

Call for applications – 1 (one) vacancy

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (MA)

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory - University of Coimbra (Portugal), opens a call for applications for 1 (one) research assistant position (CES/03/2025-RA-GreenPaths) in the project GreenPaths: European Knowledge Hub On Just Transition Pathways, funded by the European Commission Horizon Europe programme (GA nº 101112305), and coordinated by Irina Velicu.

CES provides a stimulating intellectual environment in the domain of social sciences and humanities. The project is part of the research Thematic Line Risk(s), Ecologies, Health, which aims to promote an integrated approach to risks and threats and their impacts on the ecosystem and human and non-human well-being, proposing sustainable, ecological and equity-based alternatives for production and consumption, healthcare and social well-being, and relying on collaborative and participatory methodologies.

a. Project Description:

GreenPaths addresses the complex and multi-dimensional nature of the planned transition. Based on an enhanced understanding of key issues and challenges influencing the transitions and an in-depth review and synthesis of the latest and most relevant research, GreenPaths will enable the development and adoption of more coherent and effective policy strategies and instruments, furthering the positive outcomes and reducing the negative impacts on environmental sustainability and social well-being. To improve the design, governance and implementation of transition strategies, GreenPaths pays particular attention to the European Green Deal, the Fit for 55 package, and the actions funded by the Just Transition Fund and the European Social Fund+. Key objectives include: 1) mapping and explaining links between policies, environmental sustainability and social well-being; 2) identify and assess indicators and tools to analyse interactions between climate interdependencies, environmental sustainability and social well-being; 3) develop systemic, in-depth and innovative understandings of green transition policies and approaches vis-à-vis social impacts and trade-offs; 4) offer new insights into the relevance and significance of institutional, regulatory and legal frameworks affecting the green transitions; 5) produce policy recommendations for desirable changes in European and national policies through a multi-stakeholder backcasting approach and the participatory design of lighthouse projects and facilitate an enhanced civil society-stakeholder-policy dialogue on green transition pathways.

Expected duration of project execution: 36 months, October 2023 – September 2026

b. Scientific field:

Social Sciences – Environmental studies

c. Work plan, tasks:

The selected researcher is expected to have the following responsibilities:

1. Analysis of data related to the green transition (secondary/primary; academic/non-academic) manually and using a specialized software
2. Critical discourse analysis of public policies, demonstrating knowledge of **EU and Portuguese political** and cultural context
3. Daily management support for GreenPaths project coordination
4. Research support for GreenPaths case studies related to the social impacts of green transition policy
5. Participate in meetings and in the organization of project events and other dissemination activities implemented by the project
6. Collaborate in the development and publication of project results, including reports, policy briefs, scientific articles and discussion papers.

d. Applicable Legislation and Regulations:

The selected applicant will sign a labour contract (temporary, “termo certo”), according to the Labor Code approved by Law no. 7/2009 of February 12, as currently worded.

e. Work place:

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, under the scientific supervision of the Project’s Principal Investigator, Irina Velicu.

f. Duration of the contract: 12 months

The contract will be signed for the sole purpose of the execution of the project, starting in May 2025. The labour contract is fulltime, in exclusive dedication to GreenPaths. Depending on the evaluation of the work developed by the selected Research Assistant, on the scientific needs and GreenPaths budget conditions, the labour contract may be renewed once, to remain valid until the end of project implementation date.

g. Application dates:

Opens on: 20 March 2025

Closes on: 8 April 2025

h. Application process:

Applications must include:

- a) a letter of intent/motivation in English with the contest reference (CES/03/2025-RA-GreenPaths), email and phone number;
- b) detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) copies of degree certificates (note: candidates must meet the eligibility conditions and conditions indicated in point k.)
- d) copy of one published work (preferably in English) and/or a chapter of the MA dissertation;
- e) other relevant documents for eligibility purposes.

Applications should be sent by email to concursos@ces.uc.pt until the final deadline, and will be valid only after a reading receipt is sent. Applications must include a clear indication of the reference of this call (CES/03/2025-RA-GreenPaths).

i. Preferred selection criteria and their weighing:

1. A master degree in Social Sciences in a relevant topic for GreenPaths (25%);
 2. Training and experience in critical discourse analysis, using specialized software, **and capacity to write and speak well in English, besides Portuguese** (25%);
 3. Writing skills and letter of intent/ motivation (20%);
 4. Proficiency in written and oral English and Portuguese (20%);
 5. Proven research interest in the broader topic of the project (10%);
- The jury reserves the right not to select any candidate.

j. Monthly salary and applicable legislation

The monthly salary is 1.411,58 euros gross (plus months 13 and 14). Full protection by Social Security is included in the contract. Researcher will be covered by Portugal's national health insurance plan.

k. Mandatory requirements

1. Hold a master's degree in the area of Social Sciences.
 - a) 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:
 - i) recognize the candidate's grades and assess according to the possession of such grades;
 - ii) give equivalence to, or validate, the grade of her/his degree;
 - iii) use that note or its conversion as an evaluation parameter.

In case of selection, the fellowship contract can only be signed after the recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese authorities, under the terms of the Law-decree n66/2018, August 16. The selected candidate must 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

l. Selection process

Applicants will be selected based on their curricular evaluation. In case of equivalent curricular evaluations, the best-positioned applicants will be short-listed for an interview, meant to assess the applicant's potential in integrating the project's scientific dynamic and his/her motivation in pursuing studies related to the project's thematic areas. Each of the two methods of selection applied will have a rating of 50% in the final classification.

m. Selection panel:

- Irina Velicu - PI (President)
- Marcus Erridge (permanent member)

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- António Carvalho (permanent member)
- Gustavo Garcia Lopez (substitute member)
- Patrícia Vieira (substitute member)

n. Communication of Results: All candidates will receive the results by email. The meeting minutes of the selection panel will become available publicly. After the communication of results, applicants have 10 working days to present a redress to the evaluation and the result by email.

o. Additional comments

Equality of opportunities:

CES abides by the national law that regulates the prevention, prohibition and fighting against discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic identity, colour, nationality, family background, territory of origin, and disability.

(Law nº 93/2017, 23 August; Law nº 4/2019, 10 January).

Data protection:

By submitting your application, you are agreeing with the use of your personal data by CES administrative services for the sole purpose of the current call, namely to be contacted directly by CES services and allow the communication of results as in point n. of this call. CES abides by the principles of GDPR.

Contact:

Centro de Estudos Sociais
Colégio S. Jerónimo, Apartado 3087
3000-995 Coimbra, Portugal
concursos@ces.uc.pt