



## **Eleni Yeshaneh Ayehu**

### **Home Country**

**Ethiopia**

### **Degree**

**PhD in Engineering Sciences**

### **Expertise**

**Civil and Environmental  
Engineering**

### **Research Focus**

**Impacts of land use changes on  
runoff and sediment transport**

### **Host University**

**Vienna Technology  
University, Austria**

### **Fellowship Awarded**

**2010**

Eleni Yeshaneh was born and raised in Debre Markos, a small town in northern Ethiopia. She comes from a large family, with five brothers and five sisters. Before he retired her father was a high school English teacher and she feels thankful that her parents encouraged and supported the educational aspirations of all their children. Eleni has two children. In her spare time Eleni enjoys hiking, reading novels, watching movies and cooking.

After earning her BSc in geology at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, Eleni began studying at the International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences in the Netherlands, where she graduated in 2001 with her MSc in geoinformation science and earth observation specializing in environmental systems analysis and management.

She then began working in consultancy enterprises and UN agencies before joining Addis Ababa University in 2003 as a lecturer.

In 2010 Eleni enrolled at Vienna Technology University in Austria, where she is studying for her PhD in water resources systems. The aim of her research is to assess the impacts of land use changes on runoff and sediment transport in a watershed in Northwestern Ethiopia. She believes the results of her research will enable policymakers to formulate appropriate management strategies for conservation of natural resources.

When she graduates from Vienna Technology University Eleni intends to return to Ethiopia and resume teaching at Addis Ababa University.