EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COST Action ES1104 'Arid Lands Restoration and Combat of Desertification: Setting up a Drylands and Desert Restoration Hub' focuses on practical measures that can be used by practitioners, stakeholders and authorities to restore degraded drylands and manage their recovery.

Funded Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM):

Database development for land degradation and restoration projects

We are looking for a motivated, innovative and independent researcher interested in developing a database for long-term restoration research in southern Iceland. The candidate will be hosted by the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland (SCSI) in Gunnarsholt, southern Iceland. The development of a future international collaboration during the STSM is strongly encouraged and supported by the host institutes.

Iceland has been at the forefront of soil conservation research for nearly a century. In the framework of a national restoration policy of Iceland Reykjavik University (RU) and the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland are investigating the effects of degradation and restoration on water resources and runoff dynamics in the vicinity of the SCSI headquarters near the town Hella in southern Iceland. Large amounts of literature and data on restoration efforts are available, yet they have not been put in context of changing meteo-hydrological conditions. Theory and observations show that the degradation in the past has led to enhanced erosion and increased direct runoff. In order to understand and be able to predict and finally forecast runoff patterns, relevant information and available data have to be prepared, analyzed and structured in a metadatabase model. The ultimate goal of the STSM is to provide an overview of existing works on restoration efforts and make it available on a web based database. The database will be used in the future to provide valuable information to decision makers and interested researchers. For this task web design and programming skills are an asset.

We are looking for an early career postdoctoral researcher (less than 8 years since the award of the PhD) to undertake a Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) for four weeks in the period March to May 2015 in order to assemble the relevant data sets and identify the relationships between land degradation indicators, restoration efforts and the impacts on water resources in the area. The researcher will be hosted by Reykjavik University and the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland near Hella, southern Iceland. A fixed grant of up to **€2500** will be awarded as a contribution towards the cost of travel, board and lodging. The grant will be paid after the successful completion of the STSM.

Applicants must be affiliated to an institution located in a COST country participating in this Action: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey. Researchers from approved institutions in Near Neighbour countries (National Academy of Sciences Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies, Armenia; Al Hussein Bin Talal University, Jordan; Al-Quds University, Palestinian Authority; Ibn Zohr University, Morocco) are also eligible to apply. According to COST regulations, STSMs are intended to facilitate scientists going to an institution or laboratory in another country; applicants from institutions in Iceland are therefore ineligible. The nationality of the researcher is not a bar to eligibility.

Applicants should send the following documents to David Finger, Reykjavik University (davidf@ru.is) by 6 March 2015:

- CV (max 2 pages, incl. computer skills)
- Letter of motivation
- List of publications

For informal enquiries contact David Finger (davidf@ru.is).