



Instituto de Ciência Agrárias, Ambientais e Mediterrânicas (ICAAM)

Master Research Scholarship, 1 scholar

12 of December, 2017

A call is open for one Master Research Scholarship within the ARIMENT project “Land system dynamics in the Mediterranean basin across scales as relevant indicator for species diversity and local food systems” (ARIMNET2/0001/2016). Financed by ARIMNet2 (Coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean; 2014-2017) which is an ERA-NET Action financed by the European Union under the Seventh Framework Programme for research.

Scientific domain: interaction between social sciences, agronomy, geography.

Requirements for admission: The candidates should have a:

- 1) Master in Agronomy, Forestry, Environmental Sciences, Geography, Political sciences or other social sciences.
- 2) Knowledge on the Mediterranean agricultural practices, species diversity and local food systems at multiple spatial scales will be particularly valued.
- 3) Knowledge on social science analyses instruments are needed. Training and or experience with the use of participatory approaches will be valued. Engagement in previous transdisciplinarity projects will be particularly valued. Fluency in Portuguese is required.

Work Plan:

The DIVERCROP project aims to highlights interactions between current dynamics of the Mediterranean agricultural practices, species diversity and local food systems at multiple spatial scales. The project is composed of the following steps: 1) An assessment of the current spatial agricultural dynamics, competition between agriculture and other land uses and between different agricultural management practices, from which the main drivers will be carried out at the WMB scale. 2) An identification of local drivers of territorial dynamics in terms of governance and stakeholders’ behavior, through studying specific case studies sampled according to spatial trends and management drivers. 3) The development of a multi-scale model that investigate the consequences of local and regional land system changes on agricultural practices and species diversity, and on the spatial capabilities for cities to enhance local food systems.

The Master Research scholar will be mainly focused on the identification of local drivers of territorial dynamics in terms of governance and stakeholders’ behavior in the case study application in Portugal. Further, the scholar will collaborate on the operationalization of the Work Package (WP4) focus on the Land system dynamics assessment at local scale. The goal of this WP is::

- to analyze farm systems at the local scale, to characterize local dynamics in case studies sampled through the assessment of the farm systems that are characteristics of each case-study area.

- to develop, in interaction with local stakeholders, possible future pathways for these farming systems to adapt and respond to these drivers, from climate change to policy orientations.

Within WP4 the following steps are to be developed:

- Step 1 (Task 4.1): Characterization of the local farm systems. In each case study, we will characterize the particularities and dynamics of farm systems and the main changes taking place, at the farm and at the territorial levels. The goal is to identify network relations and the functioning of socioecological processes, such as farm operations, inputs and practices, farm connections with different forms of collective action (professional organizations, cooperatives, farm-to-farm formal and informal networks...), commercialization of farm output, with special attention to local food chains, participation in quality schemes/green labels, etc. This will be done through farm based surveys and data-driven analysis combined with interviews to key-informants.
- Step 2 (Task 4.2): Apply a participatory approach. After the land system analysis, a participatory approach will be developed in sampled case study areas. This work aims to discuss possible future territorial scenarios, both of the local farming systems and of the rural territories they are part of. This participatory work will be centered on the stakeholder visions, and will be based on already existing and tested methods. The visions and pathways identified with the stakeholders will then be used to enrich and build the scenarios for future local food system improvement, which will be generalized at the regional scale (WP5).

The aim of WP4 is to progress to a more focused definition of visions and pathways for the future, which will be targeted within the boundaries of the regional and global changes. With this step, it is also expected that the project will contribute to a higher awareness and empowerment of the local stakeholders, in relation to the drivers of change in their territory is subject to, and the possibilities for them to define and follow their specific pathway, in accordance with the potentialities and constraints of their territory.

The Master researcher will be involved in all the remaining activities of the project, but particularly in WP4. Mainly, the Master researcher will be collaborating on development of the WP4 guidelines to all project partners. Further, the Master will collect the needed data for WP4 application and putting in practice the participatory approach defined within the project. The researcher is expected to collaborate on the organization and implementation of a methodological training for project participants, for farm system analysis and for the participatory work. By the end of the first year, the research will lead a report on farm systems characteristics, potentialities and threats, for all case studies, and on visions for change, and possible pathways, for all the case study areas where the participatory work is applied. By the middle of the second year the researcher will develop a report on the possible adaptation pathways for the local areas to increase resilience. Finally, the researcher will work on one scientific publication issuing from the WP4 results, and will participate in other project publications. The research is to be developed in the University of Evora, ICAAM (Institute for Mediterranean Agrarian and Environmental Sciences), the research group Landscape, Biodiversity and Socio-Ecological Systems (LABS).

Relevant legislation and regulation: This scholarship will be carried on the basis of a signed contract between the University of Évora and the scholarship recipient, under the terms of the Research Scholarship Regulations of the University of Évora (Ordem de Serviço nº1/2011), the Scientific Research Grant Holder Statute (Law nº40/2004 of the 18 of August and Decree-Law nº202/2012 of the 27 of August) and according to the Regulations and legislation for

advanced training and qualifications for human resources of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) <http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.pt>

Place of work: The work is to be developed at the ICAAM, Polo da Mitra of the University of Evora, under the scientific coordination of Dr. Maria Helena Guimarães

Length of the scholarship: The scholarship will last for 24 months, with a foreseen start at the January 2018.

Payment: According to the scholarship values applied by the Portuguese Research Foundation (<http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>): the monthly payment is of 980 Euros, not subject to taxes, and the contribution to the national social-medical insurance is paid by the project. The payment is done by cheque or bank transfer.

Selection: The selection is done based on the documentation sent, and an interview may be required. When the candidates are not available to come to Evora, the interview may be undertaken using *skype*. The analysis of the CV performs 100 % of the evaluation. The interview will be used to select between candidates equally ranked.

Selection Committee:

President: Dr. Maria Helena Guimarães

1st vogal: Professor Teresa Pinto Correia

2nd vogal: Dr. Maria Isabel Ferraz

1st replacement: Professor Elvira Dales Baptista

2nd replacement: Dr. Sérgio Godinho

Announcement of results: The final results of the selection will be announced, through a ranked list according to the classification, displayed at the ICAAM, and sent to all candidates by e-mail.

Period for the call and presentation of application: The call is open in between the 27 of december to the 10 of january, and the results will be announced until the 12 of January.

Applications should be sent by e-mail, including a motivation letter, the *curriculum vitae* of the candidate, a copy of the Master certificate, and two recommendation letters, to:

Dr. Maria Helena Guimarães

Email: mhguimaraes@uevora.pt

