

Job description

Knowledge Exchange Officer

Secretariat of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Start date: As soon as possible

Type of contract: Long term contract with initial period of 24 months

Working hours: Full time

Employer: Seascope Belgium

Location: EMODnet Secretariat Office, InnovOcean site, Wandelaarkaai 7, 8400 Oostende, Belgium

Outline:

Seascope Belgium, providing the Secretariat of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), seeks to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated Knowledge Exchange Officer to strengthen its professional and dynamic EMODnet Secretariat team.

The successful candidate will be familiar with the European marine science landscape, be experienced with project delivery and have sound skills in science communication and stakeholder engagement practices. The post holder will primarily be responsible for the Secretariat's tasks in managing the knowledge exchange between the network's partners and for implementing its external dissemination and outreach strategy with support from other team members and Secretariat partner Trust-IT. He/she will also assist the partner organisations with their tasks towards the development of a more efficient, effective and fit for purpose EMODnet that is better known and more widely used. The work will focus on increasing the visibility of EMODnet to promote the uptake of its resources and to obtain buy-in from partners, providers, users and stakeholders. Regular interaction with our Europe-wide network of experts and a broad range of marine data users will be a key part of the role. As appropriate, the incumbent will also provide support to other relevant projects and initiatives. The work will also involve interactions with other key marine data initiatives, projects and networks in Europe.

EMODnet

EMODnet is a long-term marine data initiative from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) underpinning its Marine Knowledge 2020 strategy. EMODnet comprises a consortium of more than 150 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 comprises seven sub-portals that provide access to marine data covering bathymetry, geology, physics, chemistry, biology, seabed habitats and human activities. More information can be found on the EMODnet central portal (www.emodnet.eu) and Maritime Forum (<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/>). The EMODnet community is supported by a dedicated Secretariat, based in Ostend, Belgium.

In recent years, EMODnet has seen a huge increase in the amount of data being made available and great improvements in the usefulness of that data via EMODnet products and services. At the onset of its third development phase (2017-2020), EMODnet is now comprehensive and mature enough to provide real value for industry and the public sector, including Member States. It is therefore essential to increase communication and dissemination efforts to encourage new users to find out how they can exploit this immense resource, be it by improving their productivity, saving costs and time spent in collecting or

assembling data that has been collected already, reducing uncertainty of our knowledge of the behaviour of the sea, or by creating innovative applications and new value-added services. A particular sector where uptake could be significantly improved is use by businesses. This will therefore be one of the priorities for the EMODnet Secretariat in the coming years.

Seascope Belgium

Seascope Belgium is the Belgian node of Seascope 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 strategic environmental assessment, stakeholder consultation and engagement, ocean governance 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.seascopeconsultants.co.uk.

Main responsibilities:

- Work closely with other members of the EMODnet Secretariat and Secretariat partner Trust-IT to update, elaborate, manage and implement the EMODnet Communication and Outreach Strategy.
- Support EMODnet partners and projects with their own dissemination, communication and stakeholder engagement activities and ensure these are aligned with EMODnet overall guidelines.
- Identify and create opportunities to increase the take-up of EMODnet services by its target audiences, acting on insight from research and evaluation as well as professional experience.
- Manage and enhance the current EMODnet partnership (currently about 150 partners) and attract new EMODnet associated partners. Ensure that EMODnet partners are kept informed about policy and technical developments, the activities of projects they are not involved in, as well as key achievements of the network as a whole. Act as central contact point for partners for information related to internal and external developments.
- Develop and manage external interactions, including the identification and mapping of stakeholders as well as developing events, publicity and media outreach initiatives.
- Collect feedback from users to inform the EMODnet Secretariat team and partners about their user experiences and priorities, through panels, questionnaires and other involvement activities.
- Develop and coordinate promotion activities related to the European Atlas of the Seas (http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/atlas/maritime_atlas), to significantly increase its visibility and use, where possible in synergy with EMODnet promotion efforts.

Other duties and tasks:

- Provide support and feedback to other EMODnet Secretariat team members' activities related to e.g. monitoring progress, technical assessment of the EMODnet data portals and development of the European Atlas of the Seas.
- Contribute to pan-European technical studies on data requirements, e.g. for the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework and Marine Spatial Planning Directives.
- Assist with the identification and analysis of potentially relevant data/products and metadata hosted in portals and repositories for development of tailor-made transferable products.
- Assist the Head of the EMODnet Secretariat in executing core activities of the Secretariat in support of the EMODnet community, including production of high-quality documents, minutes and reports.
- Ensure that project team members are regularly informed of progress, achievements and any emerging issues, and contribute to the organisation of internal events and activities, reports and deliverables.
- Maintain an up-to-date awareness of relevant scientific and research infrastructure developments related to marine data management.
- Attend key events and meetings across Europe, including with the European Commission, presenting EMODnet activities as required and representing the EMODnet Secretariat.

Profile and competences required:

The successful candidate is expected to have the following qualifications and competences:

- Postgraduate qualification in a relevant discipline at Masters level or higher, preferably with a specialisation in marine or environmental science or ICT-related domain.
- At least three years of experience in delivering activities and outputs against project-based objectives, ideally dealing with marine data, observations and or data products.
- Practical knowledge of science communication platforms and practices including online dissemination tools, scientific journals, general media and social networking. Experience with digital communication products and managing communications channels, including but not limited to digital, print and events, matching each channel with specific audiences and expected outcome.
- Excellent standard of spoken and written English; knowledge of other European languages would be an advantage. Able to report progress and issues in an effective manner and ability to draft concise and clear documents and reports without supervision.
- Strong interpersonal skills with ability to work in a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary network, applying a transparent and team-oriented work ethic. Ability to build sustained and productive relationships with stakeholders, user groups and other project team members.
- Good organisational skills with capacity to multitask, to deliver on allocated tasks and to meet deadlines in pressurised situations.
- Understanding of and an interest in promoting the Open Data Sharing culture in which EMODnet operates and willingness to adapt to the Networks' specificities.
- Good working knowledge of MS Office packages and relevant online data and information management systems; knowledge of marine data processing tools and/or GIS software would be an advantage.
- Knowledge of the European marine science landscape and an understanding of the technical and/or scientific aspects of marine data management and needs of key data user communities would be a clear advantage.

Salary:

This post commands an attractive remuneration package in line with Belgian conditions. Salary will be 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 Jan-Bart Calewaert (janbart.calewaert@emodnet.eu). Closing date for applications is 9 October 2017. It is anticipated that interviews for shortlisted candidates will be scheduled for 16 and 17 October.

For more information contact:

Jan-Bart Calewaert

Head, EMODnet Secretariat

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