

SUSPLACE Research Vacancies

SUSPLACE is a Marie Curie Initial Training Network funded by the European Union. The overall aim of the Marie Curie ETN programme SUSPLACE is to train 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESR) in innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to study sustainable place-shaping practices. The SUSPLACE approach will provide insight into how to utilize the full potential of places and communities for development and help to build capacities of people to engage in place-shaping processes and thus strengthen connectivity between policy-makers, academics, businesses and civil society.

SUSPLACE provides knowledge-exchange opportunities through cross-border and cross-sector mobility of researchers, to better prepare them for the current and future societal challenge of development, integrating themes such as food, energy, climate and resources which are unfolding in places. Sustainable place-shaping is seen as a way to strengthen the participation, collaboration, collective agency, self-efficacy and leadership of people, engaging in places.

Sustainable place-shaping is theoretically framed within a relational approach to place. Place is seen as an assemblage of social relations continuously reconfigured as a result of unbound economic, institutional and cultural transformation processes. The nature of a place is not just a matter of its internal, essential features, but a product of its connectivity with other places. Processes of globalisation have provoked un-sustainabilities reflected in inequalities, exclusion, poverty, economic shrinkage, resource depletion, ecological hazards and food insecurity in various places. Via adopting a place-based, relational approach, SUSPLACE will address the in time and space differentiated outcomes of these unbound transformation processes. Sustainable place-shaping entails a well-balanced:

1. socio-cultural *re-appreciation* of respective places;
2. ecological *re-grounding* of practices in place-specific assets and resources;
3. political-economic *re-positioning* towards markets, technology and policies.

SUSPLACE provides a unique opportunity for 15 ESRs to acquire a PhD degree in an exciting and emerging field of research. SUSPLACE brings together six academic and seven non-academic partners in six European countries.

Academic partners (host universities):

1. Rural Sociology Group, Wageningen University (**WU**), Netherlands;
2. Sustainable Places Research Institute, Cardiff University (**CU**), United Kingdom;
3. Faculty of Social Sciences, Latvia University (**LU**), Latvia;
4. Department of Social, Political and Territorial Sciences, University of Aveiro (**UAVR**), Portugal;
5. Luke Economics and Society Research Unit, Luke Natural Resources Institute (**LUKE**), Finland;
6. Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (**KU Leuven**), Belgium.

Non-academic partners:

1. Royal HaskoningDHV BV (**RHDHV**), The Netherlands;
2. Foundation Except Integrated Sustainability (**EXCEPT**), The Netherlands;
3. Visionary Analytics (**VA**), Lithuania;

4. Welsh Government (**WG**); Wales, United Kingdom;
5. Binaural – *Associação Cultural de Nodar (BN)*, Portugal;
6. SKEY (*Suomen Kestävän Elämäntavan Yhteisöt ry*) Global Eco village Network Finland (**GEN-Finland**), Finland;
7. Kalnciema Quarter (**KQ**), Latvia.

The seven non-academic partners will offer professional courses, secondments, exchange opportunities and training 'on the job'.

Together the SUSPLACE consortium offer an interdisciplinary training programme consisting of compulsory training in basic and advanced skills in social science disciplines and interdisciplinary courses, professional skills training and training-through-research, optional courses, a Summer School and participation in communication & dissemination activities. The SUSPLACE programme 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. The SUSPLACE methodology includes multi-methods, inter-disciplinarity, a relational notion to place, development of place-based comparative studies, a participative approach engaging citizens and stakeholders, and cooperation between the academic and non-academic partners. 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.

The SUSPLACE training programme provides the broadest possible education necessary for a future academic or non-academic career. It will provide them with career opportunities as researchers, change agents, connectors and intermediates in collective forms of sustainable place-shaping and a future position at e.g. at local and regional governmental bodies, NGOs, consultancies or business companies.

Eligibility and mobility

SUSPLACE offers 15 individual research projects across six countries organised around five thematically organised Work Packages with each three ERS research projects. The contract duration is three years, starting April 1, 2016.

