



Master thesis:

Sustainable Water Finance



IEEM gGmbH
Institut für Umwelttechnik
und Management an der



Witten / Herdecke

Institute of Environmental
Engineering and Management at the
Witten / Herdecke University

Alfred-Herrhausen-Str. 44
58455 Witten, Germany

Tel.: +49 / (0)23 02 / 9 14 01 - 0

Fax: +49 / (0)23 02 / 9 14 01 - 11

Internet: www.uni-wh-ieem.de

E-Mail: mail@uni-wh-ieem.de

Who we are: The IEEM gGmbH – Institute of Environmental Engineering and Management at the Witten/Herdecke University integrates the academic fields of "technology" (engineering) and "economics" (management, finance) to form a transdisciplinary field of science for practical application. As independent institute, our projects are solely funded by public and private sponsors.

What we do: We focus on topics of water and sanitation, closely linked to applied environmental economics. The vast majority of our projects are international - located in the western industrial regions (Europe, Japan, USA), as well as in emerging and developing countries (Asia, Africa, East Europe). In close collaboration with small and medium sized enterprises onsite, IEEM is developing and implementing projects in the water sector, always including economic aspects and financing options.

What we offer: Master thesis (can be combined with internship for a minimum of 3 month).

Start date: As soon as possible.

Research Design: The Master thesis should include an empirical case study for the water sector in South Africa. The detailed research design will be developed together with the candidate. The thesis should be written in English.

Travel to project region: A travel to the project region and participation in workshops in Germany and South Africa will be sponsored for the candidate.

Topic: Sustainable Water Finance

Supplying water of adequate quality and in sufficient quantities is one of the major challenges facing modern society. Many people still do not have access to safe drinking water, because water resources are limited or polluted by domestic and industrial wastewater. Moreover, the water sector is challenged by population growth, rapid urbanisation, ageing infrastructure and climate change. In most countries, public authorities or state-owned organizations are responsible for the drinking water supply and wastewater treatment. However many utilities are trapped in a vicious spiral of weak finances, underspending on essential maintenance, declining service quality and resistance to pay more for a poor service. Many municipalities are in dire need of significant infrastructure investments and especially small and medium-sized service providers (the majority in decentralized water sectors) are struggling to access financing on their own merit. In this way financial institutions can play an important role in shaping a sustainable water sector. So far discussions of finance tend to be dominated by investment needs (for big projects), in spite of this it is equally important to provide money for recurring expenditure on administrative overheads, operations, maintenance, routine repairs and periodic replacements.

The main purpose of the thesis will be to evaluate how donor bank financing and public spending can be used in an optimal manner so as to leverage repayable finance from the market. Various forms of finance will need to be blended so as to achieve the optimal financing scheme that allows meeting key policy objectives such as increasing access and improving services.

What you have to bring:

- Candidate for master or similar graduate-level degree in business administration/ economics or related field;
- Specialisation in finance is a plus;
- Experience in the banking sector is a plus.

Application Requirements:

- Please submit CV and short motivation sheet (not to exceed one page) to mail@uni-wh-ieem.de.

More information can be requested from: kalinowski@uni-wh-ieem.de or by phone: 02302/ 9 14 01 -22.