Vacancy for a post-doc position on “local resilience capacity building for flood mitigation”

Location: University of Paris-Est, Lab’urba

Duration: one year (from now)

Context of the position
The work is part of a European project (DG ECHO) implemented from January 2016 to December 2017, entitled “local resilience capacity building for flood mitigation”. The leading team is the Institute of Governance and Public policy, Autonomous university of Barcelona. Four other different university departments in Europe participate in the project, Laburba EUP, the Institute for Environmental Studies (IES-VUA) Netherlands, the Instituto per la Ricerca Sociale (IRS), Italy, the Institute of Sustainability Governance (ISG-ULG), Germany.

Summary of the project
While coming decades are likely to see a higher flood risk in Europe and greater socio-economic damage, traditional flood risk management approach has become inefficient (EEA, 2011, D 2007/60/CE). New approaches, such as capacity building, have recently been incorporated in natural hazards prevention policy (Hyogo Framework for Action and IPCC reports). However, further evaluation is required. In this project we focus on the development of two related local resilient capacities that are crucial to reduce risk and mitigate adverse consequences: social capacity and civic capacity. Social capacity has been defined as the resources available at various levels (individuals, organizations, communities) that can be used to anticipate, respond to, cope with, recover from and adapt to external stressors (Steinführer et al., 2009). Civic capacity, which could be understood as one of these resources, refers to the ability that a community has to articulate different stakeholders (governmental and non-governmental) concerning with collective problems (Stone, 2001).
This project aims to a) design two consistent tools to assess and develop social and civic capacities to cope with flood risk at local level, b) apply these tools in 5 pilot urban case studies in different European river basins in order to identify good practices and illuminate how these capacities could be built and, c) disseminate our results through a Guideline on social and civic capacity building.

Several studies have linked social capacity with public involvement in the implementation of risk prevention policies (Kuhlicke and Steinführer, 2010; Kinney, 2012). In this vein, this applied project uses a participatory capacity building approach. Taking into account the EU Floods Directive commitment with public participation, this proposal aims to move forward in this direction, fostering a culture of prevention and opening up new opportunities to build and replicate resilient capacities at local level.
The French partner will be responsible mostly for task B (Assessment Tool Design) and task C (capacity assessment).
**Postdoc project**

The Post-doc researcher will take part to the research process for the work package devolved to the French team and will be involved in the whole project in the first year.

The post-doctoral researcher will be involved in the following tasks:
- writing a report on social and civic capacities (including a theoretical framework on social measures for flood mitigation, setting the indicators to measure capacities, producing a methodology of evaluation)
- collecting data for the tool design
- conducting and analysing interviews
- subcontracting a consultant for participatory actions
- co-writing intermediary reports
- organizing meetings

**Requirements:**
- Completed PhD degree in social sciences or urban planning
- Skills in policy analysis, discourse analysis, conducting interviews and documentary research
- Knowledge in social capacity; civic capacity, natural hazards, risks, environmental policies
- Language proficiency English (oral and written)

**Application**

Applicants should send their application by email to corinne.larrue@u-pec.fr before 7th of February:
1) letter explaining their interest and commitment,
2) CV
3) Phd and Phd reviewers comments (PV de soutenance en français, jury’s decision if PhD obtained outside France)
4) List of publications and relevant publications (3 maximum)

**Location of the position:** Lab’urba, University of Paris-Est (Marne-la-Vallée)

**Salary:** 1700-1800 euros depending on the experience of the applicant.