IHE Delft is the largest international graduate water education facility in the world and is based in Delft, the Netherlands. The mission of IHE Delft is to work in partnership to strengthen capacity in the water sector, to achieve global sustainable development. IHE Delft has a permanent staff of 220 of which more than 140 are academics from all over the world, while about 250 guest lecturers from academia and industry contribute to our educational programmes. Each year 750 professionals (including about 200 new MSc students per year) from all over the world attend various water-related courses at IHE Delft. The Institute has an international staff & student community with English as the working language.

The Water Resources and Ecosystems Department conducts research and provides post-graduate education and training to professionals in the fields of water resources assessment and control, hydraulic engineering, hydrology/hydrogeology and various fields related to aquatic ecosystems. The department is organized into three scientific chair groups: 1) Hydrology and Water Resources, 2) Hydraulic Engineering – River Basin Development, and 3) Aquatic Ecosystems, each headed by a professor. We are now seeking

PhD Candidate / PhD position on the integration of local and scientific knowledge in people-centred climate services

38 hours per week

Are you passionate about developing climate services to support different economic sectors in addressing multiple climate hazards (e.g. floods, droughts, heatwaves)? Do you enjoy doing research as part of an interdisciplinary team for the generation of new knowledge and development of new approaches and tools? Do you want to contribute towards building climate resilient societies in Europe and beyond? Then you are an ideal candidate for this PhD Position. IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (IHE) is looking for an enthusiastic candidate for a PhD position associated with the I-CISK project “Innovating Climate services through Integrating Scientific and local Knowledge”, funded by European Commission (H2020 programme), which started November 1st, 2021.

The ambition of the project is to innovate the development of a next generation of climate services, following a social and behaviourally informed approach to co-producing climate services with users, to meet climate information needs at relevant spatial and temporal scales. I-CISK aims to take a trans-disciplinary approach to developing CS by working with stakeholders in seven Living Labs established in climate hotspots across the European Union as well as in Georgia and Namibia, to address climate change and extremes (droughts, floods and heatwaves), faced by agriculture, forestry, tourism, energy, health, and the humanitarian sectors. The project consortium is composed of thirteen partners, forming an interdisciplinary team, including physical and social scientists.

Responsibilities

Your research will contribute to the development of a full co-production framework for human-centred CS, encompassing the iterative process of co-design, co-creation, co-implementation, and co-evaluation. Within this framework you will investigate the integration of local and scientific knowledge, and how this influences the use of climate services and consequent impacts. You will support your research through empirical experience from a selected number of the Living Labs, assessing the degree to which these are used differently to traditional climate services. You will work closely with other researchers in the project, including other PhD candidates, as well as with partners and users in the selected Living Labs. You will apply social sciences methods, but will also use statistical and participatory modelling analyses to underpin your research. Additionally, you will contribute to the project reporting, through your research, as well as have the opportunity to further develop your academic skills through training and supervisory activities.
Requirements:

- A Masters degree in earth, climate, environmental sciences, water management and governance, or related disciplines.
- A demonstrable affinity to working at the interface between the physical and social sciences, with a track record in working with stakeholders and users, and the application of social sciences techniques. Preference will be given to the candidates with a demonstrable ability to do interdisciplinary research.
- The candidate should be proficient in English (written and spoken) and have demonstrated skill in independently writing academic texts in English.
- Good collaboration and communication skills
- The candidate should be prepared to travel to undertake fieldwork related activities in selected Living Labs (both within and outside Europe).
- Knowledge and experiences related to climate services production and use would be an advantage.

Terms of Employment

This is a position for 48 months (4 years), full time (1fte), with the expectation that the candidate will submit and successfully defend the PhD within this period. The candidate will be stationed in Delft, the Netherlands. Employment at IHE Delft is according to the Collective Labour Agreement Dutch Universities. The monthly gross salary, based on 1 fte/38 hours, ranges between € 2.434,00 in the first year and €3.111,00 in the fourth year (scale P) The appointment implies entry into the Netherlands' Civil Service Pension Fund (ABP).

The initial contract is for 18 months. Within the first year a go/no-go decision will be made based on a detailed PhD research proposal to be developed by the candidate, which will determine whether or not the contract will be extended.

Starting date of the position:
The preferred starting date is 1st of March 2022, or as soon as possible after that.

Information and application

The research will be carried out under supervision of Dr. Micha Werner and Dr Ilyas Masih. The promoter will be Prof. Graham Jewitt. For any questions related to this position please contact either Micha Werner (m.werner@un-ihe.org) and/or Ilyas Masih (i.masih@un-ihe.org).

Applications (in English) should respond specifically to the requirements and should be sent before 3 January 2022, including curriculum vitae, a motivation letter, and the names and contact details of two contactable referees (as one PDF file with your family name as the filename), to IHE Delft, attn. Human Resource Management at recruitment@un-ihe.org, stating vacancy-number 21-WRE-01.