



## **MAKE A DIFFERENCE – JOIN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Do you want to help shape the future of the European Union? Make the planet greener, promote a fairer society, or support businesses and innovation across the EU? Then come and work for the European Commission where you can really make a difference!

Commission staff are a diverse group of people, who are motivated to help make Europe – and the world – a better place. They come from the 27 Member States of the European Union. Different nationalities, languages and cultures make the Commission a vibrant and inclusive working place.

### **WE OFFER ATTRACTIVE WORKING CONDITIONS AND MUCH MORE:**

- Interesting and challenging positions with plenty of opportunities for training and acquiring new skills and competencies over your whole career;
- Opportunities to try several areas of work throughout your career;
- Flexible working conditions and the possibility of teleworking – we care about your work-life balance;
- A competitive financial package, including comprehensive sickness, accident and pension schemes;
- Multilingual schools for your kids;
- We are also proud to be an equal opportunity employer and promote diversity and inclusion.

### **We recruit from a wide range of backgrounds:**

We are not only recruiting political scientists and lawyers but also looking for all kinds of profiles, including natural scientists, linguists and economists, as well as drivers and engineers.

For more information [ec.europa.eu/work-with-us](https://ec.europa.eu/work-with-us).



## STAFF RECRUITED ON CONTRACTS

In addition to permanent officials, the European Commission often recruits non-permanent staff. There are two categories of non-permanent staff:

- [temporary agents](#) are recruited to fill vacant positions for a set amount of time or to perform highly specialised tasks.
- [contract agents](#) may provide additional capacity in specialised fields where an insufficient number of officials is available or carry out a number of administrative or manual tasks. They are generally recruited for fixed-term contracts (maximum 6 years in any EU Institution), but in some cases they can be offered contracts for an indefinite duration (in offices, agencies, delegations or representations).

For more information on different [staff categories](#).



# Research Programme officer

## in DG AGRI of the European Commission

**Job title\*:** Programme officer

**Domain\*\*:** Science and research

**Where:** Unit F2 - Research and Innovation unit in Brussels

**Function Group:** FG IV

**Contract Type:** 3b

**Express your interest until** 10. 05. 2024 - 12.00 (Brussels time)

### WE ARE

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Unit AGRI.F.2 is responsible for the development and implementation of EU R&I policy in the intervention area of "agriculture, forestry and rural areas", including genetic resources and plant breeding. The unit co-manages Cluster 6 "Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment" of Horizon Europe (HE) and manages and provides the secretariat of the Research and Innovation (R&I) Mission "Soil Deal for Europe – to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030". Given the broad portfolio of activities covered, work in the unit is stimulating, very interesting and challenging at the same time, demanding dedication and flexibility. However, the future-oriented character, increased own responsibility and visibility of the tasks dealt with in the unit and the DG, as well as a creative, friendly, collegial and supportive atmosphere among our dynamic and motivated team makes for a rewarding experience.

### WE PROPOSE

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A position of a Research Programme Officer (RPO) contributing to the development and implementation of DG AGRI's R&I strategy within the framework of Horizon Europe, in particular Cluster 6, with a particular focus on the plant breeding and genetic resources portfolio.

The main tasks of the new colleague will be to:

- Contribute to the development of DG AGRI's research and innovation strategy on plant breeding and genetic resources in the context of Horizon Europe.
- Contribute to the strategic programming cycle under Horizon Europe and the elaboration of work programmes under its Cluster 6 including input to and participation in evaluations with a specific focus on plant breeding and genetic resources.
- Follow implementation and outputs of funded projects from a "portfolio-management perspective". This will include participation in project meetings such as kick-off, mid-term and/or final meetings.
- Liaise with R&I actors and provide policy feedback. Follow scientific/technical developments in areas relevant for boosting the innovation system for plant breeding and genetic resources.



- Contribute to the coordination and communication with the unit's counterparts in DG Research and with the other DGs in the R&I family; participate in R&I inter-service groups; present R&I programming and outcomes to internal and external stakeholders in meetings, conferences.
- Contribute to communication and information activities on HE, Cluster 6 for stakeholders and the public in general, through presentations at conferences, seminars, workshops, etc
- Disseminate and promote dialogue on R&I outcomes and feed into the activities of the CAP Network and the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) AGRI.

## **WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

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A motivated and committed colleague with an interest in a multi-faceted job, which provides for the carrying out of different, stimulating tasks every day. The candidate should have a good understanding of crop production, agronomy, and various production systems. The candidate should have an in-depth knowledge of conservation and use of plant genetic resources, and on plant breeding. Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences, Crop Sciences would be an asset. The candidate should also have a good knowledge of Common Agriculture Policy and EU research and innovation policies and instruments. The candidate should have good sense of prioritisation and organisation, excellent drafting skills are essential. The candidate should have good communication and IT skills and should be able to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. Oral and written fluency in English is essential, ideally together with the ability to work in French; knowledge of other EU languages would be an asset.

