

Ester Galende-Sánchez



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Education

- 2018 – 2019 **MSc Sustainability and Social Innovation**
HEC Paris | Paris, FRANCE
Thesis: Sustainable behaviour change: The role of civil society in the ecological transition. Case study of university students in France.
- 2014 – 2015 **6-month Erasmus exchange: Specialization in Political Science, Ecology and Strategy**
AgroParisTech | Paris, FRANCE
- 2011 – 2016 **BSc Forest Engineering, Natural Resources Management**
Universidad Politecnica de Madrid | Madrid, SPAIN
Thesis: Strategy to facilitate the implementation of the Payments for Hydrological Ecosystem Services in Lima (Peru) through a bottom-up stakeholder analysis.

Professional experience

- Jun 2019 – Present **Climate Policy Researcher**
Basque Centre for Climate change | Bilbao, SPAIN
- Jan 2019 – April 2019 **Sustainability Consultant - Access to Energy program**
Schneider Electric | Paris, FRANCE
The Access to Energy program combines investments in entrepreneurship, technological solutions and training to provide sustainable electricity to vulnerable communities around the world.
This 4-month mission was aimed at designing a distribution model for off-grid Solar Home Systems based on an inclusive network of social entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Led 12 interviews with different stakeholders in the solar market worldwide.
 - Conducted a market study and benchmarking of existing last mile distribution models of solar products.
 - Developed two different business plans with a 3-year projection for the distribution of Schneider's solar products in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Jan 2018 – Jun 2018 **Sustainability programme intern**
Global Action Plan | Dublin, IRELAND
GAP is an international network that facilitates behaviour change to promote environmental sustainability. My job involved the delivery of two educational programmes.
- Promoted the Water Explorer program via email and phone calls; achieved a 50% increase in participating schools.
 - Led 14 workshops on sustainable development for primary and secondary school students.
 - Identified key messages for social media content.
 - Collaborated in the elaboration of monthly and annual results reports.
 - Organized a national awards ceremony hosting over 100 students and teachers by coordinating the logistics, sourcing sponsors for the event, and managing a budget of €2,000.

Jan 2017 – Jun 2018 **Water Policy Researcher**
Freelance | Dublin, IRELAND

After finishing my thesis, and given its positive impact, I decided to expand and continue my research. The result of this research is a peer-reviewed scientific paper published in *World Water Policy*: <https://doi.org/10.1002/wwp2.12003>.

- Designed a stakeholder analysis methodology to assess the implementation of Payments for Hydrological Ecosystem Services in Peru.
- Presented this research at the 20th International River Symposium in Brisbane (Australia) in September 2017 and ran a successful crowdfunding campaign to cover part of the expenses.

Mar 2016 – Jul 2016 **Research assistant and consultant** (Thesis elaboration)
CONDESAN | Lima, PERU

Non-profit organisation focused on the sustainable development of the Andean Ecoregion.

- Conducted a stakeholder analysis of an environmental policy to implement a Payments for Hydrological Ecosystem Services scheme in Lima and the three basins that supply the city.
- Led 27 semistructured interviews with public and private stakeholders.
- Facilitated the coordination of the stakeholders and the creation of a multidisciplinary team to implement this policy in Lima; closely working with rural communities.
- Tackled the existing governance problems by developing a future management strategy for the basins of study.

Volunteer Experience

2003 – 2016 **Scout, Scout leader**
Grupo Scout San Pablo | Salamanca, SPAIN

- Organised and planned numerous activities, camps and social projects within a 20-people team.
- Managed social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Blogspot).
- Managed a €6000 annual budget.

2013 – 2015 **Volunteer**
ONGAWA | Madrid, Spain

Organized numerous activities on campus to raise awareness and mobilize the university community in social and international development issues.

Complimentary Education

2019 **Inclusive & Social Business Certificate.** HEC Paris.

2018 **Climate Action: Solutions for a Changing Planet.** SDG Academy (MOOC).
Transforming Development: The Science and Practice of Resilience Thinking. SDG Academy (MOOC).

2017 **Macroeconomics for a Sustainable Planet.** SDG Academy (MOOC).

2015 **International cooperation, Volunteering and Social Exclusion.** Course by UPM, UCM, ONGAWA and Solidarios para el Desarrollo.

2013 **Technology for human development.** Course by UPM and ONGAWA.

Languages

Spanish: Native, **English:** Bilingual (IELTS: 8.0), **French:** Fluent (DALF).

Personal interests

Travelling, surfing, photography, trekking, lyrical singing (took lessons for 10 years).