

## CALL n°1 FOR POST-DOCTORAL CANDIDATES 2020

The Sorbonne University Institute for Environmental Transition (SU-ITE) in partnership with the International Centre for Research on Environment and Development (CIRED) is inviting candidates to apply for a post-doctoral position starting in the fall of 2020, on **the Ecological Transition of Economic Systems**.

The call is open until **Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2020, 18:00 CET**.  
The applicants will be auditioned during the September-October period,  
in Paris or by video-meeting, in French or English.

### 1. What are SU-ITE and CIRED?

The Sorbonne University Institute for Environmental Transition (SU-ITE, [www.su-ite.eu](http://www.su-ite.eu)) was created in 2017 by the Sorbonne University Alliance, which brings together Sorbonne University, the National Museum for Natural History (MNHN), The Technological University of Compiègne (UTC), and the INSEAD Business School. This transversal institute gathers researchers from all disciplines in order to produce up-to-date knowledge that contributes to the ecological transition.

The International Centre for Research on Environment and Development (CIRED, [www.centre-cired.fr](http://www.centre-cired.fr)), a "joint research unit" (UMR 8568), explores the fields linked to biodiversity, agriculture, urban development, climate change and energy by using interdisciplinary analysis and modelling.



### 2. Profile of the applicants

The candidates need to hold a doctorate degree **at the end of October 2020 at the latest**. Applicants should have their dissertation in economy with an interdisciplinary background in life sciences or environmental sciences, and ideally in human and social sciences.

To be eligible, there is no age or nationality criteria.

### 3. Post-doctoral position

The post-doctorate research fellow will be hosted, with a two years contract (with possibility of extension), at the CIRED (Nogent-sur-Marne). The position will start at **the fall of 2020**. The post-doctorate research fellow will receive a personalized assistance from a collegial management team organized by SU-ITE and CIRED researchers.

The post-doctorate research fellow will have a salary (35 k€ gross annual amount). It opens rights to social security, paid holidays and sick leaves. The post-doctoral contract will cover **only the salary**. The possible extra-costs will be given by SU-ITE for a guaranteed minimum level. An intern and a doctoral student could complement the post-doctoral mission.

### 4. Applying proposal

The applicants must send a well-argued proposal detailing a research topic in ecological transition of economic systems (*maximum 15,000 characters and spaces, French or English*).

The proposal will have to make clear the original qualities of the envisioned research. The jury will pay special attention to the interdisciplinary dimension of the project and to its applied nature, for instance regarding the operational innovations that could emerge.

The proposal would have also to mention one of the applicant's scientific articles connected to the proposed topic and a short bibliography.

**The themes of the 6<sup>th</sup> section are possible examples describing research issues that will be considered in the scope of the research proposal.**

The candidates are free to use them or to propose extra-issues related to the ecological transition of economic systems.

### 5. How to apply?

The submissions have to be sent by email at the latest on

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 18:00 CET, to: [communication@su-ite.eu](mailto:communication@su-ite.eu)**

They must contain:

- A letter of intent (*maximum 2,000 characters and spaces*).
- CV (scientific resume)
- One publication (*full text, pdf version*) showing the interdisciplinary background of the candidate.
- A research proposal (*maximum 15,000 characters and spaces, in French or English*).

## **6. Examples related to the ecological transition of the economic systems (without order of preference)**

*These examples are not the full scope of possible eligible proposals.*

### **A. The economic organization of degrowth and frugal society**

A number of analyses conclude that industrial societies have to get out of economic systems founded on the unlimited growth of material and energetic fluxes. They have to build new models of degrowth or post-growth in sectors that are the main causes of social and environmental impacts. However, this paradigm shift entails a diagnosis of the economic, social and ecological ways and means that can be envisioned. The post-doctorate research fellow could achieve such a diagnostic applied to one or several economic sectors.

### **B. Towards a systemic diagnosis of nature-based solutions in agriculture**

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are becoming a popular way to contribute to the transformation of conventional agriculture. In a "poor" version they replace partly the current practices. In a "rich" version, they are guided by a multifunctional and multi-services approach and they organize short supply opportunities.

An analysis based on the observation of technical trajectories in farms going from "very poor" versions to "very rich" variants could carry a systemic diagnosis of the advantages and drawbacks of those two options. This diagnosis would integrate the different forms of capital, the production and transaction costs, the returned incomes, the ecological, aesthetical and food qualities of the farms, the technological, social and economic obstacles to be overcome, the needed reorganizations (in terms of counselling, subventions, consistency with the European agriculture policy), etc.

### **C. The economy of the re-greening of cities**

The costs and benefits produced by dozens of ecosystem services linked to the re-greening of urban areas, as the main barriers and obstacles against their development, need to be evaluated in accordance with the standard economic model as well as with the strong or weak sustainability models.

### **D. The economy of short supply chain managements**

The development of short supply chains, an important aspect of the food transition, entails a reorganization in the food markets and local shops. As there are many barriers to such a goal, what are the main economic, social and ecological rationales which could engage decision-making authorities in such a reorganization? What are the innovative economic instruments that could accelerate the development of short supply chains?