

**Call for Applicants – 15 Early Stage Researcher Positions available within the  
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2018 project  
*Realising the Transition to the Circular Economy:  
Models, Methods and Applications*  
(ReTraCE)**

**Deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Applications are invited for 15 Early Stage Researcher (ESR) 3-year fixed-term positions to be funded by the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network “ReTraCE” – Realising the Transition towards the Circular Economy” ([www.retrace-itn.eu](http://www.retrace-itn.eu)) within the Horizon 2020 Programme of the European Commission.

This network (led by Dr. Andrea Genovese, from the University of Sheffield) brings together an exceptionally strong team of world-leading experts from a wide set of beneficiaries and partners in order to achieve breakthroughs in understanding how the transition towards a Circular Economy (CE) can be realised in a successful way in the European context, both within existing organisations and industries as well as through innovative and sustainable business models. The proposed approach is inherently multi-disciplinary, drawing upon research that will advance significantly the state-of-the-art in terms of the current understanding of the applicability of the CE paradigm from Economic, Environmental and Social points of view, providing policy insights and implications for practice. The consortium of 10 beneficiaries (including 7 academic and 3 non-academic groups from the UK, The Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Greece and Germany) will design and deliver world class multidisciplinary training to 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs), offering them an extended and valuable program of international exchanges and secondments through the wide network of partner organisations (from public, private and third sector) involved in the proposal.

The network builds on the success of previous projects in which beneficiaries have successfully delivered high impact research and knowledge exchange. ReTraCE is specifically designed to train a cohort of new thought leaders capable of driving the transition towards a more sustainable mode of production and consumption in Europe in the next decades, who will directly facilitate the implementation of the recently adopted ambitious Circular Economy strategy of the European Commission, which is closely linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indeed, it is envisaged that ESRs will be employable not only by research institutions, but also by public sector bodies and within a wide range of manufacturing and service industries which will require new professional profiles for realising the transition towards the CE.

**Available Positions**

15 Early Stage Researcher positions (with PhD enrolment), on a 3-year fixed-term basis.

**Research Fields**

The research project is inherently multi-disciplinary and it is articulated in four Work Packages, involving the following disciplines:

- WP1 (including ESR1, ESR2, ESR3, ESR4): Operational Research; Operations, Logistics and Supply Chain Management;
- WP2 (including ESR5, ESR6, ESR7, ESR8): Environmental Management; Environmental Sciences; Life Cycle Assessment and Environmental Accounting;
- WP3 (including ESR9, ESR10, ESR11, ESR12): Political, Ecological and Behavioural Economics;
- WP4 (including ESR13, ESR14, ESR15): Development Policy; Sustainable Management; Science, Technology and Innovation Studies.

### **Benefits and salary**

The successful candidates will receive an attractive salary in accordance with the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) regulations for early stage researchers. The exact salary will be confirmed upon appointment and is dependent on the country correction coefficients (to allow for the difference in cost of living in different EU Member States)<sup>1</sup>.

Basic gross rates include a living allowance (€3270 per month), a mobility allowance (€600 per month) and a family allowance (€500, if applicable). ESRs will also get access to funds covering Research, Networking and Training costs. ESRs will also be enrolled for PhD studies at institutions which are part of the consortium. Funding will cover the entire 36-month period.

In addition to individual scientific projects, all fellows will benefit from further continuing education, which includes internships and secondments at non-academic organisations, a variety of training modules as well as transferable skills courses and active participation in workshops and conferences.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

*Early-stage researchers (ESR)* are those who are, at the time of recruitment by the host, in the first four years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers and do not hold a doctorate. This is measured from the date when they obtained the degree which formally entitles them to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the research training is provided, irrespective of whether or not a doctorate was envisaged.

The following further conditions apply:

- *Conditions of international mobility of researchers:* ESRs can be of any nationality. They are required to undertake physical, transnational mobility (i.e. move from one country to another) when taking up their appointment. At the time of selection by the host organisation, researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment. Short stays, such as holidays, are not taken into account.
- *English language:* Network fellows (ESRs) must demonstrate that their ability to understand and express themselves in both written and spoken English is sufficiently high for them to fully engage with the ReTraCE research, training and networking

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<sup>1</sup> Correction coefficients can be retrieved at the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-msca\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-msca_en.pdf)

activities. Participating institutions might also have specific rules in place for testing English proficiency.

### **Selection Process**

All applications must be completed according to individual institutional procedures.

Candidates are encouraged to apply to multiple positions.

General enquiries can be directed at the email address [retrace@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:retrace@sheffield.ac.uk) and to local coordinators (whose emails are specified for each individual project).

Local ReTraCE Recruitment Committees will shortlist candidates for each individual position. Specific arrangements will be communicated for each position; in general, candidates could be expected to deliver a 20-minute presentation about their proposed research project within the framework of the ESR position they are applying for.

Selected ESRs are to start their research as quickly as possible (target: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019).

### **Main Duties and Responsibilities**

Applicants are expected to have an outstanding education record, be highly motivated and proactive, have excellent organisation and communication skills, be able to work independently as well as in a team, and be eager to disseminate research results through publications and presentations at international conferences and seminars. Fluency in English is a prerequisite. Women are especially encouraged to apply.

In general, all ESR positions will be dealing with the following main duties:

- Conduct research into the design and development of novel research in each related theme in collaboration with researchers from the host institution as well as with those from the entire ReTraCE network.
- Undertake reporting requirements for the project, present results to collaborators, to members of the research group and to external audiences.
- Read academic papers, journals and textbooks and attend conferences to keep abreast of developments.
- Prepare journal papers and presentations either in-house or at national/international conferences or seminars to disseminate research findings.
- Write supporting documents to contribute to and support the work of the research group, e.g. reports, interim reports and grant applications.
- Carry out administrative roles as required; arranging project progress meetings, etc.
- Other duties, commensurate with the post and H2020-MSCA-ITN regulations.

Details of ESR project is reported in the following. Further details can be provided by the main contacts listed below.

**ESR7**

**Host Institution:** Olympia Electronics S.A (Greece), in collaboration with UPN (Italy)

**Project Title:** *Material streams identification and evaluation*

**Objectives:** (i) To develop methodologies for material streams identification and evaluation in selected industries; (ii) To identify regulatory, organisational and technical solution that are capable to remove barriers and promote increased circularity in selected industries; (ii) To identify and evaluate circular patterns in selected industries (with particular focus on electric and electronic equipment industry); (iii) To identify and evaluate the potential of establishing Eco-Industrial Parks for selected industries (with particular focus on electric and electronic equipment industry).

**Required Background and Skills:** MSc in Environmental Science, Industrial Engineering, Supply Chain Management or related topics. Good knowledge of Environmental Accounting and Statistical methods.

**Main Contact:** Mrs. Sissy Fotopoulou, [sfotopoulou@olympia-electronics.gr](mailto:sfotopoulou@olympia-electronics.gr) and Mrs. Anna Daskalaki [adaskalaki@olympia-electronics.gr](mailto:adaskalaki@olympia-electronics.gr)