

Call for PhD Position in Environmental Economics

The Social Value of Public Information and Environmental Regulation

Location: University of Bourgogne Franche-Comté (UBFC), Besançon, France.

Enrolment: DGEP Doctoral School (Law, Management, Economics and Political Science).

Field: Environmental Economics.

Duration: 3 years, starting October 2018.

I-SITE BFC Field: Territories, Environment, Food.

Supervision:

- **Jihad El Naboulsi:** Associate Professor, Université de Bourgogne Franche-Comté.
- **Yigit Saglam:** Senior Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Research Laboratory : CRESE (Centre de recherche sur les stratégies économiques).

Summary of the research project

While during the 1960's and 1970's, earlier wave of environmental policies focused on command and control regulation, market-based approaches have been developed in the 1980's to shape negative environmental externalities. Over the last few years, however, there has been a clear surge in environmental regulation that requires polluters to disclose industry-related information. Mandatory disclosure programs have become the yardstick by which regulators, investors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local communities measure firms' environmental performance, even if the issue of information disclosure had been around longer.

Today, public authorities use significantly information-based regulation as a mean to address a wide range of environmental issues including greenhouse gas emissions. The widespread acceptance of such programs is channeled by the presumption that providing environmental information will lead to an improvement in environmental quality by assisting broader public decision making such as public policy development and environmental regulation. Despite some limited empirical concerns raised by researchers regarding these programs, the recent trend shows that regulation through disclosure may be an efficient complement to conventional regulatory approaches and may have a significant effect on the environmental performance of firms and future compliance and emissions.

This fully funded PhD research project is in line with the CRESE area of research, Contracts, Markets and Regulation (<http://crese.univ-fcomte.fr/>). It focuses on the law and economics with respect to publicly disclosed environmental information. The main objective of this project is to investigate the effectiveness of environmental regulation through disclosure practices as a policy approach to reduce pollution and emissions, and to analyze its role in supplementing traditional approaches. In particular, this work addresses the potential uncertainty-reducing role of mandatory disclosure and its impact when environmental regulation is already advanced. To this end, questions examined in this project include: What is the logic behind information disclosure? What have previous theoretical and empirical research works on this subject (and related topics) told us about the nature of information

disclosure programs? How does information-based regulation affect and change the regulatory setting process? What do these changes mean in terms of environmental policy? And, does the dissemination of environmental information impact players' strategic behavior in the marketplace? Furthermore, the project aims to identify the underlying drivers of information-based environmental programs and the extent of their contributions to the overall changes in the toxic chemical release profile at the European level (using the European Environment Agency EPRTR dataset).

Expected skills and qualification requirements

Candidates for this PhD research fellowship must have a graduate degree in Environmental Economics (Master degree or equivalent). Excellent grades are expected. The successful applicant is also expected to have good analytical skills and a high level of written and spoken French and English. Furthermore, the successful candidate will be expected to be present on a daily basis in the research center and to participate in daily activities.

The qualifications of the applicant will be assessed by an assessment committee (20 minutes presentation). On the basis of the recommendation of this committee, the doctoral school will make a final decision for allocating the grant. Shortlisting will be applied. This means that subsequent to the deadline for applications, the PhD supervisors will select candidates for assessment based on their academic credentials. All applicants will be informed whether they will be assessed or not.

Agreement

Appointment and salary as a PhD fellow are according to I-SITE Bourgogne Franche-Comté regulations. PhD grants are normally for a period of 3 years devoted to research on this project. It is a prerequisite for allocation of PhD grants that the candidate will be enrolled as a PhD student at the University of Bourgogne Franche-Comté in accordance with the regulations of the Doctoral School DGEP. The progress of the PhD research work is assessed every year by a doctoral committee.

Application form and Deadline

All applications are only to be submitted online no later than June 11th 2018 (<https://www.adum.fr/as/ed/actu.pl?site=eddgpep>), including detailed resume, letter of interest in the project, and transcripts. You may obtain further information from Professor Jihad El Naboulsi (email: jihad.elnaboulsi@univ-fcomte.fr) concerning the scientific aspects of the project. For general information concerning the PhD program at the University of Bourgogne Franche-Comté, and more information about practical issues, application procedure, and admission requirements, you may contact the Doctoral School DGEP.