows will receive support and advice from the Welcome Centre Greifswald (www.welcome-centre-greifswald.de).

How to apply

If you are interested, please send a brief motivational cover letter/ mail together with

- Your CV (incl. academic and other professional training, work experience and internships, and publications to date)
- Brief outline of current research interests including a possible work plan for the time in Germany
- Names of two referees

to Ms. Eva Wascher, GETIDOS Project Manager (eva.wascher@uni-greifswald.de)