



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

2021-IPR-A5001-FGIV-016729

**FG IV - SCIENTIST - EXPLORATORY
RESEARCH PROJECT - *Understanding the links
between SOil pollution and CancEr*” (SOLACE)**

POSITION AS:

Member of the contract staff FGIV – art. 3b of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1962R0031:20110101:EN:PDF>

WE ARE:

As the science and knowledge service of the Commission, the mission of DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) is to support EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle. The JRC is located in 5 Member States (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain).

Further information is available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/>

The JRC offers a vacancy for a Contract Agent within the Exploratory Research Project “Understanding the links between SOil pollution and CancEr” (SOLACE). The JRC Exploratory Research Programme (ER) is a strategic initiative characterised by ideas that might lead to novel results and qualitatively enrich current JRC scientific work.

The vacancy is within the Directorate for Health, Consumers and Reference Materials. The directorate provides independent scientific evidence for the development, implementation and evaluation of EU policies, mainly in the areas of standardisation, public health, food and feed safety and authenticity, cosmetics and other consumer products, medical devices, nano materials, taxation with a focus on frauds and a well-functioning internal market. The operational scientific research will take place in the Health in Society and Chemical Safety and Alternative Methods Units. Further information is available at: <https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/solace>

The Scientific Development unit is in charge of the overall JRC Exploratory Research Programme.

WE PROPOSE:

A position to carry out scientific and technical tasks in accordance with the Exploratory Research Project “Understanding the links between SOil pollution and CancEr” (SOLACE) with special emphasis on linking exposure to environmental carcinogens with cancer incidence in Europe.

The ER Project SOLACE will investigate potential relationship between the occurrence of specific cancers and levels of soil pollution. The project aims to develop a methodology that moves from measures of concentrations of carcinogens in soil towards the identification of hazards and risk analysis that may explain eventual pathways that cause cancers (i.e. soil-plant-food, erosion by wind and water, etc.). The activity will strengthen activities in the JRC in relation to health, soil and food security by bringing together the activities such as EU Soil Observatory, the Knowledge Centre on Cancer, cancer burden indicators from the European Cancer Information System, the Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring (IPCHEM), and the Digital Rural Landscape Laboratory. Specifically, the successful candidate will develop diverse datasets describing the cancer incidence and mortality rates of specific cancer sites, mapped at appropriate geographical areas to facilitate linkage with environmental datasets, particularly those for carcinogenic pollutants in soil-plant-food pathways.

The successful candidate will work closely with other partners of the SOLACE project and will be in charge of:

- Mapping the incidence and mortality indicators of specific cancer sites in Europe at appropriate geographical detail to link with environmental databases;
- Perform literature search to select those carcinogenic agents that could possibly be linked to exposure from soil-plant-food pathways, among the chemical agents classified as carcinogenic or probably carcinogenic to humans (IARC and/or CLP classification);
- Close liaison with an Environmental Expert to identify available methods to model exposure

levels in humans considering the soil-plant-food pathways, the carcinogenicity properties and the cancer aetiology of the specific site;

- Provide regular and accurate reports on scientific activities every twelve months and a final report;
- Report to the Project Leader on progress, achievements and potential problems in a timely manner;
- Provide feedback and maintain interactive communication with colleagues;
- Explain the research activities and achievements to third parties, such as scientific communities and the general public;
- Write, disseminate and publish results, among other, in peer-reviewed journals.

WE LOOK FOR:

A scientist with the following qualifications:

Essential:

- Doctoral diploma in Data Science/Cancer Epidemiology/Biology. Alternatively, completed university studies of at least three years attested by a diploma and at least five years professional experience in a field relevant to the position;
- Knowledge/experience in cancer registries datasets and cancer epidemiology;
- Knowledge/experience in cancer biology and carcinogenicity;
- Good oral and written communication skills in English (B2) are essential, knowledge of other languages is an advantage.

In addition, the following competences will be considered as an advantage:

- Experience in ecological studies for assessing the impact of carcinogens in human health;
- Broad knowledge in the area of environmental datasets, spatial analysis and geostatistics;
- Knowledge of statistical software (e.g. R);
- Solid record of research activities relevant for the post including publications in international peer-reviewed journals;
- Ability to work in a team and in a multi-cultural environment;
- The candidate is expected to be creative and work independently.

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT DURATION:

24 months employment contract for the Exploratory Research project “Understanding the links between SOil pollution and CancEr” (SOLACE).

Employment contracts for Contract Agents can be renewed for maximum 6 years.

PLACE OF WORK:

Ispra, Italy

RULES AND ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for the position, the candidate must be on a valid EPSO reserve list for Function Group IV contract staff.

You can be added to an EPSO reserve list if you complete successfully an EPSO selection procedure.

Candidates who are on a valid EPSO reserve list or have applied to an EPSO selection procedure can apply to this specific position through <http://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?type=AX>.

How to apply to an EPSO selection procedure?

Apply either to the permanent EPSO call (CAST Permanent) https://epso.europa.eu/documents/2240_en or a specialised call for researchers <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/working-with-us/jobs/vacancies/function-group-IV-researchers>

The CAST Permanent reserve list is used by a wide range of organisations (institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the European Union), whereas the specialised reserve list for researchers (JRC Call COM/1/2015/GFIV – Research) is mainly used by the JRC.

RECRUITMENT POLICY:

The JRC

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