The Centre for Studies on Sustainable Development (Centre d’Etudes du Développement Durable - www.ulb.ac.be/igeat/cedd) is one of the research units of IGEAT. It is dedicated to research on the socio-political, juridical and economic evolutions within the realms of sustainable development policies. Amongst the fields of activities covered by its members are: analysis of the concept(ion)s of sustainable development including issue domains such as sustainable consumption patterns, participatory policy mechanisms, prospective studies; analysis of policy instruments and evaluation processes; analysis and production of states-of-the-environment, including environmental indicators; study of science-society interrelations, in particular in issues related to energy use and climate change; and, the generic interrelations between economics and environmental policy.

We are looking to strengthen our interdisciplinary team of researchers. Your research activities will be closely related to a European research project, financed by the European Commission (DG Research) under its 7th Framework Programme, which is collaboratively accomplished by a European consortium of a number of research centres. The research project (POINT – POlicy INfluence of indicaTors) engages to investigate the influences and impacts of environmental (e.g. Ecological Footprint) and sustainable development (e.g. Human Development Index) indicators on European decision-actors (including, policy-makers, administrations, medias, stakeholders…) and their policies.

Your tasks within the project:
- Participating to the configuration of an original analytical framework to comprehend the influence of indicators onto decision-making, on the basis of an extensive collaborative literature review.
- Analysing the specific impacts of composite indicators as well as indexes (in the realm of environmental and sustainable development policy-making) on the basis of an extensive series of interviews with policy-actors and a document analysis.
- Co-organising several working seminars within the research consortium, as well as a final international dissemination workshop/conference.
- Participating actively to the dissemination and validation of research results within the scientific community (i.e. produce publications and participate to international conferences).
- Contributing to the identification of additional research opportunities and funding schemes.

Your profile:
- A strong university diploma (Master-level or higher), preferentially in social sciences (i.e. political sciences, sociology, economics…). A specialisation in Environmental Management and/or Policy is considered a value added.
- A personal drive towards applied interdisciplinary research questions in the wider domain of environmental policy. A preceding experience in a research project is a value added.
- Knowledge of European environmental policies, possibly with an insight into their use of references to indicators.
- A capacity to conduct research, interact with colleagues and produce outputs in English. Active knowledge of French (at the level of a working language) and passive comprehension of Dutch is considered a value added.
- Experience to work autonomously towards committed deadlines.

We offer you the inclusion into our dynamic research team, flexible and human working conditions, a considerable research autonomy also to develop and pursue your personal research agenda, and thus to integrate durably our research unit. Employment is based on a full-time (negotiable) contract for 24 months. Our offices are located in the centre of Brussels at the Solbosch Campus (avenue FD Roosevelt).

Method of application
Any further information on the position or the research project can be obtained through Tom Bauler (tbauler@ulb.ac.be / +32.2.650.49.24). To apply, send an extensive curriculum vita, a cover letter stating your motivation, and (if applicable) any document stating your prior expertise in the research domain (e.g. publication, Master/PhD-thesis) to tbauler@ulb.ac.be before 10th September 2008.