

## Internship offer

### How to integrate biodiversity protection in public policies?

#### Development of a European dimension partnership

##### Host organizations

The internship will be co-supervised by the consulting and research company ACTeon environment and the DREAL Grand Est, and will take place at ACTeon premises (Colmar, Alsace region, France) and on the Strasbourg site (Alsace region, France) of the DREAL Grand Est. It fits in a double context: on one side, the European project LIFE+ Alister, for which ACTeon is one of the partners, and on the other side, the implementation of the national action plan 2019-2028 in the benefit of the European Hamster and the Alsace plains' biodiversity, driven by the DREAL Grand Est.

**ACTeon environment** is a French consulting and research company of twenty employees, specialised in environmental strategies and policies. Composed of a small multicultural group of economy, sociology, governance and territory planning experts, ACTeon works in the water and aquatic environments, agriculture-environment relation, climate, energy and biodiversity fields. Its geographic area of intervention includes France, Europe and the Mediterranean basin. ACTeon is based at Colmar, Grenoble and in Turin (Italy).

For more information, visit: <http://www.acteon-environment.eu/>

**Regional Directorate for the Environment of Planning and Housing Grand Est.** Deconcentrated direction State in region, the Regional Directorate for the Environment of Planning and Housing (DREAL) Grand Est implements, under the region prefect and departments prefects, public policies of Ecological and Solidary Transition Ministry (MTES), and of Cohesion and Territory Ministry (MCT).

Several strategic axes structure the interventions of DREAL agents, present throughout the territory:

- To prepare the future, by anticipating and supporting the ecological and energetic transition in the face of resource conservation and climate change issues.
- To support territories and their projects, by promoting a sustainable planning and mobility, adapted to issues in particular to the transboundary nature of the region.
- To be guarantor of citizen protection towards natural and technological risks, security and fluidity of their displacement, a healthy environment, with the natural resource and biodiversity and landscape conservation.
- To answer to fundamental needs of our citizen towards housing, with the construction of a new quality living environment.

The DREAL Grand Est benefits from an operational implementation on three main sites (Châlons-en-Champagne, Strasbourg and its head office in Metz) where are divided two services charged to assure the "support" functions, and eight technical services with regional competence. It also benefits from an implementation in departments within eight departmental units, of which two are bi-departmental. It is committed to the service of sustainable territories development through implementation of all public policies.

The Water, Species and Naturalist Expertise pole is positioned inside the Water Biodiversity Landscape DREAL Grand Est service. It is charged with, among other things, implementing protected species related policies: protected species derogation, but also National Action Plans coordination, or their regional adaptation. In this context, the DREAL is the animator and the coordinator of National Action Plan in the benefit of the European Hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) and the Alsace plains' biodiversity.

### **Internship context**

The European Hamster (*Cricetus Cricetus*) is an emblematic species of the Alsace region, its only habitat area in France. It benefits from a legal status of protected species and several specific actions have been implemented by local stakeholders since 2000 in the benefit of its conservation, in order to stop the decline of its species. Their efforts have stabilized populations, but have not been able to bring them back to a satisfying viable minimum.

The LIFE+ Alister <sup>1</sup>project, between 2013 and 2019, aims to demonstrate the relevance, at a regional level, of previously identified as potentially hamster-friendly actions. It will come to its end by next spring, and reflections are now open on broader questions, related to territory planning and biodiversity conservation. In this context, ACTeon is in charge of the organization of a workshop with European stakeholders, in order to 1) identify solutions to guarantee and effectively take into account ecosystems and species need by economics activities, and 2) to understand political context adaptations required to guarantee a successful integration between biodiversity and socio-economic development.

In parallel, the DREAL Grand Est initiated a *National Action Plan in the benefit of the European Hamster and the Alsace plains' biodiversity*, for 2019-2028. This plan, which aims to reach the good conservation status of the European Hamster, is composed by 22 actions divided in 5 axes in the project. It will allow to raise hamster's populations, while accommodating agricultural and urbanistic activities, but also to raise awareness in the public regarding hamster conservation issues and to improve biology species knowledge. The plan will also make sure to replace the European hamster conservation's question in the broader context of the agricultural plains' ecosystems conservation.

### **Internship's objectives**

The internship aims to open the reflection, very hamster conservation focused until now, to a broader approach regarding of the entire Alsace plains' biodiversity.  
The internship will take place in two stages.

#### **1) Identification and analyzing solutions to integrate biodiversity protection and the socio-economic development of a territory**

After participating in the workshop organized by ACTeon with European stakeholders, in February 2019, the aim of this first stage will be to analyze one or several solutions which could be implemented to the biodiversity protection – techniques/technologies, practices change, space organization...- as well as territorial and sectorial policies adaptation needed to support them – agriculture, transport, territory planning, water, biodiversity, renewable energies...

This analysis will be carried out as a benchmark and will be based on a literature review and a series of interviews with stakeholders who have implemented those solutions. The aim is to write a synthesis document presenting one or several solutions (identified with the internship supervisors), their advantages and disadvantages, required conditions for implementation, etc.

This stage of the internship will take place during 3 months (February – April 2019), on ACTeon premises, and includes a mission to Brussels to attend the European workshop.

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<sup>1</sup> Alsace Life hamSTER: Demonstration project to preserve European biodiversity in Alsace - [www.grand-hamster.Alsace.eu](http://www.grand-hamster.Alsace.eu)

## **2) Development of a European partnership on biodiversity conservation thematic**

The second part of the internship will consist of participating in the reflection on the implementation of a European partnership on identified solutions. Some contacts have already been taken with a certain number of stakeholders working on hamster protection in other European countries (Germany, Netherlands, Luxembourg, etc.), and the implementation of a partnership has already been mentioned. It will be a question of suggesting solutions for such a partnership, based on the analysis done during the first stage of the internship. This partnership could materialize by the implementation of a European action program in the benefit of the hamster, which be submitted to the European Commission.

The mission of the intern will be to make contact with potential partners, to understand each partner's specific issues, to be proactive in finding ways to collaborate, to organize work meetings with all interested persons. Obviously, the intern will be supported in this task by supervisors (first contact with potential partners, collaboration leads structuration, work meetings animation...).

### **Conditions and proceedings**

Internship duration: 6 months. Beginning of the internship: February 1, 2019.

The intern will be in ACTeon environment premises, at Colmar, from February to April, and from May to July, on the Strasbourg's site of the DREAL Grand Est.

The intern will receive an internship compensation corresponding to the legal gratification in France.

Skills required: knowledge of biodiversity conservation related issues, analytical and synthesis skills, good interpersonal skills, ability to lead interviews.

English and French proficiency is essential (interviews, writing exchanges with European partners), German proficiency will be a valuable asset.

### **Opportunity for the intern**

The intern will have the occasion to work with a biodiversity conservation European experts community, and the *Cricetus cricetus* species in particular. The internship constitutes a great opportunity to collaborate with an environmental consulting and research company and a region service of the State.

The intern will be assisted on public policy analysis notions, and on tools related to information gathering (neutral situation, semi-guiding interviews techniques, workgroups animation techniques, etc).

### **Information and application**

Send CV and motivation letter before December 15, 2018.

Complementary interviews will be done by Skype, during the week of December 17th.

The selected candidate will be informed before the annual holidays.

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