Post-doctoral Position (1 year) – "Big Data, Smart Cities and Strategic Planning"
Affiliation to Géographie-Cités, one-year fellowship in China.


Project Context.

The partners of the MEDIUM project are offering a one-year postdoctoral fellowship in China to a young European researcher. Entitled ‘New pathways for sustainable urban development in China’s medium-sized cities’, the MEDIUM project is funded by the EuropeAid program as part of the EU-CHINA Research and Innovation Partnership Call, managed by the EU delegation in Beijing. Starting in September 2015 for a period of three years, this project seeks to address the institutional and socio-economic issues of urban sustainability in China’s medium-sized cities, building on the assumption that these dimensions are an integral part of the ‘green’ scientific challenge. The project provides for several workshops and conferences in three Chinese partner cities (Hangzhou, Datong and Hohhot), and fellowships for young European researchers in various areas of specialization related to urban issues (big data/smart cities, spatial analysis of cities, industrial clusters, urban governance, housing/social policy, environmental policy). Another ambition of MEDIUM is to encourage collaborative approaches in China’s urban management through a series of stakeholder meetings, involving business communities, urban planners and architects.

MEDIUM is led by the laboratory Géographie-Cités (coordinator Natacha Aveline). The consortium brings together the Institute for Urban Studies at Hangzhou Normal University, Science Po Aix, the European Center for Living Technologies at University Ca’Foscary Venice, Spatial Foresight (in charge of the stakeholder meetings), the Institute of Geography and Sustainability at University Lausanne, and the Group of Research in Territorial Economy at University Neuchatel.

Description of the Post-Doctoral Work.

This postdoctoral position is one of the nine fellowships offered. The fellow will stay in one of the three partner Chinese cities (Hangzhou, Datong or Hohhot) and preferably collaborate with the other two, from September 2015 to August 2016. He/she will be assigned a Chinese host professor, and will intensely collaborate with Nicolas Douay, Supervisor of this fellowship, and with the Leading Team (Natacha Aveline and the Project Assistant). A monthly stipend of 2,100 € will be granted. This amount is a flat rate with which the fellow is expected to cover all of his/her expenses, including the airline tickets from Europe and domestic travels in China.

As a member of the research team, the fellow will gather the new data produced by the users of the web and social networks, and explore possible applications to develop a smarter city through new processes and strategies of urban planning. The method will combine data collection and GIS analysis, with surveys of local players (companies, government authorities, users,…).

In addition, the fellow is expected to undertake the following tasks:
- carry out a literature review about “Big data, smart cities and strategic planning”;
- provide regular reports on work progress for the purpose of dissemination;
- assist with organizing seminars and workshops;
- assist with organizing stakeholder meetings led by Spatial Foresight;

Profile of the Fellow.

We welcome applicants with a background in geography, urban planning, political science, media/communication, or other related social sciences.
**Competences**

- Knowledge of China’s urban context;
- Proficiency in mapping and GIS; experience in data analysis would be a benefit;
- Advanced level in spoken and written English;
- Chinese proficiency is not required, but the selected candidate will be asked to acquire a basic knowledge of Chinese prior to his/her departure.

**Application**

The application should include a motivation letter, a curriculum vitae with a publication list, and a letter of reference. The first two documents must be provided in English. All documents should be sent before April 30 to Nicolas Douay, [nicolas.douay@gmail.com](mailto:nicolas.douay@gmail.com) and Natacha Aveline [aveline@jp.cnrs.fr](mailto:aveline@jp.cnrs.fr)