



Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska–Curie

European Training Network RurAction

Position as an Early-Stage Researcher¹

Application Deadline: 25.09.2018

The European Training Network RurAction (“Social Entrepreneurship in Structurally Weak Rural Regions: Analysing Innovative Troubleshooters in Action”) announces **1 position for an Early-Stage Researcher** with the option of awarding the doctoral degree. The position lasts **36 months** and is expected to begin in January 2019. An Early-Stage Researcher (ESR) with a strong interest in research about regional development, social entrepreneurship and social innovations is invited to apply for a PhD position at Roskilde Universitet. Further leading research institutions and acknowledged social enterprises in **Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Poland and Portugal** constitute the European Training Network.

Project

RurAction is an integrated research and doctorate programme funded by the European Union in the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action - Innovative Training Network. RurAction recognizes a lack of knowledge and cross-sectoral trainings at the intersection of rural development, social innovation and social entrepreneurship research. It addresses this gap by systematically integrating these three fields of research. RurAction offers a unique opportunity to 10 Early-Stage Researchers to investigate highly relevant topics about social innovations and social entrepreneurship in rural regions. The 10 Early-Stage Researchers benefit from transnational high quality trainings, bringing together both academic education and practical skills trainings provided by social enterprises with great expertise in innovative rural development. The enrolment as PhD students in the contributing universities enables the ESRs to contribute to their institutionalized PhD courses, complementary to the RurAction trainings.

¹ Early-stage researchers are those who are, at the time of selection by the host institution, in the first four years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers and have not yet been awarded a doctoral degree. This is measured from the date when they obtained the degree which formally entitles them to embark on a doctorate.



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ESR 7-project: The emergence of social innovation in rural areas

Aims: Usually, populations in rural regions are supposed to be hostile to innovations. They are seen as traditionally minded groups which are inclined to preserve existing assets. Following this observation, social innovations which by definition create novelty would be a challenge. Hence, social entrepreneurs aiming at creating innovative solutions for regional development would have to make particular efforts to convince residents and to empower them for being innovative, otherwise they would not be socially accepted. ESR 7 investigates how social entrepreneurial actors seek to generate creativity in rural regions, how they get residents involved and empowered, which forms of participation they develop, and which are supporting and hindering factors for successful participation. Furthermore, it will be a question which type of innovation is created in rural regions, in how far social innovations partially refer to traditional elements, however combining them in a new way. The ESR will carry out participant observation and qualitative expert interviews with involved actors in two of the RurAction regions Uckermark (DE), Mühlviertel (AT) and Phthiotis (EL). Eventually one region can be replaced with research in the region Sjælland in Denmark. In addition, the ESR will be involved in the organisation of RurAction events at his/her hosting university.

Supervisor: Prof. Hulgård (Roskilde Universitet), co-supervisor Prof. Christmann (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space)

Institutional affiliation: The holder of the post will be enrolled as a PhD student at the Roskilde Universitet, Department of People and Technology. Secondments will take place at two of the following places: Social Impact (Germany), Otelo eGen (Austria) or Stevia Hellas (Greece). The final selection of both the regions and the case studies is to be decided together with the supervisors.

Researcher career profile

Required:

- At the core of the MSCA-ITNs is researcher mobility. The recruited Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country he/she will be employed for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date.
- Candidates must be in the early stage of their research career (first four years, full time equivalent) and not in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strong motivation to work in a cooperative and flexible team environment.
- Be prepared to travel and fulfill all secondments.



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- The fellow should contribute to the outreach of the project, especially by: 1. participation in publications in high ranked journals, elaboration of the planned practice handbook and policy briefs, 2. active participation at scientific conferences, policy workshops etc. at national and EU level and the preparation of the planned exhibition, 3. participation in media communication, creation of a photo and video diary as a form of research auto-reflexivity and in spreading project information on EU level using European Commissions' communication tools
- Master degree, preferably in social entrepreneurship or social sciences
- Fluency in English language
- IT knowledge (basic communication skills)

Desirable:

- Working knowledge in German and/or Greek language
- Working knowledge in Danish language

The position offers:

- Excellent institutional environment, a stimulating high profile research programme with international focus
- Measures for career development opportunities (training programme, secondments)
- Salary corresponding to MSCA-ITN 2016 European Training Network (including living, mobility and family allowances)
- 3-year full-time contract

Applicants are requested to send their application in English with the **reference number RurAction ESR 7 until September 25th 2018** as a PDF file (max. 4MB) to bewerbungen@irs-net.de. The application shall comprise a letter of motivation (at least one page), a curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas and language skills, a transcript of records (if applicable), two nominated referees that can be contacted and a chapter of the Master Thesis or a paper or a publication in English (if applicable).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the final interview in October 2018 in the Roskilde Universitet, Denmark. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The RUC is explicitly committed to the principle of equal opportunities. Women are especially encouraged to apply. People with disabilities will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications.

For further information please contact the RurAction Coordinator Prof. Gabriela Christmann (Phone: +49 3362 793-299 E-Mail: gabriela.christmann@leibniz-irs.de). For specific questions concerning the content of the research please contact Prof. Lars Hulgård (hulg@ruc.dk).



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