Post-doctoral position on socially responsible public procurement in the European Union
at the Technical University of Vienna (50% position for 12 months)

The research project ‘Labour governance in global production networks: Assessing labour standards in a new generation of public procurement legislation and trade agreements linked to market access into the European Union’ (LG-GPN), which is funded jointly by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and the German Research Fund (DFG) is seeking a postdoctoral researcher. The LG-GPN project, which involves researchers at the Technical University of Vienna, University of Vienna, and the Berlin Social Science Center, is a three-year research project (2019 to 2021) aimed at researching the impact of labour governance processes originating in the European Union (EU) on working conditions in the electronics and garments industry global production networks in Vietnam.

The project is undertaking an assessment and analysis of two forms of labour governance mechanisms tied to market access conditions into the EU. The first is labour provisions in the European Union-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter. The second is socially responsible public procurement or the inclusion of social criteria or labour conditions in purchasing contracts by public buyers in the EU member countries of Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Austria.

The postdoctoral position is focused on socially responsible public procurement and will work with the team of researchers conducting research (primary and secondary research), analyses, and co-authoring publications in academic journals.

The ideal candidate should have a PhD (or will be awarded a PhD by end 2020) in geography, development studies, sociology, political science, public policy, economics, political economy, business, or law. Knowledge of socially responsible or sustainable public procurement is a requirement. Knowledge on labour governance in global production networks and global value chains is desirable.

The position is available at 50% for a period of 12 months and is negotiable. The start date would be between October and November 2020. The position will be hosted in the Department of Public Finance and Infrastructure Policy at the Technical University of Vienna. Working remotely is possible.


To apply for the position, please submit a covering letter, CV, 2 publications, and a 500 to 1000 word description of your interest and research on socially responsible (or sustainable) public procurement.

Applications should be sent no later than 15 September 2020 to Leonhard.plank@tuwien.ac.at and gale.raj-reichert@wzb.eu.