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**A role for citizen science in water quality monitoring and protection**

**PhD position within Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Network “BEYOND”**

This fully funded PhD position is available under the recently launched Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) Doctoral Networks (DN) project “**BEYOND**” Beyond the current: Improving European flowing waters in an era of global change. BEYOND will train the next generation of water professionals who will deliver scientific and technological innovation across disciplines, institutions and countries needed to solve European water quality problems in an era of global change.

The aim of this PhD position is to determine how citizen science can be best engaged to contribute to water quality monitoring and protection.

The objectives include:

1) Investigate who does citizen science (CS) and why? Compare and contrast perspectives of local community, NGOs and other groups engaging in water improvement projects between with and without CS.

2. Evaluate how reliable are CS data for monitoring and assessment and quality control mechanisms based on existing and new data collections.

3) Identify gaps that can be filled by citizen science

4) Develop a CS-based toolkit for identifying pressures at local and catchment scales

5) Evaluate existing and new frameworks for sustained CS projects

The project will be supervised by Mary Kelly-Quinn (University College Dublin), Jan-Robert Baars (University College Dublin) and co-supervised by Gabriele Weigelhofer (WasserCluster, Lunz, Austria).

The position duration is 3 years (with additional year if required). You will be based in the in the School of Biology & Environmental Science, University College Dublin, located Dublin, Ireland.

More information on BEYOND project and PhD selection process can be found at the following websites: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101169293> and <https://www.slu.se/en/departments/soil-environment/research/research-projects/beyond/>

**Qualifications**

The candidates must have an MSc (or an equivalent) degree in environmental sciences, freshwater science, stream ecology or a related discipline. A solid background in statistical data analysis including GIS is an important asset.

* Have potential for conducting outstanding research, as demonstrated by scientific accomplishments (in particular quality of MSc thesis, but also e.g. code repositories, conference presentations, outreach activities, or publications).
* Be interested in working in a multidisciplinary and international research environment.
* Have excellent communication skills in English, verbally as well as in scientific writing.
* Be willing to undertake international travel for training and research activities of BEYOND and project-specific short-visits and secondments at partner institutions.

**Eligibility criteria**

Candidates must also meet the following criteria:

1) be of any nationality, but must not have resided or carried out main activity in the Republic of Ireland for more than 12 months in the last 36 months;

2) have not yet been awarded a PhD degree.

All interested candidates irrespective of age, nationality, gender, race, disability, religion or ethnic background are encouraged to apply. The working language will be English.

**Selection process**

The applications must be received by **15th of March 2025** including the following documents (all strictly in PDF format):

* Curriculum vitae
* Master [alternatively, the expected graduation date of Master’s degree] and Bachelor diplomas (in a single PDF file),
* Master and Bachelor grades’ transcripts (in a single PDF file),
* Motivation letter stating your specific interest, motivation and qualifications for the project in question (max 1 A4 page),
* A research statement describing how your expertise and previous experience align with the PhD project objectives (200 words),
* The names of at least two reference persons (provide names and contact details) who can provide information on your research performance.

**Completed applications should be sent to mary.kelly-quinn@ucd.ie**

**The applicants must also fill the BEYOND application form following the URL below**

<https://forms.gle/rKrwomLcZr7Dwm9L9>

The applicants are encouraged to apply for up to three different BEYOND PhD positions but please note that you have to apply for them separately via relevant institutional websites. Please check the details at <https://www.slu.se/en/departments/soil-environment/research/research-projects/beyond/>

**Salary**

The monthly gross salary consists of a country-dependent living allowance, a mobility allowance, and, if applicable, a family allowance. In Ireland, the monthly living allowance is €4063.

**Timeline**

The expected start date for this position is between 1st of July and 30th of September 2025.

Candidates selected for interviews will be contacted within 1 month from the closing date.