For further information regarding each project please consult the website of the host university. Applications have to be submitted to the host university. For more general questions about the SUSPLACE Programme you can contact the SUSPLACE coordinators: lummina.horlings@wur.nl or dirk.roep@wur.nl.

You are eligible as an Early Stage Researcher (ESR) if at the time of recruitment by the host university you are (i) in possession of a university master degree and (ii) have a maximum of four years of full-time research experience, including any period of research training. The last 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 ESR should not be PhD holders.

In addition you are only eligible to the position at a host university if at the time of the recruitment 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 three 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 Network funding. Therefore, you are required to undertake transnational mobility when taking up a position in the SUSPLACE project. ESRs will follow training in different countries and spend two secondments for three months at an academic or non-academic partner. See the overview below.

ESR projects: subject, host and co-host university and planned secondments

No	ESR project	Host	Co-host	Secondment 1; 2 nd year	Secondment 2; 3 rd year
1	Sustainability awareness and agency	KU Leuven	WU	LU	WU
2	Eco-villages and sustainable living	LUKE	UAVR	GEN-Finland	UAVR
3	Sense of Place	LUKE	WU	GEN-Finland	WU
4	Managing the commons	UAVR	LUKE	LUKE	RHDHV
5	Re-grounding of practices	UAVR	LUKE	BN	LUKE
6	The Energetic Society	WU	UAVR	CU	UAVR
7	Place ambassadors	CU	LU	BN	LU
8	Connected Learning Spaces	CU	KU Leuven	WU	KU Leuven
9	Leadership of Place	WU	CU	WG	CU
10	Circular Economy	KU Leuven	LU	LUKE	VA
11	Place Branding	LU	WU	KQ	RHDHV
12	Social economy, social entrepreneurship	LU	KU Leuven	KU Leuven	EXCEPT
13	Nature as pathway	LUKE	WU	WU	EXCEPT
14	Sustainable city-regions	CU	WU	WG	RHDHV
15	Place-based policies and pathways	WU	CU	CU	VA

VACANCIES

WP 2: INCLUSIVE PLACES

Objectives: To analyse how conditions can be created for people’s participation and engagement in sustainable place-shaping, contributing to self-efficacy, social innovation and social cohesion within varied contexts on different scales. This WP focuses on the ‘human factor’, how people appreciate and value places, express agency and take responsibility in sustainable places and how they reflect on and negotiate the conditions of engagement in global processes.

Vacancy 2.1 (ESR1) SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS AND AGENCY IN FOOD	Host: KU Leuven Co-host: WU
Objectives: To conduct a comparative analysis of place-based collective processes and actors' awareness and agency in transition pathways aimed at realizing more sustainable food systems. Not only the practical system and larger systems and structures (political) influence the conditions for sustainable change, but also individual and shared beliefs, values, worldviews and paradigms, referred to as change from the inside-out or the inner dimension of sustainability. Next, the study will identify and analyse this inner dimension, and institutional mechanisms that can facilitate the development of such initiatives in specific contexts. Policy tools will be analysed, developed and evaluated, which pro-mote these collective processes and put them on a sound legal and institutional basis.	
Expected Results: Insights into how to increase awareness, agency and attitudes in sustainability, as well as the major barriers and success factors in greening and food initiatives in cities. Guidelines for policies facilitating the overcoming of major barriers.	
Planned secondments: 1) LU, 2 nd year. Goal: data-collection in a Transition Town in Latvia. 2) WU, 3 rd year. Goal: Co-supervision and data-collection in the Living Lab of Amsterdam city-region.	
For more information: http://www.kuleuven.be/personeel/jobsite/ Contact person: Prof. Erik Mathijs: Erik.Mathijs@ees.kuleuven.be	

