

## Exploring equitable urban climate adaptation governance

### Experience what it is like to be part of a research project in The Netherlands

Department: Sustainable Development

Research group: Environmental governance

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#### Project description

Not everyone experiences the effects of climate change in the same way. Some are more impacted than others. These vulnerable groups, such as for instance the elderly, the less educated and ethnic minority groups, are often overlooked in adaptation planning or not given enough attention. Focusing on equitable climate adaptation is crucial. First, protecting individuals from the impacts of climate change is an ethical responsibility for local governments. Second, focusing on the most vulnerable people can prevent situations where the overall vulnerability of a city increases because pockets of vulnerable population groups remain highly susceptible to extreme climate events. Third, inclusive adaptation governance can enhance social cohesion and trust in local governments, and result in more sustainable and legitimate adaptation solutions. Fourth, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable may prevent higher future costs of emergency responses, health care and social services following climate-related events.

The research assistant will be part of, and do important preparation work for, the project ENGAGED that studies the equity nexus of Governance, Adaptation Planning and Design for Urban Climate Resilience. ENGAGED aims to analyse existing governance challenges and practices to adaptation planning and to co-develop new, equitable and inclusive strategies and solutions to overcome these challenges together with key stakeholders in each case study city. The BMA will consist of conducting a comparative analysis of relevant policy documents in the three case study cities of Amsterdam, Utrecht and Capelle aan den IJssel, to explore how and to what extent the cities take account of vulnerable groups and how they consider equity (e.g. based on principles of distributive, procedural and recognitional justice) in dealing with these groups. If time allows, the research assistant can also help develop, organize and conduct multi-stakeholder workshops with policy makers, community leaders and representatives of vulnerable groups in each of the three municipalities to interpret, contextualize and validate the findings of the document analysis.

#### Job requirements

The assistant should demonstrate a keen interest in research, with the ability to conduct document analysis preferably through coding software such as NVivo or Atlas.ti. The assistant should have good communication skills. Although the supervisor is involved, the assistant should be able to work relatively independently. Dutch language is preferred given that ENGAGED is a research project conducted in the Netherlands with Dutch partners.