

JOB DESCRIPTION

Communication and Partnership Relations Officer - Secretariat of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Duration: Initial contract for 24 months, with extension subject to performance and to funding renewal.

Start date: As soon as possible

Working hours: Full time

Employer: Seascope Belgium

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

Outline:

The Secretariat of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), administered by Seascope Belgium, seeks to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated Communication and Partnership Relations Officer to strengthen its professional and dynamic team based in Ostend, Belgium.

The post holder will be responsible for managing and executing EMODnet Secretariat's communication, dissemination and user uptake tasks. The position will focus on increasing the visibility and use of EMODnet services, developing resources and communication tools that promote buy-in from partners, providers, users and stakeholders to ensure that EMODnet consolidates and further expands its reach as the EU's long term sustained *in situ* marine data service. (S)he will implement the EMODnet external communication and engagement strategy, support the organisation of training/demonstration sessions and assist in managing the networks' partnership interactions. The candidate will have sound skills in (science) communication, dissemination and outreach, with some experience in developing and managing multimedia content. Regular interaction with our Europe-wide network of partners, stakeholders and marine knowledge generators and users will be a key part of the role. As appropriate, the incumbent will also provide support to other relevant projects and initiatives, particularly in relation to the communication aspects. The work will also involve interactions with other relevant developments and initiatives in Europe and globally (e.g. in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science).

About EMODnet

EMODnet is a long-term marine data initiative from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (EC DG MARE) providing a fully operational EU in-situ marine data service. The network is comprised of a consortium of more than 120 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 entails seven sub-portals providing access to marine data and products covering bathymetry, geology, physics, chemistry, biology, seabed habitats and human activities, and a Data Ingestion portal. All of these will be integrated into the EMODnet Central Portal from end 2022 onwards, where you can find more information (<https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/en>) as well as on the Maritime Forum (<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/>). The EMODnet community is supported by a dedicated Secretariat, based in Ostend, Belgium (<https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/en/emodnet-secretariat>). Since September 2017, the EMODnet Secretariat also oversees the maintenance and further development of the European Atlas of the Seas (https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/atlas_en) which is powered by EMODnet and other key EU initiatives and bodies. The Secretariat is also supporting EC efforts to developing a better coordinated and fit for purpose European capability in Ocean Observing.

About Seascope Belgium

Seascope Belgium is an independent spin-out from 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 marine and environmental project management, stakeholder consultation and engagement, promotion of ocean literacy 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.seascopebelgium.be.

Main responsibilities:

The main responsibility of this position will be to coordinate the EMODnet Secretariat and partnership communication, dissemination and promotion activities. This will involve, amongst others, the following duties:

- Lead the implementation of the existing EMODnet Communication, Dissemination and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (and lead future updates), coordinating all EMODnet Secretariat's communication activities, including digital communication, with support from other Secretariat team members. This will include among others: managing and further developing the content of the EMODnet Central Portal Website (managed using DRUPAL); managing the EMODnet social media accounts (principally twitter); leading the production and updating of communication and promotional materials (e.g. videos, brochures, leaflets, posters, infographics); coordinating development of EMODnet Press Releases, working with thematic experts and the Secretariat team for content and working with communication focal points from partner organisations for co-production and promotion; producing the monthly EMODnet e-newsletter (coordination of content, delivery on News Room) and feeding news to various EMODnet Channels (social media, EMODnet Newsletter, news flashes, website, etc).
- Lead the Communications for EMODnet flagship events e.g., Open Sea Lab III (Spring 2023) and the EMODnet Open Conference 2023 (Autumn 2023).
- Act as central contact point for EMODnet partners for information related to communication and external developments, including communication for new EMODnet data, products and services;
- Support EMODnet partners and projects with their own dissemination, communication and stakeholder engagement activities to ensure these are aligned with overall guidelines and spread coherent messages;
- Identify and create opportunities to increase the take-up of the EMODnet services by its target audiences, acting on insight from research and evaluation as well as professional experience;
- Develop and manage interaction with stakeholders (from data providers, to funders and users of EMODnet data/products/services), including identification and mapping of stakeholders, identifying and developing use cases, managing events, publicity and media outreach;
- Support EMODnet partnerships, including management and enhancement of the existing EMODnet partnership (currently about 120 partners) and attracting new EMODnet associated partners e.g., to expand EMODnet for Business;
- Support the promotion activities related to the European Atlas of the Seas to significantly increase its visibility and use, where possible in synergy with EMODnet promotion efforts;
- Assist the team with organising and delivering presentations, demonstrations and training, and the delivery of targeted events e.g., online workshops;

Other duties and tasks:

- Contribute to communication, dissemination and engagement activities in related projects;
- Assist the Secretariat team with its core activities in support of the EMODnet community, including production of high-quality documents and deliverables and organisation of events and activities;
- Attend key events and meetings across Europe, including with the European Commission, representing the EMODnet community and EC DGMARE.

Profile and competences required:

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

- Graduate qualification in a relevant discipline, preferably with a background in communication, journalism and/or public relations with experience in science communication – or alternatively, a background in marine or environmental science with clear experience in website content management and development and communication;
- At least 3 years of experience delivering activities and outputs against project-based objectives for a relevant organisation; experience in communicating information related to marine/environmental data, information products and/or scientific results would be an advantage;
- Sound working knowledge of website content management tools and experience with developing, editing and managing website content (DRUPAL) will be important;
- Experience with developing communication products and managing communications channels, including but not limited to digital, social media, print, and events, matching channels with specific audiences and expected outcomes;
- Good working knowledge of MS Office packages and relevant online data and information management systems. Experience with Adobe design software (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign) is an advantage;
- Excellent standard of spoken and written English. Knowledge of other European languages would be an advantage;
- Ability to report progress and issues in an effective manner and ability to draft concise and clear documents and reports without supervision;
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills with ability to work transparently while applying a team-oriented work ethic. Ability to build successful and productive relationships with stakeholders, user groups and other project team members;
- Excellent organisational skills with capacity to multitask, to deliver on allocated tasks and to meet deadlines in pressurised situations;
- Experience with EMODnet Secretariat productivity management tools (Atlassian Confluence and Jira) and/or 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 would be a clear advantage as would be familiarity with key marine data user communities (e.g. those dealing with environmental monitoring/reporting and marine spatial planning processes), particularly in relation to their needs for data, information and knowledge;
- Understanding of and an interest in promoting Open Data Sharing culture in which EMODnet operates and willingness to adapt to the Networks' specificities;
- Ability to work at strategic, tactical and operational levels, with a strong can-do attitude to handle the diverse requirements of this role.

Salary:

This post commands an attractive remuneration package, in line with local 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 recruitment@seascopebelgium.be. Closing date for applications is 3 July 2022 at midnight CEST.

For more information contact: janbart.calewaert@emodnet.eu and nathalie.tonne@emodnet.eu