Vacancy 2.2 (ESRS2) ECO-VILLAGES AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING	Host: LUKE Co-host: UAVR
Objectives: This project will explore new sustainable forms of housing and living in rural and/or in the urban context. Eco-villages are human-scale settlements consciously designed thorough participatory processes to secure long-term sustainability. Thus sustainable living in the eco-village context means a (re)connection to places with calls for new forms of social practices along with administrative and political arrangements. Non-academic partner GEN-Finland participates in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Methods to analyse of everyday practices and deeds 2) Knowledge on how to design lifestyles in a specific place according to the dimensions of sustainability 3) Guidelines for policies that support diffusion of eco-village-type of sustainable living in different institutional and policy contexts.	
Planned secondments: 1) GEN-Finland, 2 nd year. Goal: ethnographic study 2) University of Aveiro, 3 rd year. Goal: Analyzing eco-villages.	
For more information: https://www.luke.fi/en/ Contact person: Prof. Hilikka Vihinen: hilkka.vihinen@luke.fi	

Vacancy 2.3 (ESRS3) SENSE OF PLACE IN SUSTAINABLE PLACE-SHAPING	Host: LUKE Co-Host: WU
Objectives: This project assumes that cultural transformation or "a new cultural narrative" is needed to meet the overall objectives of sustainable development, and that a strong sense of place also contributes to ecologically more sustainable practices, ways of life and human well-being. The project aims to identify and analyse how sense of place contributes to more sustainable worldviews and behaviour, thus sustainable place-shaping, and how sense of place can be strengthened by participation, education, public policies or planning practices. Non-academic partner GEN-Finland participates in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Theoretical understanding of the connection between sense of place, participation and sustainability 2) Guidelines for practitioners, trainers and policy-makers, how to support the sense of place in various contexts (education, policies etc.).	
Planned secondments: 1) GEN-Finland, 2 nd year on case-study analysis 2) WU, 3 rd year, co-supervision and analysis of sense of place in the Dutch context.	

For more information: <https://www.luke.fi/en/>
 Contact person: Prof. Hilikka Vihinen: hilkka.vihinen@luke.fi

WP 3: RESILIENT PLACES

Objectives: The WP will develop modes of innovation for greening places, and contribute to effective governance of social-ecological systems and long-term sustainability, based on the assumption that place-based approaches will strengthen the resilience of areas against global pressures. The WP focuses on the notion of a 'coupled' social-ecological system which sees human society as dependent upon natural systems, while at the same time human agency acts as the driver of ecosystem dynamics.

Vacancy 3.1 (ERS4) MODES OF INNOVATION IN MANAGING THE COMMONS	Host: UAVR Co-Host: LUKE
Objectives: Enhance sustainable management of the commons, which requires new modes of innovation including recognition and power for grassroots innovation actors and processes, involving them within an inclusive, multi-scale innovation politics, through a participatory approach capable of determining the social/cultural values of forest ecosystem services. Non-academic partner RHDHV participates in this project.	
Expected Results: Innovative mechanisms, and grassroots alliances in managing the commons 4) Testing of innovative participatory approaches 3) Guidelines for implementing an Integrated Landscape approach.	
Planned secondments: 1) MTT, 2 nd year. Goal: co-supervision and analysis of how grassroots alliances in Finland use wild nature, building sustainable strategies based on wild natural resources (plants, game) creating new food and non-food products and services. 2) RHDHV, 3 rd year. Goal: learn skills to develop modes of innovation for alliances.	
For more information: https://www.ua.pt/ Contact person: Dr. Elisabete Figueiredo: elisa@ua.pt	

