



The Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies e.V. (IASS) is an international, interdisciplinary center of excellence located in Potsdam, Germany. The IASS is financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal State of Brandenburg and devoted to promoting science and research for global sustainability, particularly in the areas of climate change, the earth system and the development of new technologies and social pathways to sustainability. Further information about the IASS can be accessed under www.iass-potsdam.de/en

**Applications are sought for the position of a
Research Associate (100%) (m/f)**

Duration September 2018 – December 2018

Project: Exploring the nexus of decentralized renewable energy supply and digital technologies for productive use in Africa

Reference Number: MicroGrid-2018-01

The successful applicant will contribute to a short-term third party-funded project that focuses on developing a scoping study on the topic of decentralized renewable energy supply and digital technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa. The study will be based on a comprehensive review of literature and project reports as well as interviews with different actors of international development cooperation. The aim of the study is to explore the nexus of decentralized renewable energy systems, digital technologies and productive use in African countries and to develop hands-on recommendations for international development cooperation.

For this short-term assignment, we are looking for a skilled individual that has gained first expertise in the field of decentralized renewable energy systems (especially micro-grids) and policies, with a particular focus on African countries. He/she will work closely with the project team on Digitalization and Sustainability as well as international partners in fulfilling this task. Working experience in the field of small-scale renewable energy systems, in particular micro-grids, and/or digital technologies in development contexts is of advantage.

Tasks will include:

- Reviewing project reports and documents
- Conducting interviews with staff members of international development cooperation on the topic of decentralized energy systems, digital technologies and productive use in African countries
- Contributing to developing essential chapters of the scoping study, including recommendations
- Contributing to the organization and implementation of a workshop to present and discuss the results of the scoping study with partners and other stakeholders.



Qualifications:

- Bachelor's and Master's degrees or equivalent in social or political science, regional studies (in particular with focus on Africa), engineering (in particular with focus on decentralized renewable energy systems) or in other closely related subject areas. Applications from candidates with a minimum qualification at the Bachelor's level combined with relevant working experience may also be considered.
- Experience with qualitative research methodologies, in particular conducting expert interviews and analyzing their results
- Familiarity with decentralized renewable energy systems (especially micro-grids), digital technologies and general development contexts in African countries, practical working experience in these fields is an advantage
- A high degree of personal initiative and reliability
- Excellent spoken and written communication skills in English are required
- Ability to work independently and in an interdisciplinary team
- Competency in MS Office.

What we offer:

- The opportunity to work in a dynamic, multicultural, inter- and transdisciplinary research environment in the field of sustainability science in general, and development policy in particular;
- The opportunity to gain experience in science-based policy advice;
- Excellent contact with a range of national, European, and international organizations, research institutes, and think tanks;
- Remuneration in accordance with the German salary group TVöD (Bund).

The position is a full-time position (100%) available beginning in September 2018. The position is initially foreseen until 31 December 2018. The place of work is Potsdam, Germany.

IASS seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply. We encourage applicants of diverse backgrounds. Applications of disabled persons with equal qualifications will be regarded favorably.

If you are interested in this position, we look forward to receiving your application, including a letter of motivation, CV, and further references. Please submit your complete application, combined in a single PDF file no larger than 5 MB, **no later than 30.07.2018** to Mr. Firsching (Daniel.Firsching@iass-potsdam.de) using the Ref. No. given above. Please specify in your application how you became aware of the offered position at the IASS.

For further information and details on this position please contact Ms. Kerstin Fritzsche (Kerstin.Fritzsche@iass-potsdam.de; Tel.: +49 331 28822-417).