

12 PUREFOOD Vacancies for prospective early-stage researchers (ESRs)

In December the research and training programme PUREFOOD will start. PUREFOOD is a Marie Curie Initial Training Network funded by the European Commission's Seventh Framework PEOPLE program (see http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home_en.html). The objective of PUREFOOD is to train a pool of *early-stage researchers* in the socio-economic and socio-spatial dynamics of the (peri-)urban and regional foodscape. Specifically, the projects will focus on three key aspects of the new food geography: sustainable food supply chains, public sector food procurement practices and (peri-)urban food strategies.

PUREFOOD provides a unique opportunity for early stage researchers to acquire a PhD degree in an exciting and emerging field of agrifood studies. PUREFOOD brings together 7 university partners in 4 European countries (the Netherlands, the UK, Latvia, Italy), Brasil and Uganda. Together they offer an interdisciplinary training programme consisting of compulsory training in social science disciplines (economy, sociology, geography and planning) and interdisciplinary courses that will provide the broadest possible education necessary for a future career in academia or in practice.

PUREFOOD's consortium of seven universities:

1. Wageningen University – Rural Sociology Group (The Netherlands)
2. Cardiff University – School of City and Regional Planning (United Kingdom)
3. Pisa University – Department of Agronomy and Agro-ecosystem Management (Italy)
4. Latvia University – Faculty of Social Sciences (Latvia)
5. City University London – Centre for Food Policy (United Kingdom)
6. Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul – Graduate Program do Rural Development (PGDR) (Brazil)
7. Makerere University School of Public Health (Uganda)

PUREFOOD also includes 8 associate partners from private sector, government and NGO, who will offer professional courses, secondment and exchange opportunities. The PUREFOOD network, therefore, offers a cutting edge research and training program based on an innovative methodology, an interdisciplinary network, a significant and diversified involvement of the public and private sector as well as NGOs and a holistic emphasis on best practice examples in the alternative food geography.

The sound interdisciplinary training base and the level of professional skills that the project promotes will enhance mobility and promote the development of researchers in the early stages of their career. A unique aspect of the project is the mutual recognition of the training programme, which implies that successfully completed projects will give access to a PhD degree at every partner university.

Eligibility and mobility

You are eligible as an Early-Stage Researcher (ESR) if you are, at the time of recruitment (i) in possession of a university degree, and (ii) have a maximum of four years of full-time research experience, including any period of research training. This is measured from the date when you obtained the degree which formally entitles you 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. Selection

is, thus, based on professional experience in research, not on age. Please note that ESRs should not be PhD holders.

You are eligible to the position if, at the time of the selection by the host university, you did not reside or carry out your main activity (work, studies, etc) in the country of the host university for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to your recruitment.

The enhancement of transnational mobility to improve career perspectives is the main goal of the Marie Curie Initial Training funding. Therefore, you are required to undertake transnational mobility when taking up a position in the PUREFOOD project.

PUREFOOD offers 12 individual research projects in 6 countries within 3 thematic groups. The contract duration is 3 years starting the 1st of June 2011. Please read further for information about each project on the website of the host institute of each project. Applications have to be submitted to the host institute of the particular project. In case you have general questions about PUREFOOD please contact: han.wiskerke@wur.nl

PUREFOOD consists of three scientific 'Work Packages', each of which comprises 4 early stage researchers undertaking individual research projects.

Work Package 2 Sustainable food supply chains

Reconnecting consumers and producers (or, in general, city and countryside), which reflect changes in the relationship between the chain of food provision (the food market) and civil society.

Vacancy 2.1 Consumers as drivers of innovation in new food networks
Goal: To understand how innovation takes place at different points of the existing socio-technical systems centered around food as an effect of the activity of new food networks. To understand how innovation at one point (for example, consumption) may affect innovation at another point (for example, production).
Description: The creation of new food networks is a complex process which, both from the producer's and consumer's side, implies a deep reframing of the material and immaterial components of daily practices. Through participation in new food networks farmers and consumers are involved into processes that foster innovation along with sustainable pathways. At consumption level, innovation may affect individual lifestyles, family organization, purchasing patterns, social relations, consumption technologies. At farm level, innovation may cover all aspects of farming, from internal organization, to logistics, administration, communication. These processes are also open to interaction with wider networks, of which producers and consumers are part. Direct links between producers and consumers foster a process of coproduction of new cognitive frames, infrastructures, rules and norms. The research will apply network analysis to examine how new production and consumption paradigms are created through learning processes in consumer purchasing groups.