Vacancy 3.2 (ESR5) RE-GROUNDING OF PRACTICES IN PLACE-SPECIFIC ASSETS AND RESOURCES	Host: UAVR Co-Host: LUKE
Objectives: Analyse innovative practices of sustainable place-shaping in the so-called 'Aldeias de Magaio Network' in Portugal, which can be seen as a form of endogenous development rooted in natural, economic and social local resources. The project aims to understand the factors which influence the production and use of traditional products, including the role of actors, agents and consumer demands and the impact on local communities. Binaural-Nodar participates in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) New ways of comm. and diss. of local products in global markets 2) Insights in the impacts in local communities.	
Planned secondments: 1) Binaural-Nodar, 2 nd year. Goal: learn skills in innovative and participative tourism-related activities and communication. 2) LUKE, 3 rd year Goal: Analysis of re-grounding of practices in natural areas in Finland	
For more information: https://www.ua.pt/ Contact person: Dr. Elisabete Figueiredo: elisa@ua.pt	

Vacancy 3.3 (ESR6) THE ENERGETIC SOCIETY	Host: WU Co-Host: UAVR
Objectives: Analyse new forms of entrepreneurship, society's learning abilities but also facilitative governance in the emerging 'energetic society', which refers to self-organising groups of citizens with learning ability and creativity, starting up new networks and organisations. Examples are community-owned energy projects and new cooperatives on sustainable energy-production.	

Expected Results: Lessons how to mobilise and facilitate ‘the energetic society’ and build new alliances based on cases on sustainable energy-production in three European countries (Wales, Netherlands, Portugal).
Planned secondments: 1) CU, 2 nd year. Goal: to analyse Welsh cases and learn skills in a governance facilitation role. 2) UAVR, 3 rd year. Goal: co-supervision and analysis of Portuguese ‘energetic citizens groups’.
For more information: https://www.wageningenur.nl/nl/Werken-bij/Vacatures.htm Contact person: Dr. L.G. Horlings: lummina.horlings@wur.nl

WP 4: CONNECTED PLACES

Objectives: To deliver knowledge about how place-based sustainability initiatives can be better integrated facilitating stronger connections between public, private and third sector stakeholders, as well as their spaces of practice. ESRs will explore the twin processes of (dis)connection which frame the working practices of these stakeholder groups, and the opportunities and constraints for developing place-based initiatives oriented towards co-production.

Vacancy 4.1 (ESR7) PLACE AMBASSADORS	Host: CU Co-Host: LU
Objectives: To explore the role of private sector businesses in supporting sustainable place-shaping through their enrolment in formal ‘place ambassador’ schemes. Place ambassadors are owners of local businesses who share with visitors the distinctiveness of the local wildlife, history, cultural heritage and geology. Non-academic partner Binaural-Nodar participates in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Insights how to create connectivity between the public and private sector in sustainable place-shaping, by capitalising on local knowledge and enthusiasm for promoting meaningful experiences of place.	
Planned secondments: 1) Binaural-Nodar, 2 nd year. Goal: Learn skills in creative-based educational and communication activities in rural areas. 2) LU, 3 rd year. Goal: Analyse place ambassadors in urban spaces in Latvia.	
For more information: http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/jobs/ Contact person: MarsdenTK@cardiff.ac.uk	

Vacancy 4.2 (ERS8) CONNECTED LEARNING SPACES – UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES AS LIVING LABS	Host: CU Co-Host: KU Leuven
Objectives: To explore the significance of place within learning experiences for sustainability from the starting point of the physical and natural spaces of University campuses as a living laboratory to increase connectivity and engagement between university students and local communities. The Cardiff University Campus and Amsterdam Metropolitan Solutions (a partnership between Wageningen University, Delft University, MIT and the city of Amsterdam) will participate in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Develop skills and knowledge of kinaesthetic learning 2) Its application to sustainable place-shaping through practical activities 3) Devise new ideas for place-based learning through University institutions as Living Labs.	
Planned secondments: 1) WU, 2 nd year. Goal: co-supervision and learn from the experiences in the Living Lab of Amsterdam Metropolitan Solutions (in which WU is involved). 2) KUL, 3 rd year. Goal: Learn about the role of food in learning spaces in Belgium.	
For more information: http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/jobs/ Contact person: MarsdenTK@cardiff.ac.uk	