## **HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST?**

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With a view to guaranteeing equal access to all, the Commission recruits from an open database of spontaneous applications. The present call for interests aims at helping the recruiters to identify potentially interested candidates within this database.

In practice, to express your interest, please follow the subsequent two steps:

1. If you are not registered yet in the open EPSO database, please do so at the following address: [CAST Permanent](#). Please select under selection procedures for contract agent the CAST permanent profile that best suits your education and experience.
2. You should send your documents in a single pdf in the following order:
  1. your CV
  2. motivation letter
  3. duly filled in application form.Please send these documents by the publication deadline to [AGRI-HR-CORRESPONDENT@ec.europa.eu](mailto:AGRI-HR-CORRESPONDENT@ec.europa.eu) indicating the call for interest reference 2024/AGRI-F.2 in the subject.

**No applications will be accepted after the publication deadline.**



## ANNEX

### 1. Selection

#### ➤ Am I eligible to apply?

#### **You must meet the following eligibility criteria when you validate your application:**

Our rules provide that you can only be recruited as a contract agent at the European Commission if you:

##### General criteria:

- Are a citizen of a Member State of the EU and enjoy full rights as a citizen;
- Have fulfilled any obligations imposed by applicable laws concerning military service;
- Are physically fit to perform the duties linked to the position;
- Produce the appropriate character references as to suitability for the performance of the duties.
- Have passed an EPSO CAST in the relevant Function Group for this position. At the stage of the application, it is sufficient to be registered in the [EPSO CAST](#) data base.

##### Qualifications:

- (a) Have a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least three years attested by a diploma.

Only qualifications issued or recognised as equivalent by EU Member State authorities (e.g. by the Ministry of Education) will be accepted.

##### Languages:

- have a thorough knowledge (minimum level C1) of one of the 24 official languages of the EU<sup>1</sup>
- AND have a satisfactory knowledge (minimum level B2)<sup>2</sup> of a second official language of the EU, to the extent necessary for the performance of the duties.

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<sup>1</sup> The official languages of the European Union are: BG (Bulgarian), CS (Czech), DA (Danish), DE (German), EL (Greek), EN (English), ES (Spanish), ET (Estonian), FI (Finnish), FR (French), GA (Irish), HR (Croatian), HU (Hungarian), IT (Italian), LT (Lithuanian), LV (Latvian), MT (Maltese), NL (Dutch), PL (Polish), PT (Portuguese), RO (Romanian), SK (Slovak), SL (Slovenian), SV (Swedish).

<sup>2</sup> For details on language levels, please see the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/resources/european-language-levels-cefr>).



➤ **What about the selection steps?**

The selecting unit chooses from the EPSO database<sup>3</sup> candidates with the appropriate profile and invites them to an interview. For the interview a selection panel is set-up to assess the best candidates. Due to the large volume of applications that we may receive only candidates selected for the interview will be notified.

For operational reasons and in order to complete the selection procedure as quickly as possible in the interest of the candidates and of the institution, the selection procedure will be carried out in English and possibly in a second official language.

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<sup>3</sup> Therefore, candidates who did not pass already a CAST on the level Function Group [IV], should register their profile at this [address](#).



## 2. Recruitment

The candidate selected for recruitment will be requested to provide documentary evidence in support of the statements made in the database and, where relevant, the call for interest.

The successful candidate will be required to undergo a mandatory pre-recruitment medical check-up carried out by the Commission.

### ➤ Type of contract and working conditions

The place of employment will be in **Brussels**.

The successful candidate will be engaged as a **contract agent under Article 3(b) of the [Conditions of Employment of Other Servants](#), in function group FG IV**. General information on Contract Agents can be found at this link.

The grade or proposed grade range, as well as the step in that grade, will be defined on the basis of the candidates' previous professional experience, in accordance with [Commission Decision C\(2017\)6760](#) laying down the criteria applicable to classification in step on engagement.

The duration of the first **contract will be of 1 year**. Subject to the interest of the service, the contract can be renewed by + 2 +1 +2 years, extended to a maximum duration of 6 years.

The duration of the extension will be defined according to the General Implementation Rules in force at that moment, in accordance with [Commission Decision C\(2017\)6760](#) on policies for the engagement and use of contract agents.

All new staff have to successfully complete a 9-month probationary period.

The pay of staff members consists of a basic salary supplemented with specific allowances, including, where applicable, expatriation and family allowances. The provisions guiding the calculation of these allowances can be consulted in the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants. As a member of staff of the European institutions, your pay is subject to a tax raised by those institutions.

The European Commission applies a policy of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in accordance with Article 1d of the Staff Regulations.

Should you need further information on working conditions, please refer to [Working conditions and benefits of EU Careers](#).



For information related to Data Protection, please see the Specific [Privacy Statement](#) under “7. Information to data subjects on their rights”, to find your rights and how to exercise them in addition to the privacy statement, which summarises the processing of your data.