Vacancy for a Senior researcher (post-doc or equivalent) in the domain of Sustainable Circular Economy

1 Senior researcher (post-doc or equivalent) (18 months contract - part time or full time possibility).

The research groups GESTe and CEDD of IGEAT (Institute of Environmental Management & Land-Use Planning, Faculty of Science - http://igeat.ulb.ac.be/en/) and BATir (Building, Architecture & Town Planning, Faculty of Engineering - http://batir.ulb.ac.be/) are looking for a dynamic and motivated senior researcher (post-doc or equivalent by experience) to fill a research vacancy in the interdisciplinary domain of Circular Economy. This vacancy is part of an institutionally-financed joint research project, titled “Sustainable Circular Economy – Which Circularity? Evaluation, Design and Governance”, which is led by Prof(s) Wouter Achten (IGEAT-GESTe), Tom Bauler (IGEAT-CEDD) and prof. Ahmed Z. Khan (BATir).

The candidate is expected to have developed expertise on one (or more) of the 3 following axes of the project, and is willing to expand his/her expertise on the other remaining axes in an interdisciplinary way:

- **Circularity Evaluation** - development of tools to evaluate circularity (e.g. LCA-based),
- **Sustainable Design** - conceptualisation of design strategies and models for sustainable built environment,
- **Governance** - analyses of innovative governance modes / arrangements

This joint research project on Sustainable Circular Economy is funded with seed-money by ULB-ARC (ULB internal research funding instrument), which was born out of the observation that circular economy is claimed to support evolution towards sustainable prosperity. However, up to now there are only few concrete/empirical evaluation studies that are able to analytically support these *in principia* claims of sustainability. Moreover, the multitude of possible configurations of cycling concepts, sustainable design practices, alternative economic models, and governance arrangements poses the fundamental research questions underlying the project: Which circularity for which context by what practice? And, how to assess this?

The general objective of this project is to contribute to the understanding of such “sustainable circular economy” configurations and develop a scientifically sound analytical apparatus and implementation approaches. The project aims to achieve this by considering 3 research axes of which one (or more) should be further developed by the post-doctoral researcher following her/his research background and expertise.

The candidate is also expected to develop the main project idea further through an in-depth survey/state-of-the-art in the three fields/axes in an interdisciplinary way. In collaboration with the project leaders, the candidate is expected to valorise these research activities in the form of joint scientific publications and in developing project proposals for several upcoming funding instruments at the local and European levels (e.g. FNRS (BE), Innoviris (Brussels), H2020 Circular Economy package calls). Further, the post-doctoral researcher is expected to contribute to the daily activities of the research groups (e.g. follow up of master thesis or doctoral thesis students in the circular economy domain, participating on info days and seminars on circular economy, etc.). The furthering of interactions with other research groups across the ULB – as well as internationally with our networks - will be intensively supported by the 3 project leaders who intend to strategically insert their collaboration in the wider research field. All of these activities should enable to build the basis for follow-up funding and a longer-term integration of the candidate.
The ideal candidate:

- Holds a PhD or has an equivalent profile through research experience in Environmental Sciences and/or Policies or Engineering or Architecture (Urban Design / Planning) on topics related to one of the 3 axes of the project: Sustainability evaluation (e.g. LCA), Sustainable design (Architecture, Urban Design / Planning), or Governance for sustainable development.
- Demonstrates research experience and interest in circular economy and sustainability
- Has experience in leading and writing research project proposals
- Has good writing and presentation skills
- Is able to build and sustain a research network
- Is autonomous, dynamic, motivated and well organised
- Is fluent in English language (including written), French proficiency is an asset

Apply:
For further information on the position or the research project you may contact prof. Wouter Achten (wouter.achten@ulb.ac.be; +32 2 650 43 22).
To apply, you should send (all documents in English):
- a detailed curriculum vitae, including your publication list;
- a cover letter stating your motivation for this position (specifying on which project axis you would position) and relevant past experiences; and
- a digital copy of your best scientific output most relevant for this vacancy (e.g. PhD thesis, presentation, journal article / paper, book chapter)
to Wouter Achten (Wouter.achten@ulb.ac.be) no later than January 20th, 2017. Job interviews will be planned during the week of the 7th Feb 2017. The starting date could be March 2017 but is negotiable depending on the availability/preference of the selected candidate.

Work Environment:
Founded in 1834, Université libre de Bruxelles (http://www.ulb.ac.be) has a long tradition of excellence in Research with four scientific Nobel Prizes, one Fields Medal, three Wolf Prizes and two Marie Curie Excellence Awards. It is one of the largest and best Research Universities in Belgium, with a student population of 24,000 and with almost 1,600 PhD in progress, in partners with 20 Doctoral schools. ULB has considerable experience with European funding programmes and is involved in more than 160 projects financed by both the 7th European Framework Programme and Horizon 2020.

IGEAT
Founded in 1993 within ULB, the Institute for environmental management and land-use planning (IGEAT – http://igeat.ulb.ac.be) is an interdisciplinary education and applied research Institute. Scientific staff is about 40 interdisciplinary researchers.
- The group Environmental, Societal and Land Management (GESTe) is one of the research units of IGEAT. This multidisciplinary team specializes in environmental assessment in the broad sense. The group masters assessment techniques for products and services (e.g. LCA), projects (e.g. environmental impact assessment), as well as for plans (e.g. strategic environmental assessment) and programs and policies. Next to their evaluation function, these competences are also used to nourish smart land management including rural areas, landscapes, forests, ...) for which the team employs an ecosystem approach.
- The Centre of Studies for Sustainable Development (CEDD) is dedicated to research on the political, societal and economic evolutions at the intersection of the environmental and human systems. We anchor our transdisciplinary expertise in a series of research lines including Ecological Economics, STS (Science&Technology Studies) and Environmental Sociology.
BATir
As part of the Ecole Polytech de Bruxelles / Brussels School of Engineering, the BATir - Building, Architecture & Town Planning (http://batir.ulb.ac.be) is a multidisciplinary department in charge of research and teaching related to the art of building: construction, architectural engineering, urbanism and regional planning. The scientific staff is about 60 researchers working in the domain of the built environment.

- The research activities of the chair Sustainable Architecture and Urbanism (SAU) are framed by an ‘integrated ecosystems’ approach for analysis of the issues of sustainability, climate change, and spatial quality at different scales of the built environment, with particular interest in exploring Sustainable Urban Futures, and in order to unfold scale-sensitive and context-specific design, planning and policy responses for addressing the challenges of sustainable development.