



ILVO's Own Capital is looking for a

## Scientific researcher ecosystem modeling and big data analytics

Vacancy number EV/2021/018/D1

Place of employment Ankerstraat 1 - 8400 Oostende

Do you have a passion for the sea and a strong interest in modeling the marine ecosystem and human activities at sea? Are you fascinated by distilling useful information from the growing data streams from the marine world and sea fisheries?

Then you might be the right candidate for this exciting job!

### Job description

A well-functioning ecosystem is of great importance for various ecosystem services, such as climate regulation, food supply and the recycling of nutrients. Human activities at sea such as fishing affect the marine ecosystem by causing changes in both the physical environment (e.g. habitat disturbance and changes in sediment composition) and in the biotic environment (e.g. changes in biodiversity and densities at different trophic levels).

To better understand this ecosystem and the impact of human activities, more and more use is made of models, varying from simple statistical models to complex ecological and (socio) economic models. Different types of models are increasingly linked or integrated and these models can be fed with environmental and other data that are generated and captured in all kinds of ways, including big data. This set of instruments can then be used, for example, to evaluate fisheries management in the context of the ecosystem approach for fisheries.

This vacancy is part of the H2020 **Ecoscope** project “**Ecocentric management for sustainable fisheries and healthy marine ecosystems**”. Your task is, together with fellow scientists and embedded in the project consortium of 26 international research institutions, to bring together the data and models for our region and apply these models to evaluate different forms of fisheries management. Gaps in data and shortcomings of existing models are identified and solutions are sought to improve the quality of science.

### Specific

As a junior scientist you will work with a team of colleagues and experts in **marine ecology, impact research and fisheries research**.

Your work consists of the following tasks:

- ✓ You play a central role in the H2020 Ecoscope project, where you receive support from fellow scientists within and outside of ILVO.
- ✓ For this project and for broader application within ILVO you will comprehend, adapt and use ecosystem models and fisheries-related models for our region. At the same time you map the weaknesses and shortcomings of the models;

- ✓ Together with the project partners, you bring together 'all' relevant oceanographic, climatological, ecosystem and fishery data in the so-called Ecoscope Platform, with the aim of making them accessible to a wide group of users and obtaining added value of useful information from the combination of those dates;
- ✓ Together with the project partners, you evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of current approaches to fisheries management and of future management scenarios, in the context of ecosystem management and climate change, against the values, needs and expectations of society.

This list of topics and its interpretation are related to the Ecoscope project. Within this framework, however, you get a lot of freedom to approach things according to your own insight, of course in consultation with the team.

The position is situated within the dynamic research group ILVO-Marine, located in Ostend. You will be supported by motivated and passionate scientists who conduct applied research in the North Sea. From the start there will be close cooperation with the international project consortium.

## Our organisation

Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) is a **multidisciplinary research institute** of the Flemish government, with a focus on supporting **sustainable agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and food research**.

Drawing on the 5 important ILVO values - *Positivity, Proactivity, Professionalism, Working Together and Being an Example*, we are steadily growing ILVO as a **socially relevant center of expertise**. We work together within a culture of open, honest discussion and mutual trust.

And ... now you might be able to play a role in this wonderful story!

We employ more than 670 people, about half of which are researchers. Approximately 35% of the personnel works for the Flemish government; the rest is employed by ILVO's Own Capital funding based on project and contract research.

## Your Profile

- ✓ You have a master's degree in Biology, Marine Science, Mathematics, Bio-engineering Sciences or a comparable level and background. Persons who graduate in the academic year 2020/2021 in June can also apply. If you have a foreign diploma, we ask you to obtain equivalence recognition. You can apply for this at NARIC Vlaanderen ([NARIC-Vlaanderen - NARIC-Vlaanderen](#)).
- ✓ You speak and write English very well.
- ✓ You are fascinated by marine research with a strong interest in the marine ecosystem;
- ✓ You like to study how (eco) systems work and how external forces influence the system;
- ✓ You have experience in R and interest in or experience with ecological modeling.

Plus points:

- ✓ Knowledge on fisheries in the North Sea and knowledge of environmental impact research.
- ✓ Experience in processing (big) data

Personal competences



- ✓ You are hands-on and proactive. You work accurately and you are well organized
- ✓ You work independently but are also a team player and eager to work within an interdisciplinary context
- ✓ You have a strong analytical and critical mind, good synthesis skills, a helicopter view and you are meticulous
- ✓ You are aware of the importance of data quality and discretion when working with confidential data.
- ✓ You have good communication skills and are not afraid to speak in a group

## Our offer

We offer you a full-time, open-ended contract (depending on financing) with a competitive salary based on your degree. You will be recruited in the salary scale A165 or A166 (depending on your diploma). You can make a gross and net calculation of your monthly salary, a holiday bonus and your end-of-year allowance via <https://www.vlaanderen.be/werken-voor-vlaanderen/het-salaris>. Relevant experience can be considered for financial seniority.

Additional: Hospitalization and group (life) insurance, commuting allowance (bicycle – public transport), meal vouchers (7 €/day) and a total of 35 holiday days based on last year's performance (private scheme)

**Start: 01 September 2021**

## How to apply?

You can apply online via "[Jobs - ILVO Vlaanderen](#)" and this at the latest until the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2021. If you cannot apply online, you can request the application form via [personeel@ilvo.vlaanderen.be](mailto:personeel@ilvo.vlaanderen.be).

Candidates found fit (based on CV screening) will be invited for a selection interview on the 14th or 16<sup>th</sup> of June (date subject to change). Please include a telephone number and e-mail address where you can be reached during the day and block this date in your agenda.

## For more info please contact

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Selection procedure and Terms of employment: Caroline Buyst, HR-specialist-09 272 25 12-[caroline.buyst@ilvo.vlaanderen.be](mailto:caroline.buyst@ilvo.vlaanderen.be).