

Postdoctoral position in forest vegetation ecology

We offer a full-time postdoctoral position (30-month contract; potentially starting in September 2024) in the field of vegetation ecology and forest management. The candidate will join the forest vegetation ecology team at the Faculty of Forestry, Technical University in Zvolen, Slovakia (<https://www.tuzvo.sk/en>).

Research topic: The research will be a part of the Interreg Hungary-Slovakia Programme funded project #OakAdapt (“Increasing the ecological sustainability of oak forests by close-to-nature forestry based on experimental research”). Within the project, novel management strategies will be developed based on scientific experiments and applied into real forest management. As a part of the project, our team will continue with a research experiment aiming to restore vegetation diversity and species composition of sub-continental oak forests using specific forest management treatments (more about the experiment here <https://eutrofyt.tuzvo.sk/>). Similar experiment, which is included into the #OakAdapt project is maintained by the Centre for Ecological Research in Hungary (<https://piliskiserlet.ecolres.hu/en>).

Job description: The work will be scientific, utilising all various data from research experiments, from computational (data handling and analysing) to publishing in scientific journals. Topics for research are various as many ecological parameters are measured and monitored in the experiment (please see <https://eutrofyt.tuzvo.sk/>), but the main focus will be on the effects of treatments on the vegetation changes. Potential hypotheses and questions to be addressed and which we consider as the most important are: i) did reduction of tree canopy drive thermophilization of vegetation due to the decrease of microclimate buffering and so-called nitrogen bomb due to the rapid decomposition of litter, ii) did fertilisation induce spread of nutrient-demanding plants or generalists, iii) did experimental treatments affect soil properties or plant traits, iv) how different taxonomic groups (plants, bryophytes, fungi, soil microbiota) responded to experimental interventions, v) could the applied treatments be considered as suitable for a nature conservation practice (i.e. whether vegetation recovered), etc.? The job position will also include a certain amount of fieldwork, mainly sampling on the experiment and potentially also resurveying of other permanent plots. Importantly, the cooperation with partners from Hungary and using data from their experiment in mutual studies is very likely.

Our team:

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and others	

Requirements:

- PhD in ecology, botany, forestry, biostatistics or related fields (but vegetation ecology is the most preferred)
- Experience with statistical analyses and programming in R software
- Experience with GIS
- Ability to write and publish peer-reviewed papers in international scientific journals

What we offer:

- The gross salary is 2,000 €/month (ca 1,500 €/month net). The average gross salary in Slovakia in the first quarter of 2024 was 1,447 €/month. Living costs are considerably lower than in the Western European countries.
- Accommodation at the student dormitory for 100€/month including various sport facilities
- Subsidised lunches at the university canteen
- 40 days of paid holiday/year
- Funds for travel and conferences or workshops
- Access to journals, databases, and comfortable office space

Applications:

To apply, please send an email with

- Motivation letter
- CV
- List of relevant publications

to Dr. Marek Kotrík (marek.kotrik/at/tuzvo.sk) before 25th August 2024.