

6 months internship

Mobilizing stakeholders in research projects: how to ensure it delivers “added value”?

THE ORGANISATION

ACTeon is a French-based human size (20 staff) research and consultancy company, active in the field of EU environment 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 FOCUS OF THE INTERNSHIP

ACTeon participates regularly in EU-funded research projects, addressing economic, public policy, governance and stakeholder mobilization issues. In particular, ACTeon is supporting (has supported) stakeholder mobilisation and the establishment of a sound science-policy interface in 3 projects AQUACROSS¹ (2014-2018), SIM4NEXUS² (2016-2020) and LANDSUPPORT³ (2018-2021) funded by the European instrument Horizon 2020 (H2020).

Stakeholder mobilisation is one of the priority principles of H2020 projects. With many years of application in different research fields, and in preparation of future research projects under the new Horizon Europe research programme, it is time to critically assess the reality of stakeholder mobilisation in H2020 projects and to answer the following questions: (1) **How has “stakeholder mobilisation” been implemented?** With whom? By whom? How? (b) **how has it been monitored and evaluated?** With which mechanisms? And how has the information collected been used – by whom and for what? (c) **what has been the added value** of stakeholder mobilisation? Strengthening the knowledge base? Enhancing the relevance of research – of tools or of (management/policy) recommendations that emerged from research? Ensuring ownership and supporting the legacy of research projects? Others? (d) which pre-conditions for successful/effective stakeholder mobilisation in research projects? For which type of research, environmental domains, research outcome(s)....)

¹ : AQUACROSS aims to support EU efforts to protect aquatic biodiversity and ensure the provision of aquatic ecosystem services. As such, AQUACROSS seeks to advance knowledge and application of ecosystem-based management (EBM) for aquatic ecosystems to support the timely achievement of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets.

² SIM4NEXUS project contributes to the transition towards a low-carbon and resource-efficient economy in a context of climate change. Working on the « water-land-food-energy-climate Nexus », SIM4NEXUS aims at developing innovative methodologies to facilitate the elaboration of policies, increasing knowledge and improving technologies.

³ LANDSUPPORT contributes to the “Development of Integrated Web-Based Land Decision Support System Aiming Towards the Implementation of Policies for Agriculture and Environment”. The project aims at developing a web-based, open-access GeoSpatial Decision Support System (S-DSS) devoted to reconciling agriculture, environmental sustainability and policy implementation.

THE TASKS

ACTeon is looking for a **dynamic and enthusiast student, Master level**, to capitalize on ACTeon's recent experiences on stakeholder mobilization in H2020 projects. The work will build on the following tasks:

- Setting the **research framework** and develop the work plan for the internship
- **Literature review** on stakeholder mobilization in recent environmental science and policy research
- **Review of experiences** (via survey of researchers and stakeholders) from a wide range of (H2020 and nationally-funded) research projects
- Review of **ACTeon's work in the 3 projects mentioned above**, interviews with different members of these projects (in ACTeon and among the partners)
- **Data Analysis** (including by using data analysis software Sphinx or another tool to be determined), critical assessment
- Development of **recommendations** (with regards to new methodologies, facilitation tools, stakeholder mobilisation protocols, pre-conditions for success/effectiveness) to enhance stakeholder engagement in research project
- **Reporting** – including the development of publication
- **Presentation of results** to different audiences (internal ACTeon, partners of the different projects, seminars/workshops...)

In addition to carrying out these tasks/activities, the student might participate and contribute to stakeholder mobilization activities carried out in ACTeon's on-going research projects (e.g. organization of workshops, interviews, participation in webinars or project meetings...). The student will also participate in the ACTeon's daily life and activities (participation in team meetings, research working group, etc.)

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- **Master student** in sociology, socio-economy, political science, environmental science with experience in social & governance issues
- Experience and/or interest in (a) **semi-structured interviews** and (b) the **qualitative analysis of social data** (using relevant analytical software – e.g. Sphinx or other software)
- Fluent/professional level in **oral and written communication in English** and in **French**

ADMINISTRATIVE & WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The internship will take place at ACTeon's Grenoble or Colmar office. The intern will receive a regular internship allowance as defined by French law. The internship duration is expected to be **6 months** starting in February/March 2020.

HOW TO APPLY?

You can apply **sending your application via email** with (a) a cover letter and (b) a recent CV to:

Manon Berge (m.berge@acteon-environment.eu)