

Public Notice

Post-Doctoral Researcher (1 vacancy)

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory - University of Coimbra (Portugal), opens a call for applications for 1 post-Doctoral researcher in the project “A Just Transition to the Circular Economy – JUST2CE” (Grant Agreement 101003491), funded by the European Commission, and coordinate at CES by the senior researcher Stefania Barca. **The selected candidate will contribute to developing the theme of “Circular Economy in the context of the Global Environmental Justice Movement”.**

CES provides a stimulating intellectual environment in the domain of social sciences and humanities. The project JUST2CE is part of a Research Group about Social Policies, Labour and Inequalities (POSTRADE). POSTRADE aims primarily at promoting the development of critical reading and of new perspectives on problems that affect today’s societies: welfare State sustainability, the market and the civil society roles on social protection, fragmentation of labour markets, demographic evolution, global environmental change, quality of life and equality of opportunities.

a. Project Description:

JUST2CE assumes that a critical evaluation of the CE paradigm, of its economic, societal, gender and policy implications, and of the outcomes of its implementation (which industrial sectors will benefit the most? Which stakeholders’ groups can be classified as winners and which one as losers) has not been conducted yet. A direct consequence of this gap is that the political economy and geopolitics of transition have been neglected in CE studies. European, and more in general global productive systems are characterised by geographical specialisation – e.g. extractive Vs productive economies; core-periphery and north-south relations – that seek to maximise profits along the traditionally designed linear supply chains. These, often unequal and asymmetric, relations might seriously hamper the transition to a CE. To date, no studies have shed light on how such relations should be reconfigured to achieve circularity. This represents an urgent and major research gap that will be addressed by this project, which will therefore provide useful insights to policy-makers for evaluating the feasibility of the transition to the CE. JUST2CE aims at understanding, in critical and thoughtful way, under which conditions a responsible, inclusive and social just transition to a circular economy is possible and desirable, what technical, political and social factors can enable or hamper such transformation and how these aspects can contribute to the development of transitional policy measures. The conviction underpinning the project is that the success of a transition towards a sustainable circular economy does not merely depend on the development of new technologies - artefacts or processes - but also in the reconfiguration of the governance of productive processes into more democratic and participatory mechanisms of designing and managing technology.

b. Scientific field:

Environmental/Social Science or Ecological Economics

c. Mandatory requirements

1. PhD in the field of Environmental/Social Science or Ecological Economics obtained (defence process finalised) before the deadline of this tender.

Applicants with an academic degree and diploma issued by a foreign Higher Education Institution must present proof of recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese Higher Education System, (law DL66/2018). Any candidate without the recognition of the degree(s) will be admitted to the competition, but during the evaluation process the selection panel, cannot:

- a) recognize the candidate's grades and assess according to the possession of such grades;
- b) give equivalence to, or validate, the grade of their degree;
- c) use that note or its conversion as an evaluation parameter.

The selection of a candidate in such a situation can only proceed to the contract signature after the candidate provides the recognition of the academic degree made by the Portuguese authorities. The selected candidate will have to deliver the recognition of the degree within 30 days after the communication of the results. After the 30 days, the jury may decide to 1. either extend the deadline for the candidate to prove the recognition; 2. assign the fellowship to the second place; 3. or not award the fellowship.

d. Work plan, tasks:

The main task of the selected candidate will be to develop the theme of Circular Economy in the context of the Global Environmental Justice Movement, with the co-supervision of Doctor Stefania Barca (team coordinator) and Doctor Giacomo D'Alisa. The selected researcher is expected to have the following responsibilities:

- a) Writing of the literature review report "Framing Circular Economy in the context of Global Environmental Justice Movement" (deliverable D1.4, due on M 12)
- b) Contributing to deliverable D2.1: Multidimensional Framework for the Case Studies (due on M 3)
- c) Contributing to the development of a case study protocol and to deliverable D2.2: Ethical clearance documentation (due on M 3)
- d) Contributing to internal training sessions on qualitative research at the consortium level (months 1-3).
- e) Contributing to deliverable D7.1: Project Reference Manual, Quality Plan and Ethical Guidelines (due on M3)

e. Applicable Legislation and Regulations:

The doctorate will be hired under Law no. 57/2016, 29th August, altered by Law 57/2017 which approves a doctoral hiring regime with a view to boosting scientific and technological employment in all areas of knowledge (RJEC). The hiring will also be governed by the Labour Code approved by Law no. 7/2009 of the 12th February, as currently worded.

f. Workplace

The tasks will be performed at the Centre for Social Studies facilities or in other locations when necessary for the good implementation of the work plan.

g. Duration of the contract:

The contract will be signed for the sole purpose of the execution of the work plan described above, starting on September 2021, with completion expected by August 2022. Because the exact duration of the tasks may differ from the planned schedule, the contract will remain valid until the full completion of the tasks, as long as a rescheduling is determined by the coordination of the consortium and/or by the team at CES.

h. Monthly allowance:

The monthly salary is set in accordance with the provisions of Portugal's labour law, namely line a) number 1, of article 15, Law nº 57/2017, corresponding to level 33 of the single salary scale approved by Decree no. 1553-C/2008 of the 31st December, at 2.134,73 Euros gross.

i. Selection process:

Applicants will be selected based on their scientific and curricular path. In case of equivalent curricular evaluations, the best-positioned applicants should be short-listed for an interview, meant to assess the applicant's potential contribution to the development of the project. Each of the two methods of selection applied will have a rating of 50% in the final classification. The scale applied to each criterion is 0 to 20. The jury reserves the right to not select applicants for the vacancy, if the applicants do not have the adequate quality and profile in terms of absolute merit.

f. Preferred selection criteria and their weighting:

Applicants must demonstrate expertise on the topic of the project, by fulfilling the following criteria:

1. Academic background in the area of Environmental/Social Science or Ecological Economics, ideally with research experience on environmental justice, and knowledge of qualitative research methods (50%);
2. Excellent language skills in both oral and written English, including ability to independent writing and text editing. (30%);
3. Experience with bibliographic software (10%);
4. Experience in research management, dissemination (e.g. social media and website editing) and/or event organisation (10%)

j. Selection panel:

- Stefania Barca (President)
- Giacomo D'Alisa
- Joana Vaz Sousa
- Emanuele Leonardi (substitute)
- Irina Velicu (substitute)

l. Communication of Results:

All candidates will receive the results by email. The meeting minutes of the selection panel will become available publicly.

m. Application deadline:

Opens on: May 24th 2021 | Closes on: June 13th 2021

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n. Application process:

Applications must include:

- a) Presentation/Motivation letter of maximum 2 pages
- b) Curriculum Vitae of max 5 pages, highlighting the research experience most relevant to the topic of the call;
- c) Copy of the qualification certificates and other relevant documents for eligibility purposes (it is mandatory to be holder of a PhD degree by the ending of the tender). If, for the duration of the applications period, the applicant does not have proof of recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese Higher Education System (law DL66/2018), they must send a declaration of honour ensuring to deliver the recognition of the degree within 30 days after the communication of the results.
- d) electronic copy of the PhD dissertation, or 1-2 relevant publications

Applications should be sent by email to concursos@ces.uc.pt until the final deadline. Applications must include a clear indication of the reference of this call (CES/09/2021-PD-JUST2CES/EJ).

CES promotes equal opportunities, diversity and inclusivity.

