



VACANCY NOTICE FOR A POST OF SECONDED NATIONAL EXPERT

DG – Directorate – Unit	RTD – Research & Innovation Dir B – Healthy Planet Unit B4.001 – Ocean, Seas and Waters
Post number in sysper:	451997
Contact person: Provisional starting date: Initial duration: Place of secondment:	Elisabetta Balzi First quarter 2025 2 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brussels <input type="checkbox"/> Luxemburg <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Click or tap here to enter text.
Type of secondment	<input checked="" type="radio"/> With allowances <input type="radio"/> Cost-free
This vacancy notice is open to: <input checked="" type="radio"/> EU Member States as well as <input type="checkbox"/> The following EFTA countries: <input type="checkbox"/> Iceland <input type="checkbox"/> Liechtenstein <input type="checkbox"/> Norway <input type="checkbox"/> Switzerland <input type="checkbox"/> The following third countries: <input type="checkbox"/> The following intergovernmental organisations: ... <input type="radio"/> EFTA-EEA In-Kind agreement (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway)	
Deadline for applications	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2 months <input type="radio"/> 1 month 25/02/2025

Entity Presentation (We are)

The Ocean, Seas and Waters Unit. We contribute to the European Green Deal supporting the transition to a Healthy Planet and particularly to healthy Ocean, Seas and Inland Waters systems, which are climate neutral by 2050, and operating within safe planetary boundaries.

The Unit contributes to the regeneration and restoration of the Ocean and to the effective and integrated freshwater management in European and international river basins, through sustainable and resilient water systems, and promotes an impactful and sustainable use of the full value chains of marine and aquatic resources, for full benefit and well-being of European citizens.

The Unit designs and deploys a systems' approach to the nexus of ocean-climate, ocean-food, ocean-weather and ocean-land and water-energy-food ecosystems, and focus on marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity.

The Unit leads, steers, identifies and pilots systemic solutions by design to the planetary boundaries: a) loss of biodiversity b) climate change and c) ocean and water degradation, by directing international cooperation across different sea basins, particularly the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Black Sea, Baltic and North Sea, and the Arctic region, with focus on ocean and inland water (hydrosphere) observing and digital knowledge systems, regeneration, reduction of pollution, water security and coastal resilience.

The Unit co-leads the Horizon Europe Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030' and contribute to the other Missions. The Unit also leads on the Horizon Europe Partnership for a Sustainable Blue Economy and Water Security for the Planet as well as the amended PRIMA (Partnership for R&I in the Mediterranean Area), contributes to all other relevant partnerships, and ensures European leadership for implementing multilateral and bilateral international networks, in particular the All-Atlantic Ocean R&I Alliance (AAORIA) linking communities, researchers and innovators around the Atlantic from Arctic to Antarctica. The Unit also acts as interface for the R&I related parts of UN related initiatives, such as the UN Decade of Ocean Science and UN Water Action Decade.

Based on foresight, knowledge, data and portfolio analyses, the Unit aims to achieve more impactful R&I programs, evidence-based policies and systemic solutions combining technological, business, governance and social innovations. The activities will be achieved through a transdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach and in partnership with several DGs, as well as with EU Member States and international partners.

Job Presentation (We propose)

The successful candidate will contribute to the overall mission of the Unit 'Ocean, Seas and Waters', in particular by contributing to EU research and innovation policy development and program implementation related to marine and maritime sectors, so as to contribute to relevant EU policies the Integrated Maritime Policy and a just and inclusive transition to a climate-neutral, resilient and sustainable blue economy working in cooperation with the EU Member States, regions and international stakeholder in line with EU sea basin strategies.

The SNE will work under the supervision of an administrator. Without prejudice to the principle of loyal cooperation between the national/regional and European administrations, the SNE will not work on individual cases with implications with files he/she would have had to deal with in his/her national administration in the two years preceding its entry into the Commission, or directly adjacent cases. In no case he/she shall represent the Commission in order to make commitments, financial or otherwise, or to negotiate on behalf of the Commission.

Jobholder Profile (We look for)

We look for an experienced, friendly, open and motivated colleague with excellent understanding of marine policy implementation, science performance and programming issues, including for European co-funded partnerships for international research and innovation co-operation, acquired through relevant experience in research, research programming or work in marine and maritime affairs.

In particular, the applicant should have:

- Sound knowledge and hands on experience in the marine and maritime and /or freshwater research and innovation policy and programs, in particular on the transition to a climate-neutral, resilient and sustainable blue economy working in cooperation with the EU Member States and on specific sea basin strategies.
- Expertise in policy development, policy coordination and analysis linked to Ocean, Seas and Waters and their interface with climate change.
- Knowledge of EU policy making and experience in working closely with Member States / Regions, European and International Stakeholders.
- Efficient organisation and stakeholder communication skills
- A solution-driven mind-set with capability of developing conceptual reflections and synthesising large amounts of information into strategic programming and policy analysis and planning of research and innovation actions.
- Ability in producing concise and high-quality outputs.
- Excellent spoken and written English, plus a good level of French;

Eligibility criteria

The secondment will be governed by the **Commission Decision C(2008) 6866** of 12/11/2008 laying down rules on the secondment to the Commission of national experts and national experts in professional training (SNE Decision).

Under the terms of the SNE Decision, you need to comply with the following eligibility criteria at **the starting date** of the secondment:

- Professional experience: at least three years of professional experience in administrative, legal, scientific, technical, advisory or supervisory functions which are equivalent to those of function group AD.
- Seniority: having worked for at least one full year (12 months) with your current employer on a permanent or contract basis.
- Employer: must be a national, regional or local administration or an intergovernmental public organisation (IGO); exceptionally and following a specific derogation, the Commission may accept applications where your employer is a public sector body (e.g., an agency or regulatory institute), university or independent research institute.
- Linguistic skills: thorough knowledge of one of the EU languages and a satisfactory knowledge of another EU language to the extent necessary for the performance of the duties. If you come from a third country, you must produce evidence of a thorough knowledge of the EU language necessary for the performance of his duties.

Conditions of secondment

During the full duration of your secondment, you must remain employed and remunerated by your employer and covered by your (national) social security system.

You shall exercise your duties within the Commission under the conditions as set out by aforementioned SNE Decision and be subject to the rules on confidentiality, loyalty and absence of conflict of interest as defined therein.

In case the position is published with allowances, these can only be granted when you fulfil the conditions provided for in Article 17 of the SNE decision.

Staff posted in a European Union Delegation are required to have a security clearance (up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET level according to [Commission Decision \(EU, Euratom\) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015](#)). It is up to you to launch the vetting procedure before getting the secondment confirmation.

Submission of applications and selection procedure

If you are interested, please follow the instructions given by your employer on how to apply.

The European Commission **only accepts applications which have been submitted through the Permanent Representation / Diplomatic Mission to the EU of your country, the EFTA Secretariat or through the channel(s) it has specifically agreed to.**

Applications received directly from you or your employer will not be taken into consideration.

You should draft your CV in English, French or German using the **Europass CV format** ([Create your Europass CV | Europass](#)). It must mention your nationality.

Please do not add any other documents (such as copy of passport, copy of degrees or certificate of professional experience, etc.). If necessary, these will be requested at a later stage.

Processing of personal data

The Commission will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾. This applies in particular to the confidentiality and security of such data. Before applying, please read the attached privacy statement.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39)