PostDoc Job Opportunity

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY	First Name	Last Name	email	Institute	Address
PI name & contact details:	Donal	O'Mathuna	donal.omathuna@dcu.ie	DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY	Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Ireland.
School:	Nursing and Human Sciences				
Research Centre / group affiliation:					
Research group / centre website:	http://disasterbioethics.eu/				

Brief summary of research group / centre activity:
The PI is the Chair of COST Action IS1201: Disaster Bioethics. This consortium involves 28 participating COST countries (www.cost.eu), and collaborators from other countries outside COST. The group examines ethical issues in disaster planning and remediation, and disaster research. Joint projects are developing ethics training materials and guidelines for disasters.

Description of postdoctoral project on offer:
This project will examine the ethical and social implications of technology for use in the prevention and remediation of natural disasters. Research into these issues is increasingly seen as vital to the successful development and use of many types of technology. Without such research, technological innovation may not receive the ethical approval or social acceptance required for successful implementation. In the healthcare field, Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is increasingly seen as important in research and development. This project will adapt and apply the principles of HTA to the technology used in the prevention and remediation of natural disasters. HTA systematically evaluates the scientific, ethical and social aspects and effects of technology, exploring both direct and intended effects, as well as indirect and unintended consequences. It does so, according to the European network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA), "in a systematic, transparent, unbiased, robust manner" (http://www.eunethta.eu/about-us/faq). While aiming to inform policies that protect individuals and the public, EUnetHTA elaborates that "HTA must always be firmly rooted in research and the scientific method." Such an approach needs to be applied to technology that will be used with natural disasters because of its potential to have large-scale impact on individuals and societies. This postdoctoral project will adapt the methods of HTA to these technologies, with a particular focus on the ethical and social implications of these technologies. The outputs will be a systematic assessment of these technologies with policy recommendations for users and regulators of such technology. In addition, an innovative adaptation and application of HTA research methods will be developed to demonstrate how such methods can be applied to an emerging and globally significant area of technology development.

Please indicate the core skills or disciplines that are required for this position:
Training in bioethics and the methods of ethical decision-making is essential for this position. Awareness of, or experience with, the technology used or being developed for use in natural disasters would be highly desirable. Knowledge of the principles of health technology assessment, or related methods, would be beneficial.