

VACANCY NOTICE FOR THE POSITION OF

Expert - Copernicus land monitoring services

- Contract Agent (FGIV)

Reference no. EEA/CA/2022/5

Please send us your application by no later than 22 June 2022 at midnight (Copenhagen time), following the instructions in the [ANNEX](#).

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is organising an open competition with a view to establishing a reserve list of contract agents to work within the area of Copernicus land monitoring services.

THE AGENCY:

The EEA is an Agency of the European Union (EU) and one of the decentralised Union bodies. The EEA aims to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment, through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy-making agents and the public.

The EEA is operating as Entrusted Entity by the European Commission for the implementation of the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) and the coordination across services of in situ data. The European Union's Earth Observation Programme Copernicus is a leading provider of Earth observation data, which is used for service providers, public authorities and other international organisations to improve the quality of life for the European citizens.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Under the responsibility of the Head of Group 'Geospatial Information Services', reporting to the Head of Programme 'Data and Information Services' (see [organisational chart](#)), the expert shall be responsible for managing the delivery of specific Copernicus land monitoring services as part of a team responsible for the implementation of a diverse portfolio of land cover, land use change and ground motion monitoring products and services.

The EEA is currently looking to fill positions related to the management of:

- A. Copernicus land monitoring products;
- B. Copernicus land service validation and evolution;
- C. Copernicus ground motion service.

The job descriptions for each expert are as follows:

A. Copernicus land monitoring products

- Contributing to activities related to Copernicus Earth observation and geospatial information in support of European environment and climate policies, with particular focus on data needs and requirements from Copernicus land cover and land use change monitoring products, as well as national and regional land monitoring initiatives of EEA member countries;

- Taking part in the development and product management of CLMS products that have a strong land use component and require a good understanding of land use data collection and land use change monitoring within the urban, agriculture or semi-natural environment;
- Supporting the definition and consolidation of user requirements, gap analysis and desktop research of relevant data from different sources (e.g.: Sentinel 2 and 1 or other satellite missions, research initiatives, national agencies) in support of Copernicus land monitoring products;
- Identifying, managing, disseminating and maintaining relevant data and metadata, including geospatial ancillary data, relevant to use cases, driven by user needs and key policy processes;
- Coordinating project and related contract management activities, including but not restricted to preparing of technical specifications, approval of deliverables and stakeholder engagement activities as well as monitoring that the required CLMS products are produced within the specific constraints of quality, time and cost;
- Planning and implementing project procedures and communication to ensure efficient delivery of outsourced tasks, including contributing to reporting obligations;
- Participating in Copernicus related initiatives, activities and projects, as well as in relevant conferences and communication events.

B. Copernicus land service validation and evolution

- Ensuring the definition and execution of a sound validation framework that can address different types of current and future products of the CLMS portfolio;
- Updating user requirements, product specifications as well as user uptake of Copernicus land monitoring service portfolio for the CLMS service evolution;
- Evaluating the production process as well as the quality assurance, control and independent validation routines for the production and dissemination of specific Copernicus land monitoring products and services;
- Evaluating and optimising the production process of the Copernicus land monitoring service portfolio in close cooperation with stakeholders;
- Supervising work assigned to contractors and staff for quality control and quality assurance;
- Coordinating project and related contract management activities, including but not restricted to preparing of technical specifications, approval of deliverables and stakeholder engagement activities as well as monitoring that the required CLMS products are produced within the specific constraints of quality, time and cost;
- Planning and implementing project procedures and communication to ensure efficient delivery of outsourced tasks, including contributing to reporting obligations;
- Participate in relevant Copernicus related initiatives, activities and projects, as well as in relevant conferences and communication events.

C. Copernicus ground motion service

- Contributing to activities related to Earth observation and geospatial information, especially radar data management and sharing in the context of Copernicus, in support of European environment and climate policies, with particular focus on data needs and requirements from Copernicus ground motion service at European and national level;
- Leading in the EEA Copernicus project team on knowledge regarding Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar, (InSAR) data processing, methodologies, standards, quality control, algorithms (e.g., Persistent Scatterer Interferometry (PSI) and Distributed Scatterer Interferometry (DSI), and best practices;
- Taking part in the definition and consolidation of user requirements, gap analysis and desktop research of relevant radar data from different sources (e.g.: Sentinel 1 and other satellite missions, research initiatives, national aerospace and user agencies) in support of Copernicus European Ground Motion Service;
- Identifying, managing, disseminating and maintaining relevant radar data and metadata, including relevant geospatial data relevant to use cases driven by user needs and key policy processes;
- Coordinating project and related contract management activities, including but not restricted to preparing of technical specifications, approval of deliverables and stakeholder engagement activities as well as monitoring that the required CLMS products are produced within the specific constraints of quality, time and cost;
- Planning and implementing project procedures and communication to ensure efficient delivery of outsourced tasks, including contributing to reporting obligations;
- Participate in relevant Copernicus related initiatives, activities and projects, as well as in relevant conferences and communication events.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Candidates applying must satisfy the following eligibility criteria on the closing date for the submission of applications:

- a) Successful completion of university studies attested by a degree relevant in the field concerned of at least 3 years;
- b) A minimum of 3 years of relevant professional experience after achieving the qualification set out above.

In addition, in order to be eligible a candidate must:

- Be a national of one of the member countries of the EEA (Member States of the European Union plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey);
- Enjoy full rights as a citizen;
- Have fulfilled any obligations imposed by law concerning military service;
- Have a thorough knowledge of one of the languages of the EEA member countries and a satisfactory knowledge of another of these languages (corresponding to level B.2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for languages [CEFR](#));
- Meet the character requirements for the duties involved;

- Be physically fit to perform the duties linked to the post.