Vacancy 4.3 (ESR9) LEADERSHIP OF PLACE	Host: WU Co-Host: CU
Objectives: Analyse reflexive approaches to governance needed to replace hierarchical, policy-centred leaderships with collaborative modes of governance and cross boundary leadership. Analyse how leadership of place in rural places and ‘Smart Cities’ can be developed and mobilised to generate more sustainable futures for regions and localities. WG will participate in this project. This research builds on earlier research on place leadership. A link will be made with the Regional Studies Association network on ‘Leadership in urban and regional development’ and planned international research on smart cities via this network.	
Expected Results: 1) Identification of effective collaborative leadership which connects varied actors to enable ‘smart cities’ 2) Insights into how to build capacities in (rural) places where there doesn’t seem to be a ‘critical mass’ for innovation.	
Planned secondment(s): 1) Welsh Government, 2 nd year. Goal: to analyse public leadership and compare collaborative leadership of place in the Welsh context. 2) CU, 3 rd year. Goal: Analyse sustainable citizens’ leadership in Welsh places.	
For more information: https://www.wageningenur.nl/nl/Werken-bij/Vacatures.htm Contact person: Dr. Lummina Horlings: lummina.horlings@wur.nl	

WP 5: PLACE-BASED GREENING ECONOMIES

Objectives: To deliver mechanisms for greening economies, adjusted to the boundaries of the ecological system, which utilize place-specific and scarce resources efficiently and in a socially/culturally sustainable way. Such an economy is low-carbon, resource efficient, socially just, and enhances investments which enhance the earth's natural capital or reduce ecological scarcities and environmental risks. The WP also delivers knowledge how post-liberal values, corporate/social responsibility and cooperation contribute to economies for the private/public good.

Vacancy 5.1 (ERS10) CIRCULAR ECONOMY	Host: KU leuven Co-Host: LU
Objectives: To derive the macro-, meso- and micro-level conditions for economic systems to shift towards sustainability using a metabolic approach. A metabolic approach describes how the development of economic systems depends on how human activity, material and energy flows and ecological funds are used and allocated to activities. Visionary Analytics will participate in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) A multi-scale integrated understanding of the societal and ecosystem metabolism of food systems 2) Information to stakeholders on the underlying social, economic and ecological conditions that enhance or prevent systems from greening.	
Planned secondments: 1) LUKE, 2 nd year. Goal: co-supervision, data-collection, acquire additional knowledge on greening economies 2) Visionary Analytics, 3 rd year. Insight in effects of greening the economies (e.g. on labour markets)	
For more information: http://www.kuleuven.be/personeel/jobsite/ Contact person: Prof. Erik Mathijs: Erik.Mathijs@ees.kuleuven.be	

Vacancy 5.2 (ESR11) PLACE BRANDING AND COMMUNICATION IN URBAN CREATIVE CLUSTERS	Host: LU Co-Host: WU
Objectives: To create creating sustainable niches for the greening of economies, by combining culture, creativity and economy in urban neighbourhoods and to explore communication and branding as drivers for green economy initiatives. KQ, organisation in urban creative clusters and farmers’ markets will participate in this project. Non-academic partner RHDHV will participate in this project.	

Expected Results: 1) Knowledge and skills to develop effective branding strategies 2) Knowledge on the conditions for promoting green urban economies.
Planned Secondments: 1) KQ (Kalnciema Quarter), 2 nd year. Goal: Learn from KQ's experiences how to create sustainable urban niches 2) RHDHV, 3 rd year. Goal: learn skills in stakeholder collaboration in green urban projects.
For more information: http://www.lu.lv/eng/ Contact person: Prof. Talis Tisenkopfs: Talis.Tisenkopfs@lu.lv