Host Institute Pisa University. Location: Pisa, Italy

Main discipline: Agricultural Economics

For more information: <http://www.agr.unipi.it>

Contact person: Gianluca Brunori, gbrunori@agr.unipi.it

Please send your application with reference to the vacancy number and title of the project to:
vacancies@agr.unipi.it

Vacancy 2.2 Communication and media in shaping sustainable food supply chains
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Goal: To understand how new food networks are created in communicative processes. How are the meanings and discourses of new food networks created? What are the symbols and values, the roles taken by actors involved? How are traditional and new communication tools used to create new food networks and cultures?

Description: New food networks are increasingly shaped by processes of communication, not only by commodity exchange. New food communities (food-style groups, dietary associations, communities of food values) are to a large extent communicative associations formed on internet platforms. This research will deal with the mechanisms how these food associative ties, ideas, knowledge and lifestyles are transmitted within new food communities and how these correlate towards retailers and producers. Apart from emerging internet grass-roots networks, this study will look at other forms of personalized food communication and knowledge, like direct producer-to-consumer communication.
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Host Institute University of Latvia. Location: Riga, Latvia

Main discipline: sociology

For more information: <http://www.lu.lv/eng/general/vacancies/>

Contact person: talis.tisenkopfs@lu.lv

Please send your completed application pack to Personnel Department, University of Latvia, Baznīcas street 5, Riga LV 1010 Latvia. Alternatively you may email the pack to pd.vakances@lu.lv

Vacancy 2.3. The role of new food enterprises in reshaping food supply chains.

Goal: To understand how new food enterprises reshape food supply chains by both using the alternative and the conventional food systems in new and innovative configurations
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Description: New food networks of direct producer and consumer contact have formed a niche in the broader system of food supply based on a different or 'alternative' logic. Much literature has focused on the potential of these networks to achieve a bigger impact through scaling up and changing the conventional food system. Barriers have been identified in the capacity of farmers/consumers networks to scale up. However, recently new independent intermediary food enterprises have been established which combine in different ways the alternative and the conventional food system. Two of these enterprises will be studied in this project, one related to local sourcing for conventional supermarkets and the other a new supermarket formula based on local, regional and quality products

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Main discipline: Agricultural Economics

For more information: <http://www.agr.unipi.it>

Contact person: Gianluca Brunori, gbrunori@agr.unipi.it

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vacancies@agr.unipi.it

Vacancy 2.4. Greening the conventional chain: implementing the food industry's new sustainability criteria in primary production

Goal: To understand the bottlenecks primary producers are currently experiencing to implement the food industry's sustainability principles and to develop strategies to overcome these bottlenecks

Description: SAI Platform is an association of 24 food industry companies collaborating to develop sustainability criteria for food production and to support primary producers in implementing these criteria in their everyday practices. Although ample research has been undertaken to develop sustainability criteria and several pilot projects have been set up, the desired transition towards sustainable agriculture is not yet occurring. This project will therefore examine, based on a review of completed research commissioned by SAI Platform and an evaluation of pilot projects set up by SAI Platform and its member organizations, the main bottlenecks primary producers are experiencing to implement these sustainability criteria in food production practices. Building on this assessment of bottlenecks strategies to overcome these bottlenecks will be developed and tested by means of a learning-by-doing approach in collaboration with SAI Platform member companies and groups of primary producers.

