



VACANCY NOTICE – 2026-JRC.D.2-IPR-FGIV-002575

Project Officer – Environmental objectives supporting European water resilience

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	Scientific support for EU water policies
Place of employment	Ispra (IT)
Indicative basic salary	4.449,31 - 6.444,59 € (applicable as of 1 st 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 current vacancy is within the **Unit Ocean and Water** of the **Directorate for Sustainable Resources**.

The Directorate science, positioned at the crossroads of the environment, economy and society, coupled with scientific networks across the EU and beyond, informs policies to ensure that present and future generations enjoy a sustainable planet.

The Ocean and Water Unit's cross-disciplinary science provides independent evidence to support EU policies that underpin freshwater and ocean governance, aligned with the European Water Resilience Strategy and European Ocean Pact. We develop innovative solutions and support Member States in enabling a sustainable and competitive future for water and marine resources in the context of the triple crises of climate change, pollution and biodiversity decline.

The purpose is to address scientific challenges linked to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive and other related EU legislation underpinning water governance with a focus on hydromorphological pressures and their ecosystem effects.

We offer a unique opportunity to be part of a dynamic, multidisciplinary, and multi-cultural team, tackling the European and global water crisis. The assignment comes along with hands-on experience in scientifically advise the shaping and implementing impactful EU policies, driving real change in the area of water resilience.

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

WE PROPOSE

We offer a position as a scientific project officer to provide scientific support to the development and harmonisation of the environmental objectives for EU water policies addressing priorities under the remit of the European Water Resilience Strategy.

The focus will be on hydromorphological pressures and their impact on rivers and lakes in a changing climate; this includes topics such as ecological flows, assessment of temporary rivers, and of river continuity. Moreover, the assessment of ecological potential of heavily modified and artificial water bodies will be part of the assignment.

This position requires the ability to translate state-of-the-art scientific knowledge on river and lake ecosystems into coherent indicators and targets considering climate change scenarios. This will feed into scientific advice in support of EU legislation related to the Water Framework Directive (WFD, 2000/60/EC). The work will address key EU priorities, such as the water resilience and climate adaptation strategies.

The job holder will work with Commission, the European Environment Agency (EEA), as well as Member States and stakeholder representatives on priorities set out in the WFD Common Implementation Strategy, linking with relevant ongoing and new research initiatives.

WE LOOK FOR

We look for a highly motivated and skilled scientist with a strong background in the field of ecological assessment, and in quantifying the impact of hydromorphological pressures on river and lake ecosystems.

The ideal candidate should have a PhD in earth sciences, ecology, ecohydrology, hydromorphology, or related fields, or, alternatively, at least 5 years of full-time relevant research experience after the first University degree giving direct access to doctoral (PhD) studies.

Essential requirement is a thorough scientific knowledge on methods to quantify hydromorphological pressures and their impact on inland water ecosystems. Proven experience in scientific support to water policies is an advantage.

Preferential requirements include specific experience with the implementation of EU water policies related to ecological flows, temporary rivers, free-flowing rivers and/or ecological potential.

Competence in writing reports and communication is an advantage.

It is requested a good level of English (B2).

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.