Candidates should assess carefully and check before submitting their application whether they fulfil all the conditions for admission laid down in the vacancy notice, particularly in terms of qualifications and relevant professional experience.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Essential:

(In your application, please provide examples from current or past work experience where these competencies have been applied)

- Proven and relevant professional skills, experience and performance related to the above-mentioned duties and responsibilities in one or more of the areas of the job description;
- Excellent understanding of the Copernicus programme and its stakeholders and proven experience working with Copernicus environment or climate monitoring services and products;
- Excellent knowledge and proven experience in data management processing, methodologies, relevant ICT tools, standards, quality control and algorithms related to one or more of the areas of the job description;
- Demonstrated project management skills including experience in applying project management methodologies and ability to plan, organise, monitor, and control projects in the field of geospatial information and/or earth observation;
- Thorough knowledge of existing and planned use cases, applications, products, key user communities, and end user requirements related to one or more of the areas of the job description;
- Excellent command of written and spoken English language, at least at level C1 in all categories according to the [Common European Framework of Reference for Language](#).

Advantageous:

- Professional experience in the operational implementation of Copernicus land monitoring services.

In addition to the requirements above, candidates invited to the written test and interview stage, will also be assessed against the following behavioural competencies:

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- Ability to work well with others in a team as well as autonomously;
- Diversity awareness and sensitivity;
- Well-developed solution-oriented and problem solving approach, customer orientation and a proactive way of working;
- Enthusiasm, flexibility and ability to work under pressure;
- Ability to organise work and prioritise tasks.

CONTRACTUAL CONDITIONS:

The successful candidate will be offered a Contract Agent contract in accordance with Article 3a) of the [Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union](#). The selected candidate will be employed for an initial time period of four years, renewable.

Successful candidates who are recruited undergo an initial probation period of 9 months. Please note that recruitment is done in the first step of the grade within Function Group IV to which the successful candidate qualifies, depending on the duration of the acquired professional experience. For information on salary, please see information published under [Contract Agents](#).

The place of work will be Copenhagen, Denmark.

It is brought to the particular attention of candidates that the provisions of Articles 11 to 26 of the Staff Regulations, concerning the rights and obligations of officials, shall apply by analogy to Temporary Agents. These rules specify that:

“An official shall carry out his duties and conduct himself solely with the interests of the Union in mind. He shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government, authority, organization or person outside his institution. He shall carry out the duties assigned to him objectively, impartially and in keeping with his duty of loyalty to the Union.

An official shall not without the permission of the appointing authority accept from any government or from any other source outside the institution to which he belongs any honour, decoration, favour, gift or payment of any kind whatever, except for services rendered either before his appointment or during special leave for military or other national service and in respect of such service.

Before recruiting an official, the appointing authority shall examine whether the candidate has any personal interest such as to impair his independence or any other conflict of interest. To that end, the candidate, using a specific form, shall inform the appointing authority of any actual or potential conflict of interest. In such cases, the appointing authority shall take this into account in a duly reasoned opinion. If necessary, the appointing authority shall take the measures referred to in Article 11a(2).”

For further information on the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union see:

[Staff Regulations](#)

SELECTION PROCEDURE:

A Selection Committee is set up for the selection procedure. It consists of members designated by the Appointing Authority and the Staff Committee. The Selection Committee is bound by the principle of confidentiality as enshrined in Article 6 of Annex III to the Staff Regulations. This works in two ways: first, it imposes obligations to ensure equal treatment for candidates; and second, it seeks to protect the Selection Committee to ensure that its decisions are totally impartial.

The Selection Committee adheres strictly to the conditions of admission laid down in the vacancy notice when deciding whether or not candidates are eligible. Candidates admitted to a previous selection procedure will not automatically be eligible. **Candidates are strictly forbidden to make any contact with the members of the Selection Committee, either directly or indirectly. Any infringement of this rule will lead to disqualification from the selection procedure.**

In a spirit of transparency, and in order to align our working methods with current practice in certain Member States, the administration has decided to proceed with the publication of [names of Selection Committee members](#).

Should the Selection Committee discover at any stage in the procedure that the candidate does not meet one or more of the general or special conditions for admission to the selection procedure, the candidate will be disqualified.

The Selection Committee decides on those candidates who are admitted to the selection procedure in accordance with the requirements as specified under eligibility criteria. The applications of the candidates admitted to the selection procedure are reviewed to establish whether or not they show evidence of all requirements as specified under selection criteria.

The Selection Committee will invite to the interview and to the written test phase the best qualified candidates (maximum of 40). Should the case arise that there are various candidates scoring the same number of points in the 40th ranking, the number of candidates to be invited may be increased accordingly to accommodate this.

The interview will be held in English and the candidate's knowledge of other languages will also be assessed during the interview. Candidates invited for an interview will be asked to undergo a written test in the area of expertise required for the post. Candidates invited for an interview will be asked to undergo a written test in the area of expertise required for the post. The test and the interview will take place online.

At the end of the interviews the Selection Committee will submit the list of suitable candidates to the Appointing Authority who will decide on the appointment of the successful candidate and the establishment of a reserve list for the post advertised or similar posts that may become available. This usually follows from follow-up recruitment interviews conducted by the Appointing Authority with the suitable candidates. Candidates shall note that inclusion on the reserve list does not guarantee recruitment. Recruitment will be based on availability of posts and budget.

The reserve list for this post will be valid until **31 December 2023** and may be extended at the discretion of the Appointing Authority.

Prior to contract signature, the successful candidate will be asked:

- to provide original or certified copies of all relevant documents proving his/her eligibility, including a police certificate confirming the absence of any criminal record;
- to undergo a compulsory medical examination to establish that he/she meets the standard of physical fitness necessary to perform the duties involved.