Host Institute: Wageningen University, rural sociology group. Location: Wageningen, The Netherlands

Main discipline: sociology

For more information: <http://www.wur.nl/UK/work/Vacancies+New/> and search with number SSG-RSO-0002. See also www.rso.wur.nl/UK/Vacancies or

www.ruralsociologywageningen.wordpress.com

Contact person: petra.derkzen@wur.nl

Please upload your application at : <http://www.wur.nl/UK/work/Vacancies+New/> entering with SSG-RSO-0002 after which a menu will show the way to submit your application

Work Package 3 Public sector food procurement

Practices and strategies, representing new relationships between the public sector and the chain of food provision (the food market).

Vacancy 3.1 Shaping Sustainable Food Chains through National Procurement Policies
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Goal: To understand the role of nationally-led procurement strategies in fostering sustainable food chains. To investigate the scope for devising and implementing sustainable public food policies at the national level. To provide case studies that can inform theoretical and practical understanding of the relationship between principles of sustainable public procurement and their empirical implementation.

Description: The Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative, launched by the UK government in 2003 to ensure that public canteens purchase from sustainable food chains, was arguably one of the most innovative programmes of its kind in the world. In addition to embracing almost every stakeholder in the food chain, this strategy was one of the earliest attempts to factor into the procurement equation the effects on human health and the environment of the entire agri-food cycle. Using the PSFPI as a starting point, this project aims to enhance theoretical and practical understanding of the opportunities for (and barriers to) the design and implementation of national public procurement policies that re-connect producers and consumers and forge healthy and sustainable communities. By focusing on best practice examples in the context of hospital food, the research will uncover the process through which the main cultural and practical barriers to the development of sustainable public food chains (including, for example, the problem of reaching a commonly agreed definition of "best value") can be overcome.
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Host Institute: Cardiff University. CPLAN. Location: Cardiff, Wales UK

Main discipline: Planning

Please upload the relevant vacancy pack from <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/jobs/academic.html>

Contact person: SonninoR@cf.ac.uk

Please send your completed application pack to HR Division, Cardiff University, McKenzie House, 30-36 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0DE. Alternatively you may email the pack to vacancies@cardiff.ac.uk

<p>Vacancy 3.2. Local Food Procurement: The Challenge of Scaling Up</p>
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<p>Goal: This project aims to address three key research questions: What does a private company understand by a “sustainable food chain”? What are the scope and barriers to a private company acting as the animateur of a sustainable food chain? Can Sodexo transfer its supply chain expertise to its own suppliers to enable them to meet exacting quality standards?</p>
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<p>Description: Sodexo is one of the premier food service companies in the EU and in St Athan, Wales, it is responsible for creating a food system for a radically new community – the Defence Training Centre – which will cater for all three of the armed services in the UK, the army, the navy and air force. Sodexo aims to provide a high quality food system that uses as much locally-produced food as possible.</p>

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Main discipline: Planning

Please upload the relevant vacancy pack from <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/jobs/academic.html>

Contact person: SonninoR@cf.ac.uk

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<p>Vacancy 3.3. Food Security and Public Procurement: Reforming School Meals through State Action in Porto Alegre, Brazil</p>
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<p>Goal: The main goal is to understand to what extent the Brazilian School Feeding Program can create healthier eating habits and more sustainable patterns of food production and consumption. Can the Programme become an institutional market able to integrate production (small-scale farming) and consumption (schools) and to produce multiple benefits (economic, social, cultural, environmental and health)? If so, how? What kind of political and regulatory forms of intervention are needed? What needs to be done to re-orientate the dominant consumption patterns?</p>
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<p>Description: In recent years, Brazil has emerged in the international arena as one of the countries that will achieve the Millennium Goals. However, in 2004, severe food insecurity still affected 6% of households located in urban areas and 9% in rural areas. Studies show that the problem of food security and nutrition are beginning to take on other characteristics related to growth rates of overweight. Policies to support food production through increased credit and organization of the supply have been designed for the small scale family farming sector; in addition, specific programs to meet the demand and stimulate institutional markets, such as school feeding, have been developed. The Brazilian School Feeding Programme reaches around 36.3 million pupils, almost 20 percent of the country’s population and has a budget of U\$ 750 million dollars, which the federal government allocates to the states and municipalities. The school feeding programme is seen as a policy to combat hunger and food insecurity as well as to improve health and education. Given its significant potential in terms of improving food consumption and calories intake as well as the financial resources at its disposal, one of the challenges of the programme is to create attractive markets for local producers, especially small-scale farmers and those assisted by the agrarian</p>
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reform.

