

Internship

The added value of stakeholder engagement for Ecosystem-Based Management

THE ORGANISATION

ACTeon is a French-based human size (20 staff) research and consultancy company, active in the field of EU environmental policy. It is specialised in the “soft” components of environmental management and policy, i.e. social values & perceptions, economic values - including values of ecosystem’s services, the search for adequate incentives (knowledge, processes, economic instruments) to steer change in behaviour, prospective and policy (ex-ante and ex-post) evaluation, governance & institutions, and mediation & communication. ACTeon is providing support to policy development and implementation in the field of water, marine resources, biodiversity, climate change and adaptation, agriculture and the environment, renewable energy, etc. The geographic focus of activities includes France, Europe (other European countries & EU level initiatives), the Mediterranean Sea and the Caucasus regions. For more information: www.acteon-environment.eu.

THE POSITION

ACTeon is looking for an **Intern** to support its team with the assessment of the added value of stakeholder engagement for Ecosystem-Based Management.

Research on Ecosystem-Based Management is often oriented towards influencing policy decisions. This means that they potentially have a wide range of implications on stakeholders. Consequently, this type of research is often conducted in a participatory way involving a wide range of stakeholders. Effective stakeholder engagement in the context of Ecosystem-Based Management is challenging due to its complex political context; management strategies must be founded on policies established at the international level, but tailored to the local level and the stakeholders involved therein.

Many pragmatic arguments exist for stakeholder engagement, e.g. to empower stakeholders, to stimulate the uptake of innovation, to mitigate conflicts, to encourage social learning, and to identify different types of knowledge, perceptions and expectations. However, little evidence is available on the extent to which these claims are actually met. This limits our understanding of the (dis)advantages of different participatory approaches in diverse contexts, and specifically in the context of Ecosystem-Based Management, eventually hindering the development of effective and operational stakeholder engagement approaches.

The objective of this internship is to assess the conditions under which different goals of stakeholder engagement have been met in Ecosystem-Based Management projects and to identify participatory challenges which are inherent to the ecosystem approach. The internship will be part of the ongoing activities within EU-funded research project Aquacross (www.aquacross.eu). The intern will work in close collaboration with Acteon’s staff and project partners on a work package on stakeholder mobilization. The main tasks that are relevant to the position include:

- **Review literature** on: a) stakeholder engagement in ecosystem-based management (practices, added-value, challenges), and b) methods to evaluate the added value of stakeholder engagement in the context of comparative case-studies;
- **Develop an innovative methodological framework** for assessing stakeholder processes across several case studies. The framework should integrate the treatment of currently available data from case study stakeholder databases and workshop evaluation questionnaires (which should

probably be complemented with the review of case study reports and workshop minutes, and with semi-structured interviews with case study leads/project partners);

- **Apply the methodological framework** and make a cross-comparison of conditions for successful stakeholder engagement in Ecosystem-Based Management projects. Eight case studies are pre-selected, but this list is not final and may change based on new insights arising from the above-mentioned steps;
- **Analyze results and draw conclusions** concerning a) conditions for successful stakeholder engagement in the context of Ecosystem-Based Management projects, and b) the application of the innovative methodological framework;
- **Formulate recommendations** for effective stakeholder processes in Ecosystem-Based Management projects and for future research directions on this topic;
- **Communicate results, conclusions and recommendations** through different channels: writing of background report (internship report), oral presentations (internal Acteon, but possibly also to external project partners), and writing of a scientific paper for publication in an international journal.

THE INTERNSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

- **Master student** in **environmental governance** with a demonstrated interest in water and biodiversity;
- **Proactive** and **independent**, with ability to work **autonomously**;
- Knowledge of **Ecosystem-Based Management** and **comparative case study analysis** is seen as an advantage;
- Excellent **English (written and oral)** communication skills (A second language, and specifically Portuguese, is seen as an advantage);
- Applicants must be **currently enrolled in a University**.

ADMINISTRATIVE & WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The internship will take place at ACTeon's Colmar office (France – 30 minutes by public transport from Strasbourg or Basel). The intern will receive the regular internship allowance of 554 €/month as defined by French law. The internship is of 6 month duration, with an expected starting date in February/March 2018.

How to apply?

You can apply up until 19 January 2018 by sending your application (including a cover letter and a recent CV) to:

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