Vacancy for ICT and GIS Support Officer
Secretariat of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

JOB DESCRIPTION

Start date: As soon as possible

Duration: Initial contract for 24 months, with continuation subject to performance and renewal of external funding

Working hours: Full time

Employer: Seascape Belgium

Location: EMODnet Secretariat Office, InnovOcean campus, 8400 Oostende, Belgium

Outline:

The Secretariat of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), provided by Seascape Belgium, seeks to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated ICT support officer with knowledge of geospatial data handling. In this role, (s)he will strengthen the EMODnet Secretariat in supporting the delivery of the EMODnet marine data services, working in partnership with experts across Europe to improve the availability and accessibility of marine data for all. The incumbent will work at the EMODnet Secretariat in Oostende under the guidance of the EMODnet Technical Coordinator. The position will also involve interaction with other data initiatives and projects in Europe and beyond. The successful candidate will have first-hand experience with relevant ICT tools, data infrastructures and platforms. Good understanding of geospatial data formats, web standards and software is required.

About EMODnet

EMODnet is a long-term marine data initiative from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) providing a fully operational EU in-situ marine data service. The network is comprised of a consortium of more than 120 organisations assembling European marine data, data products and metadata from diverse sources. The main purpose of EMODnet is to unlock fragmented and hidden marine data resources, make these data widely available and to facilitate investment in sustainable coastal and offshore activities through improved access to quality-assured, standardised and interoperable marine data that are free of restrictions on use. Currently, EMODnet entails seven sub-portals providing access to marine data and products covering bathymetry, geology, physics, chemistry, biology, seabed habitats and human activities, and a Data Ingestion portal. All of these will be integrated into the EMODnet Central Portal from end 2022 onwards, where you can find more information (https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/en) as well as on the Maritime Forum (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/). The EMODnet community is supported by a dedicated Secretariat, based in Ostend, Belgium (https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/en/emodnet-secretariat). Since September 2017, the EMODnet Secretariat also oversees the maintenance and further development of the European Atlas of the Seas (https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/atlas_en) which is powered by EMODnet and other key EU initiatives and bodies.

About Seascape Belgium

Seascape Belgium is an independent spin-out from Seascape Consultants Ltd, an environmental consultancy specialised in the provision of high-level advice to the marine sector, including industry, policymakers, NGOs and regulatory bodies. Our expertise includes marine and environmental project management, stakeholder consultation and engagement, promotion of ocean literacy and the management of marine data and information. We work alongside leading scientists around the world, and are partners in a number of major European research programmes addressing marine issues. For a full overview of the project portfolio and activities, please visit our website at www.seascapebelgium.be.

Duties and main responsibilities (under guidance of the EMODnet Technical Coordinator):

- Contribute to the maintenance of the EMODnet Central Portal content;
- Support the technical development of the EMODnet Central Portal e.g., centralisation of services;
- Audit data services hosted on the EMODnet Central Portal;
- Contribute technical input to project proposals and EMODnet and related project progress reports;
- Support the technical coordination of the European Atlas of the Seas;
- Assist in the maintenance and development of online GIS portals, including data/metadata preparation;
- Contribute to the EMODnet Secretariat's technical tasks in related projects, in particular supporting the assessment of and streamlining the data flow from research projects and national data repositories to users of EMODnet and working with data system managers to ensure application of common standards and formats to ensure proper integration and improved interoperability between existing systems;
- Work with other members of the EMODnet Secretariat and Seascape Belgium in contributing to reports and deliverables and ensure your line manager and team members are regularly informed of progress, achievements and any emerging issues;
- Travel to meetings elsewhere in Europe may be required from time to time.

Profile and competences required:

- Master's degree or equivalent through experience in an ICT or other relevant area;
- Sound knowledge of GIS or equivalent through experience;
- At least two years of experience working in a web development or practical GIS;
- Familiarity of exchange standards such as XML, JSON, architecture and implementation of APIs (more specifically RESTful APIs) and programming languages such as PHP, Python, JavaScript would be an advantage;
- Knowledge of advanced ICT terminology, tools and data management software, including geospatial data formats (Geotiff, ESRI Shapefile, netCDF, etc.), web standards (OGC, INSPIRE, ISO19115/19139 etc.) and software (e.g. QGIS, ESRI ArcGIS, GDAL, PostGIS, GeoServer, GeoNetwork, GeoNode, Openlayers, Leaflet, GeoExt, etc.);
- Sound working knowledge of website content management systems (preferably Drupal) and project management systems (Confluence and Jira) would be an advantage as would be knowledge of marine data processing tools;
- Excellent standard of spoken and written English (working language). Knowledge of the local language (Dutch) would be an advantage as well as any other European language;
- Strong work ethic for working transparently with open communication and ability to work both individually and as a team player;
- Ability to report progress and issues in an effective manner internally and externally at (technical) expert group meetings;
- Excellent organisational skills with capacity to multitask, to deliver on allocated tasks and to meet deadlines in pressurised situations;
- Be able to build successful and productive relationships with stakeholders, user groups and other project team members.

Salary: this post commands an attractive remuneration package commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

Application procedure: written applications comprising a cover letter and CV should be submitted via email to recruitment@seascapebelgium.be. The deadline for applications is 08/07/2022. Interviews will take place from 14 and 15/07/2022.

For more information about EMODnet and this position contact:

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