



VACANCY NOTICE – 2026-JRC.D.2-IPR-FGIV-002844

Project Officer - Science for Policy Officer: Water Governance

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 resilience and management.
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 with Unit “**Ocean and Water**” of Directorate “**Sustainable resources**”.

The Directorate's 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.

– Further information: https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/water_en

The offered post is being implemented under the remit of the JRC project portfolio “Climate Adaptation and Water Resilience”. The assignment's main objective is to provide Commission services with forward-looking, state-of-the-art scientific advice for the European Climate Adaptation Plan and the European Water Resilience Strategy. Drawing on JRC expertise the portfolio delivers:

- (1) A characterization of the current state and trends in the water-energy-food-ecosystem (WEFE) nexus and the challenges to the European society and economy, posed by climate change and competition for resources.
- (2) A holistic appraisal of water management options, including nature-based solutions, land use and nature conservation measures, targeted investments and efficient water infrastructure design and operation.



(3) The evaluation of alternative policy options to ensure the implementation of a cost-effective Climate Adaptation Plan and Water Resilience Strategy.

Adopting an integrative “from source to sea” perspective, the portfolio seeks to restore ecosystems and the water cycle - currently disrupted by climatic extremes, resource overuse and pollution - to support a thriving economy and society.

We offer a dynamic, multidisciplinary and impactful research environment. The JRC infrastructure offers a unique opportunity to directly support EU policies through research, while collaborating with other Commission services that design, evaluate and implement water related legislation and policies.

We offer a dynamic working environment with online collaboration and occasional travel for expert working group meetings and conferences.

Please see also [Working at the Commission – conditions and environment \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.europa.eu/working-at-the-commission-conditions-and-environment)

WE PROPOSE

The jobholder’s main tasks will include:

- Translate state-of-the-art scientific knowledge on water demand and availability into coherent indicators and targets considering climate change scenarios.
- Provide scientific advice for EU legislation underpinning the Water Framework Directive (WFD, 2000/60/ EC) and related policies and legislation.
- Assess the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of water management solutions such as, grey and green infrastructure, water transfers, storage, managed aquifer recharge, desalination, and water reuse.
- Quantify water reserves and resources including snow, groundwater and lake/reservoir storage for European river basins using LISFLOOD model results and earth observation approaches.
- Work with European Commission services, the European Environment Agency (EEA), as well as Member States and stakeholder representatives on priorities set out in the Water Resilience Strategy.
- Estimate of water demand and availability, the appraisal of technical and non-technical management solutions and the understanding of implications for the competitiveness of the water sector.
- Address key EU priorities, such as the European Water Resilience Strategy, the Ocean Pact, the new Mediterranean Pact and climate adaptation strategies.
- Draft, publish and disseminate scientific reports and publications, presentations at conferences and meetings with stakeholders and policy partner DGs.
- Design, implement and update a European water balance and water industry observatory within the JRC knowledge hub on water.

WE LOOK FOR

We are looking for motivated water professional with the following skills and experience considered essential:



- a PhD in hydrology, hydraulic engineering, water economics, 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.
- Solid knowledge of water infrastructure, water resources management and a sound understanding of hydrology, hydraulics and water quality issues.
- A scientifically sound appreciation of the value of water in the context of different economic activities and societal needs.
- Skills in data handling, including GIS data (vector and raster), statistics and quantitative modelling.
- Good level of English (C1).

The following additional qualifications would be an asset:

- Experience in river basin management, regional and river basin scale modelling, cost-benefit analysis and multicriteria analysis.
- Specific knowledge of the EU water acquis, including the Water Framework Directive and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

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 [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.