As a humanistic, sustainable and action-oriented university, Leuphana University of Lüneburg stands for innovation in education and science. Methodological diversity, interdisciplinary cooperation, transdisciplinary cooperation with practice and an overall dynamic development characterise its research profile in the core topics of education, culture, management/technology, sustainability and state. Its international study model with the Leuphana College, the Leuphana Graduate School and the Leuphana Professional School is unique in Germany and has won many awards.

The University is looking for a responsible, motivated and committed person for the Institute of Sustainability Governance, Research Group Governance and Sustainability as soon as possible.

**Doctoral researcher (m/f/d)**

**Governance and policy for sustainable land-use change**

within the EU Horizon 2020 project

PLUS-Change – Participatory land use strategy:
in line with biological diversity, with climate and social goals in a changing world

(salary group EG 13 TV-L)

75 % full-time equivalent for a limited period of 36 months.
Starting date: 01 October 2023.

**Project:** PLUS-Change is a collaborative research project funded by the European Union, involving 23 partner organizations. Led by the research institute CzechGlobe, we are working with 11 planning authorities and regional development agencies to provide robust evidence on and improve land-use decision-making for addressing climate change and biodiversity conservation. To do so, the project will (1) bridge across biodiversity and climate, recognising them as problems that share many of the same underlying drivers, and must be solved together; (2) bridge between individual behaviour changes of citizens and broader systems-wide changes in decision-making and policy at levels from local to national to EU; and (3) bridge between different areas of expertise to create a truly transdisciplinary project that includes social sciences, land use modelers and practitioners of land use planning. See https://sustainability-governance.net/2023/06/26/plus-change-new-eu-funded-project-on-governing-sustainable-land-use-and-open-phd-position/ for a primer.

**Location:** Leuphana University Lüneburg is a young university located in the Hamburg metropolitan region, focusing on sustainability, cultural and political science, education, management and entrepreneurship, and public affairs, and has repeatedly been awarded for innovation. The Research Group on Governance, Participation and Sustainability, led by Prof. Newig, is affiliated both with Leuphana’s School of Sustainability and with its Centre for the Study of Democracy. The multidisciplinary group of senior and early-career social scientists focuses on addressing complex governance challenges in the context of environmental and sustainability politics (https://sustainability-governance.net).

**Your tasks:**

- You will conduct a literature-based meta-analysis of case studies (case survey) to synthesize existing knowledge on the linkages between governance arrangements, laws, policies and land tenure, and land-use change in Europe on different spatial levels in the past 50 years.
- After rigorous coding of published qualitative case accounts, structured analytical methods (regression analysis, QCA) will be used to investigate how governance — in the sense of societal “steering” through policies and planning and administrative decision-making — has historically impacted land use change.
- We aim to identify what governance approaches and interventions (evidence-based? participatory? collaborative? scale-adapted? etc.) have worked in what contexts to achieve a more sustainable land-use.
- Building on these results, in-depth empirical research (interviews, document analysis) will be conducted in 12 local practice cases in various countries across Europe.
- You will collaborate intensively with local stakeholders and researchers, who are part of the PLUS-Change project.
We will develop a rich understanding of the historical development of land use, contentious land use issues and conflicts, and the role of policy, tenure and governance arrangements in shaping land use change.
To this end, you will contribute to developing a theoretically informed research protocol to be used by local practice case leads.
As well, you will collaborate widely across the project in different work packages on tasks related to land-use governance.

Your profile:
- We seek a candidate with an above-average Master or equivalent degree in Political Science, Human Geography, Sustainability Science or related discipline.
- We expect experience with and a strong interest in environmental policy and governance, and rigorous research design.
- Excellent written and spoken English is essential, and experience with both qualitative and quantitative social science research methods would be advantageous.
- Moreover, the successful candidate should have excellent communication and team working skills to communicate effectively with different researchers and practitioners across the project.

We offer:
- an inspiring working environment as part of the university community of researchers, teachers, students and staff in technology and administration,
- a workplace at one of the most beautiful university locations in Germany in a true campus university with an internationally acclaimed central building by Daniel Libeskind and the directly adjacent Wilschenbruch nature reserve,
- a high level of job security as part of the public service,
- an additional company pension scheme through the Versorgungsanstalt des Bundes und der Länder (VBL),
- flexible and family-friendly working hours within a flexitime framework from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.,
- flexible and family-friendly opportunities to alternate between presence work and mobile work,
- an extensive internal and external continuing education programme,
- a wide range of sporting activities sponsored by the university, which employees can take part in for one hour per week during working hours to promote their health,
- a university-sponsored catering service for lunch and dinner in the refectory,
- a public transport ticket sponsored by the university as a job ticket.

Your application:
For further information please contact Professor Dr. Jens Newig (newig@leuphana.de, Ph: +49 4131 677 1726; Web: http://www.leuphana.de/en/jens-newig; http://www.sustainability-governance.net/).

Leuphana University of Lüneburg promotes professional gender equality and heterogeneity among its members. Applications from people with severe disabilities will be given preferential consideration if they have the same qualifications. Please also note our data protection information for applicants.

We look forward to receiving your application (please without a photo). Please submit your application including a letter of motivation, full CV, a one-page PhD proposal (cumulative PhD), relevant certificates (incl. Abitur / high school diploma), and contact details for two references by 27 August 2023 digitally (summarised in a PDF file) or by post to:

Leuphana Universität Lüneburg
Human Resources and Legal Affairs / Application Management
Kennwort: PLUS Change
Universitätsallee 1
21335 Lüneburg
bewerbung@leuphana.de