

The Participations Mediation Citizen Transition Chair at La Rochelle Université is recruiting a post-doc or research engineer on a one-year contract as part of the LIFE Maraisilience project

Employer description

In a higher education and research landscape that has been profoundly reshaped for more than a decade, **La Rochelle Université** has chosen to structure its research around a thematic by positioning its scientific and academic strengths on societal and environmental issues. This approach has led to the creation of a teaching and research institute called the LUDI Institute, SmUCS in English (Smart Urban Coastal sustainability), operational since the 1st September 2021.

Bringing together all the laboratories, all the PhD students and most of the institution's masters programmes. This institute aims to address the many scientific issues raised by the anthropisation of the coastal area by facilitating decompartmentalised and interdisciplinary approaches, based on a proactive policy of innovation and dissemination of results, without forgetting the fundamental principles of ethics and scientific integrity.

Website to consult: [click here](#).

The Participations, Mediation and Citizen Transition Chair, which grew out of the La Rochelle Territoire Zéro Carbone (LRTZC) project, brings together researchers and local players to discuss the issues of governance, consultation and citizenship in cities in transition.

It aims to build a research and action ecosystem that encourages exchanges between disciplines and between the academic world and the field. Its activities focus on the co-production of knowledge in line with the needs of its partners, the training of the target audiences and the exploitation of the knowledge produced.

Chair website: <https://chaire-participations.univ-lr.fr/>

Research context

The Marais Poitevin, the largest wetland on the Atlantic seaboard, is particularly affected by climate change. Against this backdrop, the Marais Poitevin Regional Nature Park, a joint association comprising three départements, two regions, 88 communes and 8 EPCIs, is coordinating a 4-year European LIFE project on Climate Information Governance. This LIFE project involves various local players: 6 EPCIs, the Syndicat Mixte du Bassin Versant de la Sèvre Niortaise and La Rochelle Université; and is based on two main themes:

- the creation of a climate observatory in the Marais Poitevin,
- developing new forms of governance to provide the region with a concerted climate adaptation strategy.

As part of the climate observatory, it is planned that data concerning the socio-economic and political context of the region will be centralised on an online platform, accessible and adapted for use by the general public. Surveys on the social representations of climate change will be carried out and analysed among the various stakeholders in the region, the results will be made available on the observatory platform.

Job description

The work of the post-doctoral researcher or research engineer will focus analysing the dynamics of the emergence and spread of citizen initiatives in the field of ecological transition.

The aim will be to compile an inventory of local initiatives by citizens' groups, associations and other players, for example in the social economy. The analysis will also look at the origins of citizens' initiatives, the profiles and career paths of those behind them, their motivations, and the dynamics of their emergence, dissemination and multiplication. It will also examine their relations with the public authorities, in order to grasp the many ways in which the ecological transition is being taken on board. **The aim is to gain a better understanding of the conditions under which these initiatives are institutionalised and their potential role in transforming local areas to meet the challenges of climate change.**

To meet the objectives of the position, the candidate will :

- In conjunction with the members of the Chair, develop survey protocol to explore the dynamics of the emergence and spread of citizen initiatives.
- Carry out survey of identified stakeholders (interviews, participation events, etc.).
- Monitor the study in partnership with the various project stakeholders
- Contribute to the drafting of summary reports for stakeholders
- Contribute to the academic use of the data and analyses produced

Skills required

- Doctorate in social sciences (political science, sociology, geography or related field).
- Excellent command of qualitative field methods (observation, semi-structured interviews, documentary analysis, etc.).
- Sound knowledge of environmental policies, socio-ecological issues and the dynamics and development of the voluntary sector. An interest in the sociology of rural areas would be a plus.
- Ability to analyse, summarise and popularise science.
- Autonomy, initiative and good interpersonal skills.
- Frequent travel throughout the Park is to be expected. A driving licence is required.

Type of recruitment

Category: A

Placement: Laboratoire Littoral Environnement et Sociétés - LIENSs UMR 7266

Recruitment: fixed-term contract. until the end of August 2026.

If the candidate obtained his/her doctorate less than three years ago, a postdoctoral contract may be offered. After 3 years, an equivalent contract will be offered.

Remuneration: €2569 gross/month, with reference to the A category salary scale, equivalent to a research engineer.

Recruitment open to anyone with a RQTH (Qualified Health and Disability certificate).

Benefits

- An office at La Rochelle University, a computer and all the usual office equipment will be provided.
- Contribution towards the cost of public transport between home and work in accordance with current legislation (75% of the urban transport season ticket, TER season ticket or TGV season ticket, up to a maximum of €101.75 per month).
- Mutual insurance contribution of €15/month
- Sustainable mobility package for the use a cycle/carpool on home-work journeys
- Collective catering on the university campus
- Teleworking possible for up to 2 days a week, depending on needs and organisation of the department
- Sport, leisure and culture for all employees

Contact for information on the recruitment procedure

Institut LUDI - Marie de Chalendar

Scientific Support and Coordination Department

marie.de_chalendar@univ-lr.fr

Contact for information on the position to be filled

- **Alice Mazeaud** : Maitresse de conférences en science politique (alice.mazeaud01*at*univ-lr.fr)
- **Gabriel Montrieux** : Maitre de conférences en science politique (gabriel.montrieux*at*univ-lr.fr)

How to apply?

Your application must include:

- cover letter
- detailed curriculum vitae
- copy of highest diploma

This application must be submitted via the dedicated application form available by [clicking here](#) (Job reference: RECH/LIENSs/25-04).

Please note: The post is located in a sector where scientific and technical potential is protected and therefore requires, in accordance with the regulations, that the arrival of the candidate recruited be authorised by the competent authority of the MESR

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS OR THOSE SENT BY E-MAIL WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Application deadline: 7 June 2025

Start date: from 1st September 2025