VACANCY NOTICE – 2026-JRC.D.2-IPR-FGIV-002525

Project Officer - Water Management Specialist - AI and Remote Sensing

Type of contract	Member of the European Commission's contract staff, Function Group IV (article 3b of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants)
Duration of contract	36 months (renewable up to maximum 6 years)
Area	*Water Management, Remote Sensing and Artificial Intelligence*
Place of employment	Ispra (IT)
Indicative basic salary	4.449,31 - 6.444,59 € (applicable as of 1st of July 2025) For more detailed information please consult: Working Conditions

WE ARE

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society.

The vacancy is within the **Unit Ocean and Water** of the **Directorate for Sustainable Resources**.

The Directorate provides independent scientific evidence to support the development, implementation, evaluation and coherence of EU policies, mainly in the areas of agriculture and rural development, international development cooperation, environment and climate change, blue growth and fisheries, the bioeconomy, industry and trade.

The Ocean and Water Unit's mission is to support EU policies underpinning freshwater and marine governance with independent best available scientific and technical advice by carrying out multi-disciplinary research and socio-economic assessments linked to the European and global hydrosphere, and by providing innovative solutions to enable the sustainable and fair use of water and marine resources in the complex context of climate change, planetary health, a growing global population, sustainable food systems, urbanisation, pollution, over-exploitation and the loss of biodiversity.

We are looking for a Scientific Officer to join our team working on the Waters project, which aims to enhance water and climate resilience in Europe by adopting a comprehensive approach to managing the entire water cycle from source to sea.

As a Scientific officer, you will contribute to the quantitative analysis of policy options that improve the EU's ability to withstand and recover from water extremes and water scarcity induced by climate change and competing human activities. You will have the opportunity to develop your expertise, contribute to meaningful projects and join a collaborative, inclusive team committed to sustainability.

You will collaborate with EU bodies, providing scientific analysis and technical expertise to inform water-related policies across the European Union. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to initiate, contribute to, and lead research in areas crucial to the ongoing transformation of the EU's water management sector.

We offer

- A unique opportunity to be part of a dynamic, multidisciplinary and multi-cultural team, tackling the critical issue of water resilience.
- Hands-on experience in shaping and implementing impactful EU policies, driving real change in the area of water resilience.
- Collaboration with a broad network of academics and policymakers and participation in meetings, conferences and workshops that advance research on cutting-edge technologies.
- The opportunity to contribute to high-impact projects and collaborate with leading experts in the field.
- A chance to be at the forefront of innovation, experimenting with new approaches and solutions.

Please see also Working at the Commission – conditions and environment (europa.eu)

WE PROPOSE

An exciting position for a highly motivated scientist to reinforce JRC support to the EU water resilience strategy and related policies (e.g. the Water Framework Directive). As a key member of the team, the job holder will develop innovative computer tools and models for sustainable water management, leveraging artificial intelligence (AI), remote sensing and other cutting-edge technologies. The primary objective will be to investigate new methodologies that integrate diverse multidisciplinary data and approaches enabling trade-off analysis and informed decision making. Harnessing the power of these technologies, will help enhance our understanding of the EU's water balance and contribute to the development of effective strategies and solutions for sustainable water management and water spatial planning. Moreover, this activity will help moving towards enhanced policy cohesion and reduce the reporting burden of the Member States.

Key responsibilities will be:

- Conduct in-depth research on water management options, including managed aquifer recharge, desalination, water reuse, and nature-based solutions.
- Develop and apply analytical models to support water spatial planning and refine water balances at regional and local scales.
- Stay up to date with the latest developments in AI, machine learning, remote sensing and data analysis, and apply this knowledge to improve the JRC's work on water management.
- Collaborate with EU Directorates General and other stakeholders to design and implement policies promoting water resilience and climate change adaptation and to identify pathways towards enhanced policy cohesion, while reducing Member State reporting burden.
- Prepare (contribute to) reports, oral presentations, data portals/dashboards and publications in peer-reviewed journals to disseminate results.

WE LOOK FOR

We are looking for a candidate with the following skills and experience, considered **essential**:

- A University degree in a relevant scientific or engineering field (hydrology, environmental science, computer science), with a minimum of 5 years of relevant experience, or a PhD in the field.
- A strong interest in water management issues 'from source to sea', and a passion for applying scientific knowledge to real-world problems and to support governance and policy.
- Proficiency in programming languages such as Python, R or other similar tools, with experience in handling earth observation and spatial data, and applying machine learning tools and AI development frameworks.
- Excellent analytical skills with the ability to collect, analyse, and interpret complex data.
- Familiarity with applied statistical methods and data handling, with experience in working with large datasets and performing data analysis.
- Proven skills in writing scientific publications and communicating to scientific and non-scientific audiences as well as the general public.
- Very good written and spoken English skills (B2), with the ability to write clear and concise technical and policy reports.

The following additional qualifications would be an **asset**:

- Experience in water modelling, with a strong understanding of hydrological processes and modelling techniques.
- Knowledge of EU water policies, with an understanding of the regulatory framework and policy initiatives related to water management.

Candidates will also be assessed against the following **soft skills**:

- Commitment, motivation and proactivity in project execution, with a strong work ethic and ability to deliver results.
- Ability to work independently, as well as collaboratively as a part of a team, with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are **already on a valid CAST FG IV reserve list**, or you **have already applied to one of the calls below**, you can directly submit your application at JRC Recruitment Portal.

If not, before applying to this position, **you must register** for one of the two following databases:

- the Call for Expressions of Interest | EU Careers (europa.eu) (CAST Permanent FG IV), which is used by a wide range of organisations (institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the European Union), or
- the specialised call for researchers (JRC Call COM/1/2015/GFIV – Research), which is mainly used by the JRC.

Note that each of the calls above has **different minimum eligibility requirements and different selection tests**.

The JRC cultivates a workplace based on respect for other people and the environment, and embraces non-discriminatory practices and equality of opportunity. In case of equal merit, preference will be given to the gender in minority.