Vacancy 5.3 (ERS12) SOCIAL ECONOMY, SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP	Host: LU Co-Host: KU Leuven
Objectives: Analyse the potential of new markets outside the dominant capitalist system of profit-making and address social economy initiatives, like: community services, social cooperatives, food banks, shared land use projects, charity initiatives, supported work with regard to their organisational arrangements, business models and contribution to sustainable place-shaping, social cohesion and quality of life. This will increase our insight into 'hidden' novelties, practices and economies. Non-academic partner EXCEPT will participate in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Insights into how the social entrepreneurship can contribute to the greening of economies. 2) Capabilities to critically reflect on social entrepreneurship; 3) Act practically as knowledge broker among various parties involved in social economy initiatives.	
Planned secondments: 1) KU Leuven, 2 nd year. Goal: co-supervision and additional knowledge on food economies; 2) EXCEPT, 3 rd year. Goal: learn skills in sustainable and social entrepreneurship.	
For more information: http://www.lu.lv/eng/ Contact person: Prof. Talis Tisenkopfs: Talis.Tisenkopfs@lu.lv	

WP 6: PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY

The development of innovative place based spatial pathways. The WP will deliver theoretical, empirical and policy-oriented analysis and development of an integrative place-based paradigm as key component of deliberative sustainable place-shaping. The WP delivers methods and (policy-) strategies and will visualize sustainable place-based pathways.

Vacancy 6.1 (ESR13) NATURE AS PATHWAY FOR REACHING SOCIAL AND HEALTH GOALS	Host: LUKE Co-host: WU
Objectives: To explore nature-based health and social care services provided by entrepreneurs ('Green Care'), i.e. utilisation of landscape, animals and plants which support physical, mental and social well-being, and the environmental awareness of various client groups (e.g. disable, socially excluded), which can contribute to sustainable place-shaping (e.g. through landscape maintenance, biodiversity, livelihoods and social inclusion). Non-academic partner Except will participate in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Analysis on effects of Green Care –service with specific intervention and client group with a framework of assessment 2) Guidelines for policies that support diffusion of Green Care in the different institutional and policy contexts.	
Planned secondments: 1) WU, 2 nd year. Analysis of innovative pathways and co-supervision. 2) EXCEPT 3 rd year. Analysis of the role of businesses and nature-based health and social care services.	
For more information: https://www.luke.fi/en Contact person: Prof. Hilikka Vihinen: hilkka.vihinen@luke.fi	

Vacancy 6.2 (ESR 14) SUSTAINABLE CITY-REGIONS	Host: CU Co-Host: WU
Objectives: To promote a better understanding of the relationship between the economic drivers of city-region development and the broader social and environmental priorities of sustainable place-making at a regional scale based on the establishment of two City-Region areas (Swansea Bay and Cardiff City-Region) areas. Non-academic partners Welsh Government and RHDHV will participate in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) An evidence base for policy interventions focused on sustainable city-region building; 2) Testing in a 'Living Lab' to explore the specific role of City-Region alliances and relationships in integrating together sector- (food, housing, transport, energy etc.) based approaches to sustainable place-shaping.	
Planned secondments: 1) Welsh Government, 2 nd year. Goal: analyse potential policy interventions in city-regions. 2) RHDHV, 2 nd year. Goal: learn skills in action-based research and consultancy in regional development.	
For more information: http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/jobs/ Contact person: MarsdenTK@cardiff.ac.uk	

Vacancy 6.3. (ESR15) PLACE-BASED POLICIES AND PATHWAYS	Host: WU Co-Host: CU
Objectives: Analyse different pathways for sustainable place-shaping addressing the questions how do these paradigms unfold in European places and under which conditions. The research builds on several cases including the emerging findings of other ESR projects and visualizes future scenarios for European regions. Non-academic partner Visionary Analytics will participate in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Strategies for integrative place-based policies 2) Visualized future scenarios for European regions.	
Planned secondments: 1) CU, 2 nd year. Goal: Acquire knowledge in sustainable pathways and policies 2) Visionary Analytics, 3 rd year. Goal: learn skills in innovation policy and foresight as a method to implement policies.	
For more information: https://www.wageningenur.nl/nl/Werken-bij/Vacatures.htm Contact person: lummina.horlings@wur.nl	