



PhD position Interactive land use planning f/m

For 1.0 fte

Vacancy number: 1.2010.00143

General

The applicant will be based in the Department of Spatial Analysis and Decision Support at the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM). This department is an international research group of about thirty researchers, faculty members and PhD students. The department has a leading role in spatial analysis of complex environmental issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. The group works on a wide range of topics studying how socio-economic and biophysical processes lead to the emergence of spatial patterns. Research topics include adaptation to climate change, mapping and modeling of ecosystem services and the development of methods for spatial analysis and decision support. The group aims at publishing high-quality interdisciplinary research in peer-reviewed journals and works together with the other departments in IVM on economic, governance and environmental issues.

Tasks

Adaptation and spatial planning have become increasingly interrelated. As a result land use change plays a central role in the development of adaptation strategies. Within this project we will describe the relevant decision processes and try to identify the information needs by the various stakeholders at different stages of these processes. We will develop interactive workshops to facilitate problem analysis, problem identification, design of management alternatives evaluation of alternatives and feedback to design. The project will focus on the development of spatial design approaches using a mixture of formal design routines, optimization, spatial analysis/evaluation, and visualization. Techniques will be integrated in a spatial decision support framework implemented in hardware suitable for interactive use in a workshop. Within this project maps are used as the main means of communication. Since most people use reference maps, such as road maps, they are familiar with their use and are happy to use maps as a source of information. In practice effective use of maps is a difficult task for many people. A task that becomes more difficult if the information density of the map increases and the direct link with reality gets weaker. Tools will be developed to support map related tasks within the negotiation process. This will include tools to support generation of alternatives. Tools to support evaluation and feedback to design. Tools to support negotiation and, finally, tools linked to spatial objectives such as connectivity, shape and fragmentation.

1. Analysis of the planning process and design of workshops;
2. Development of tools;
3. Experiments with different types of hard and software;
4. Set up experiments to test the tools
5. Test the scripts on the case studies;
6. Integrate results in a PhD thesis.

The project "interactive land use planning" is one of ten projects within the research program "Tools to support adaptation to climate change". This program is funded by the Knowledge for Climate Research Programme (www.climate-research-netherlands.nl). This is a demand-driven program to develop regional climate adaptation strategies. The PhD researcher will be part of a research team that jointly addresses the research tasks of the project.

Requirements

- a) A masters degree in one of the spatial sciences such as geography, spatial planning, regional economics or any other discipline with a clear spatial dimension;
- b) Experience with quantitative spatial research;
- c) Good working knowledge of geographical information systems;
- d) An interest for multidisciplinary research.
- e) An interest in land use planning.

Further particulars

The initial appointment will be for a period of one year. After satisfactory evaluation of the initial

appointment, it can be extended for a total duration of four years. You can find information about our excellent fringe benefits of employment at www.workingatvu.nl

Salary

The salary will be in accordance with university regulations for academic personnel, and range from €2.042,- gross per month in the first year up to €2.612,- gross per month in the fourth year, based on a fulltime employment.

Information

For additional information please contact: Dr Ron Janssen

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More information about the department can be found at: www.ivm.vu.nl.

Application

Applicants are requested to write a letter in which they describe their abilities and motivation, accompanied by a curriculum vitae and one or two references. Written applications should be sent before June 15 2010 to: the VU University Amsterdam, Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, attn. Dr. J.M.R.M. Neutelings, managing director, De Boelelaan 1085, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. It is also possible to apply by e-mail to: faalw-vacatures@falw.vu.nl.

Please mention the vacancy number in the e-mail header or at the top of your letter and on the envelope.

Any other correspondence in response to this advertisement will not be dealt with.