

Subject: PhD vacancy - modeling societal transitions, UT, NL

The Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) has recently launched an investment program to strengthen its international academic fields. For 11 pioneering multidisciplinary projects a PhD-position is made available, three of them already are filled in. Are you our candidate for one of the still available positions?

The Department of Geo Information Processing (GIP) is a vibrant multidisciplinary scientific team, specializing in methods and techniques for processing (acquiring, organizing, analyzing) spatio-temporal data and information and in building tools (models, algorithms, visualizations) that improve our understanding of complex spatial dynamic systems and help in decision-making at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.

The GIP Department is looking for a

PhD Candidate (Promovendus), full time

Modeling societal transitions in space

Main tasks

Climate change and resource limitations require that we consider transitions to alternative life styles and behavioral patterns. How can we make a sustainable, resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient society also a happier one for humans to live in? The research will provide tools for participatory modeling using Internet and social media, engaging stakeholders and citizens in a meaningful discussion about our futures and improve models of societal transitions using existing and newly acquired spatial data. These tools will be used to explore how behavioral changes, values, worldviews and individual acceptance of green low-carbon technologies and life styles cumulatively lead to the emergence of societal transformations, and how societies can be steered toward desirable end-points through innovative environmental governance at multiple scales.

The analysis will focus on modeling societal transitions and their trajectories at a variety of structural and spatial scales to understand how these transitions and their pathways depend upon heterogeneous regional conditions. The approach will be transdisciplinary, merging economic principles with biophysical and ecological constraints, and engaging stakeholders in participatory modeling exercises. The research should result in several peer-reviewed papers and a PhD thesis.

Your profile

The ideal candidate should be an MSc-level graduate and combine good modeling and programming skills (developing web applications and services) with knowledge of biophysical or ecological economics. Candidates with other relevant backgrounds will also be considered. You should be fluent in English, preferably experienced in (technical) writing and possess good communication skills.

Our offer

We offer you an inspiring and challenging international and academic environment. You will be employed for a period of 4 years. Salary and conditions will be in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement (CAO-NU) of the Dutch Universities. Gross monthly salary ranges from € 2,174.- in the first year to € 2,779.- in the last year, exclusive of allowances, in accordance with the job profile Promovendus, under the University System for Job Classification (UJC). Costs for moving to Enschede may be reimbursed.

Information and application

For more information you can contact Prof. Alexey Voinov (e-mail: a.a.voinov@utwente.nl). You are also invited to visit our homepage (<https://www.itc.nl/>).

Please submit your application through the form before 26 February 2016 (<http://UTWENTE.NL/EN/ORGANIZATION/CAREERS>).

Job interviews will be scheduled from 21 – 30 March 2016.