Host Institute Federal University Rio Grande do Sul. Location: Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil

Main discipline: sociology

For more information: www.ufrgs.br/pgdr

Contact person: schneide@ufrgs.br

Please send your application with reference to the vacancy number and title of the project to: schneide@ufrgs.br

Vacancy 3.4. Food Security and Public Procurement: Civil Society-led School Meal Reform in Kampala, Uganda

Goal: to study perceptions of communities, teachers and cooks, and WFP officials, Ministry of Education on the barriers to good nutrition and better balanced diets for school going children in Uganda. This study will examine what kind of health nutrition education is needed to ensure school reform of meals and address millennium development goals on reducing hunger and poverty reduction. How sustainable are the programmes on food security and malnutrition adequate for proper growth of children and performance in schools?

Description: Currently, Uganda and many African nations are facing food insecurity, malnutrition and poor diets due to natural disasters like drought, floods, climatic change and other problems such as poverty, and inadequate knowledge on balanced diets. Northern Uganda has been a war conflict zone for over twenty years and the nomadic Karimajong in the far north east are most affected by hunger. World Food Programme (WFP) has implemented the school feeding programme based on the policy called "Food for Education". Uganda is one of the countries WFP has supported. Up to today, there has been no specific policy for school feeding in Uganda, but the Government of Uganda (GoU), together with WFP, has been implementing the Expand School Feeding Programme (ESFP) for Universal Primary Education (UPE). However, school feeding is seen as an incentive to go to school especially by the children and parents in hunger stricken regions in the north and eastern parts of Uganda. Thus, there is a possibility that pupils go to school for food, not for education. Therefore the question one asks is: what is school feeding in the context of Uganda? Is it "Food for Education" or "Education for Food"? The project will contribute to improved nutritional status of the children, capacity building for schools to improve diets and relation building between private and public sector and, indirectly, to better school performances by students in the area. It will also help examine whether there is a policy on good dieting in schools and evaluate what WFP, and other agencies have been involved in.

Host Institute: Makerere University School of Public Health. Location: Makerere, Uganda

Main discipline: health sciences

For more information: www.musph.ac.ug and www.liphea.org

Contact person: jkiguli@musph.ac.ug

Please send your application with reference to the vacancy number and title of the project to: jkiguli@musph.ac.ug

WP 4 Urban and peri-urban food strategies

Representing new roles and new strategies devised by the public sector and civil society to address societal problems structured around the relationship between food, health, environment, transport, et cetera.

Vacancy 4.1. The role of food movements as drivers of food regime change

Description: In recent years, new food networks have succeeded in shaking consolidated meanings of food and of the practices around it, to enlarge the groups of consumers and producers involved in alternative food consumption and production practices, and even to activate new trends into the mainstream food sector. Despite this success, however, there is an evident limit to the capacity of these networks to change the cognitive, regulatory and normative rules that control the food production, distribution, processing and consumption, in most of the cases set by powerful actors who operate at global level. The phd thesis should explore the processes of change at the interface between micro level innovation and regime, and in particular to analyse how innovative practices are rejected, appropriated, integrated into the regime. The thesis should also analyse how these processes are affected by regime crises (as in the case of animal generated pandemic diseases) or by occurring or anticipated global changes (such as global recession, climate change, resource depletion). On this regard the thesis will analyse the role of public administrations, and in particular of cities, as potential facilitators of this change.

