

**The European Forest Institute  
is now seeking a  
PhD Researcher on understanding perceptions of wildfire risks and related land  
management  
at EFI Bonn, Germany**

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation with 29 member countries and around 120 associate and affiliate member organisations. EFI undertakes forest research and policy support at pan-European and global level, with headquarters located in Joensuu, Finland. EFI has its other main offices in Barcelona, Bonn, Bordeaux and Brussels. The Institute has app. 120 staff members and has an annual turnover of app. 15 million Euros. Further information about the organisation is available at [www.efi.int](http://www.efi.int).

Do you have a genuine interest in landscape fires and resilience? Are you up for an interdisciplinary challenge, looking and learning beyond your own field and assumptions? With an international team that is inclusive, collaborative, creative and open minded? Then we are looking for you!

**15 PhD positions in PyroLife Innovative Training Network (Marie Skłodowska-Curie) on integrated fire management**

The 2018 wildfire season was a glimpse of what to expect in the future: deadly mega-fires in Mediterranean regions and high fire activity in temperate and boreal areas outside the typical Spring fire season. We cannot solve this challenge with the old mono-disciplinary approach of fire suppression: there is a critical need to change fire management from fire resistance to landscape resilience: Living with Fire. This requires a new type of diverse experts, who not only understand fire, but who are also able to communicate risks, deal with uncertainty, and link scientific disciplines as well as science and practice.

The new Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network PyroLife will train the new generation of interdisciplinary experts in integrated fire management, acknowledging that 1) knowledge transfer from southern Europe (and worldwide) to temperate Europe can support the new generation of experts; and 2) fire risk planning, communication and management can learn from cross-risk lessons including temperate European expertise in water management. In doing so, this project combines how the North solves community problems with the fire knowledge of the European South.

We are hiring 15 PhD candidates across Southern and Northwest Europe and across a range of scientific disciplines, from social sciences and policy to environmental sciences and engineering. We are looking for a diverse group of creative and open-minded Early Stage Researchers who are able to link innovative science to society, and communicate with media, stakeholders, and policy makers.

These 15 positions are open at 6 universities, 2 research institutes, a foundation and a company across Southern and Northwest Europe. The network is led by Wageningen University. For an overview of all positions, please visit: <https://pyrolife.lessonsonfire.eu/>

**PhD Topic description at EFI Bonn**

EFI is seeking a highly motivated and skilled PhD Researcher on the topic: Understanding perceptions of wildfire risks and related land management.

The objectives of the research are:

- To analyse perceptions of fire risk and related concepts of fire (risk) management in different regional and sectoral contexts across Europe amongst a) fire and land management experts, b) land owners and managers in different regional settings;
- To enhance learning and generate transferable knowledge on risk and its management through interconnecting experts across regional contexts.

### **We provide**

- A PhD Researcher position in the diverse PyroLife training network together with 14 others that study landscape fire using an integrated approach.
- A strong, engaging, collaborative and inclusive network of academics and practitioners
- The first doctoral training program on integrated fire management worldwide, with research, collaboration and training focused on understanding fire, risk communication, integration across disciplines, scales, sectors, and countries, and personal development
- Enrolment in a fully-funded PhD program
- Team up with other PhD students in the network that work in other risk communication topics.
- Research including an applied traineeship that will provide hands-on experience to work with communities located in areas with a high and/or new risk of wildfires.
- Become part of a dynamic team, that works with and for the fire community and society.

### **Qualifications and requirements**

#### **Essential**

- Applicants for this position should hold a recent university MSc degree in forest/ natural resource /environmental sciences, sociology or a related area. The candidate should have interest and experience in social science.
- Excellent spoken and written skills in English are essential. The candidate is expected to conduct empirical social research in Germany and Southern Europe (Portugal, Greece), so knowledge of additional languages, specifically German or Spanish/Portuguese is a strong plus.

#### **General**

- A genuine interest in landscape fire and resilience. Experience with (the management of) fire, forests, water, storms or other risks is appreciated;
- Ambition to obtain a PhD degree, and become a scientific expert able to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services, for social and economic benefit;
- Willingness to (learn how to) communicate risk, make inter- and transdisciplinary linkages;
- Willingness to travel including moving to another country for the PhD project, completing two 4-month secondments in Europe or abroad, and travel to international training courses and any fieldwork;
- Ability to function as a team member, work independently and take responsibility for own research goals.
- Meet the mobility and early stage researcher requirements defined for the MSCA-ITN projects.

#### **Mobility and early career requirements**

Applicants should comply to the EU rules regarding ITN projects:

([https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides\\_for\\_applicants/h2020-guide-appl-msca-itn\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide-appl-msca-itn_en.pdf)). The most important rules are that you should not have a doctoral degree, have obtained your Master degree within the last four years (full-time equivalent research experience) and should not have spent more than 12 months of your time during the last 3 years in Germany.

**Duty Station**

The Researcher will work at the EFI Office in Bonn, Germany.

**Employment Conditions**

The Researcher will be an EFI staff member. We offer a full-time position, for 3 years which will be subject to an initial 6-month probationary period. The salary is foreseen to be 3 143 EUR per month, gross which includes a mobility allowance. If relevant, the Researcher will be eligible to receive a family allowance for the duration of the contract.

The PhD will be carried out in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn. Further information on the University of Bonn, one of Germany's leading universities, can be found [here](#).

Interested candidates are requested to send (in English) a CV including copies of academic degree certificates/diplomas with a motivation letter by 16th December 2019, using our [online](#) application form.

Template for motivation letter can be found [here](#) that outlines four topics we expect you to cover, and that also includes a form to show your eligibility for the program in terms of early stage researcher and mobility requirements.

For more information about the post, please contact Prof. Georg Winkel, Head of Governance Programme: [georg.winkel@efi.int](mailto:georg.winkel@efi.int) or Alexander Held, Senior Expert on Forest Fire: [alexander.held@efi.int](mailto:alexander.held@efi.int)

EFI is an equal opportunity employer. All applications will be treated confidentially.

Please note that only candidates that have been shortlisted for interview will be contacted.