Host Institute: Wageningen University, rural sociology group. Location: Wageningen, The Netherlands

Main discipline: sociology

For more information: <http://www.wur.nl/UK/work/Vacancies+New/> and search with number SSG-RSO-0003. See also www.rso.wur.nl/UK/Vacancies or www.ruralsociologywageningen.wordpress.com

Contact person: petra.derksen@wur.nl

Please upload your application at: <http://www.wur.nl/UK/work/Vacancies+New/> entering with SSG-RSO-0003 after which a menu will show the way to submit your application

Vacancy 4.2. Enabling integrated food policy within urban governance: key components for policy and institutional design

Goal: To investigate the potential for food to provide the basis for an integrative policy domain to process a series of related urban policy challenges. To explore food policy related initiatives in urban settings in the UK, drawing on case studies to identify the policy drivers and barriers that exist and potential enabling factors. To design a set of policy proposals and key components for institutional design for achieving integrated food policy in urban governance; embedded in the legal-institutional and multi level governance and policies of the UK and the EU. To illuminate the empirical realities with theoretical understandings of the nature of contemporary governance and food policy.

Description: Many contemporary urban problems are (in)directly related to food. To address these problems an integrated food policy at local and regional levels of governance is required. In urban areas examples of food policy initiatives have emerged such as the through the Toronto Food Policy Council (in Canada) and the London Food Strategy (in the UK). The UK is in the process of re-addressing food policy at the national level, as signalled by the Cabinet Office Strategic Review of food and food policy in July 2008. Urban governance in the UK has been through recent periods of structural reform, leading to a variable geometry in legal jurisdictional and institutional terms of urban government. At and across the differing levels of urban governance in the UK a variety of food policy related initiatives are being pursued around: public health such as food and health partnerships (e.g. Lewes), school meals and obesity strategies; and around food growing (e.g. Middlesborough), producer-consumer links and public procurement and sustainable food supply chains. Also, combinations of these initiatives are being pursued by individual local authorities (e.g. Sandwell); and food is featuring in major new civil society based urban initiatives such as the Transition Towns movement. The evaluation of this case study material will provide for the formulation of a set of key enabling criteria that can inform the policy principles and social and political

agency, as well as the institutional design and governance strategies, for more integrative food policy mechanisms for urban governments. These criteria will be set within the wider national and EU policy contexts.

Host Institute: City University. Location: London, UK
 Main discipline: Food Policy; Public Policy/Politics
 For more information: Contact: d.barling@city.ac.uk
 For more information and to apply, visit: www.city.ac.uk/hr/jobs

Vacancy 4.3. Food insecurity and public action for municipal and rural resilience

Goal: to explore the strategies and solutions to food insecurity in smaller towns and regional cities, and their impact on municipal and rural resilience

Description: Following the influence of climate change, crisis of international financial markets and the rise of food prices, food security strategies undergo a process of regionalized food provisioning. Regions and municipalities are increasingly seeking new ways to increase their own food self sufficiency, a process similar to seeking autonomy in energy supply. The research will explore how food resilience arrangements are created at local and regional levels in response to the thickening food crisis in municipalities in Latvia. The research will also pay attention to important deals between the metropolis and smaller regions on food access and provision shedding new light on urban-rural relationships. The study will provide an economic estimate of regionalized food resilience strategies in terms of cost-efficiency of supplies, re-mileage of supply distances and influence on local employment in urban and rural areas.

Host Institute University of Latvia. Location: Riga, Latvia
 Main discipline: sociology
 For more information: <http://www.lu.lv/eng/general/vacancies/>
 Contact person: talis.tisenkopfs@lu.lv
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Vacancy 4.4. Comparative analysis of urban food strategies in European cities

Goal: how are food policies articulated and motivated in different European cities and what are the consequences for their implementation?

Description: Different city governments are taking up food as a key policy area to enhance human and environmental urban health. The challenges of policy articulation and implementation are big. The articulation of food policy has so far been reliant on individual politicians and on a political level vulnerable to electoral shifts. Institutionalization of food policy in city governments has just started and different patterns of institutionalization are emerging with particular pitfalls and successes. This study will explore the preconditions, political processes, strategy articulation and implementations of urban food strategies in different European cities in comparative perspective to enhance the understanding of the conditions for successful urban food policy implementation.

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 Main discipline: sociology
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