

**The Malta Council for Science and Technology**

**Joint Research Cruise as part of the JPI Oceans Joint Action**

**“Science for Good Environmental Status” (S4GES)**

**Call for Expression of Interest for a**

**Marine Environmental Professional**

**The Malta Council for Science and Technology is offering a unique opportunity for an experienced marine environmental officer or scientist to work with a team of researchers on board a research vessel in the North Sea as part of S4GES.**

**Deadline: 26 May 2022**

**Call for Expression of Interest for a Marine Environmental Professional**

1. General

This is a Call for Expression of Interest for an experienced marine environmental officer or scientist to participate in a transnational Joint Research Cruise as part of the JPI Oceans Joint Action named “Science for Good Environmental Status” (S4GES) implemented by:

* Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
* National Research Council of Italy
* Malta Council for Science and Technology
* Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
* Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn
* Università di Messina
* Università di Roma Tor Vergata
* Institut Français de Recherche pour l’Exploitation de la Mer
* Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
* Norwegian Institute for Water Research
* JPI Oceans

The call aims to invite **one (1) experienced marine environmental officer or scientist to join a research cruise, on board the Belgian Research Vessel ‘Belgica’**, with the aim to assess an integrated approach to Good Environmental Status in the North Sea (Belgian coasts).

The JPI Oceans Joint Action S4GES is co-led by Belgium, Italy and Malta, with experts from each country composing a Coordination Team to run the Action. For the organisation of the S4GES oceanographic cruise, four Working Groups (WGs) have been created: physical dynamics; trophic web; biodiversity; and contaminants. More information on the action is available on the [JPI Oceans website](https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/en/science-good-environmental-status).

 The Joint Research Cruise will adopt an innovative approach to the evaluation of marine Good Environmental Status (GES). The selected professional will be required to:

1. Join a research crew for a one-week observation campaign on board of the Belgian Research Vessel ‘Belgica’ to be run between the **9th and 15th July 2022**;
2. Follow and support the analysis of data and samples throughout **2022 and 2023**, with the aid of facilities and experts;
3. Attend workshops amongst the experts and with stakeholders and policymakers for knowledge sharing, promotion, and discussion of the outputs of the Joint Research Cruise.

The selected individual would also be required to commit to actively participate in the Joint Research Cruise and support the scientists on board, whilst working as a team.

Given the activities foreseen following the research cruise, the selected individual would be required to remain committed to follow and support the analysis of the collected data and to participate in the efforts as needed, in the production of results together with the S4GES Coordination Team.

1. Background

The S4GES JPI Oceans Joint Action aims to coordinate research and innovation to introduce a complementary approach to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) for the evaluation of the marine environment status. Moreover, this Joint Action aims to contribute to a better understanding of GES and achieving it in a more integrative way, i.e., by expanding the ecosystem view up to governance, thus supporting the implementation of the MSFD and ultimately the sustainable use of the sea. Key to this will be improving our understanding of marine ecosystem functioning, how multiple activities impact the environment, how to fulfil the requests of MSFD, and how to govern the whole process[[1]](#footnote-1).

The specific aims of the Joint Research Cruise are:

* Bring together experienced scientific experts and facilities to perform observations and required analyses in the most cost-efficient way;
* Increasing experience in marine observations and monitoring practice with joint data collection and analysis, testing innovative methods and approach for the evaluation of marine environmental status;
* Coordination and testing of a mechanism of infrastructure sharing and joint data analysis from 5 European Participating Countries (BE, IT, MT, FR, NO) surpassing the impact from the traditional model of joint calls, to obtain performance improvements.
* Enabling scientists from the participating countries to build an effective collaboration on common transnational activities, based on complementarities and sharing of expertise.
1. Eligibility and Evaluation
	1. The Marine Environmental Officer or Scientist must demonstrate a clear background or interest in the monitoring of the state of health of the sea, with special focus on related aspects of study, such as physical dynamics, contaminants, ecosystem dynamics and marine observations; as well as being skilled in analytical techniques in general.
	2. The applicant shall be an individual with a proven track record within the field, and preferably already actively involved in marine environmental monitoring.
	3. The applicant would preferably be in possession of a doctoral degree in a related R&I field, although this is not a requirement. Previous or ongoing experience in international collaboration will also be favourably viewed.
	4. The applicant would preferably make active use of the experience gained and lessons learnt through this opportunity, beyond the lifetime of the S4GES Joint Action.
2. Terms and Conditions
	1. Should the right candidate not be identified from the list of applicants, the Council reserves the right not to proceed with this Expression of Interest.
	2. The selected candidate shall bind him/herself to conduct such assignments in accordance with the terms of this Call and under the guidance of the S4GES Coordination Team.
	3. Any additional information or clarification, as may be requested by the Council, shall be deemed to form an integral part of the original assessment.
	4. The selected candidate shall, with exception to information that is already in the public domain, not disclose to any third party any of the information obtained in the course of their involvement in the S4GES Joint Action, without the prior written consent of the Council and JPI Oceans.
	5. The selected candidate will be put in contact with the S4GES Coordination Team, in order to become acquainted with the S4GES Joint Action and initiate the necessary preparatory work for the transnational research cruise.
	6. The selected candidate is required to remain committed to follow up on the outcomes of the oceanographic cruise whilst liaising with the S4GES Coordination Team.
	7. A contract shall be signed between the Council and the selected candidate, that shall outline the terms and conditions, as outlined in this Expression of Interest.
	8. If any disagreement or dispute arises out of the contract signed between the selected candidate and the Council, such matter may be referred to arbitration under the Arbitration Rules and Procedures established by the Laws of Malta.
3. Support
	1. The Council will cover the costs associated with Travel and Accommodation whilst abroad (flights, internal travel, hotel on a bed and breakfast basis, and two meals per day – as per the Council’s Travel Policy).
	2. Personnel costs for the duration of the research cruise are expected to be in-kind. Opportunity cost for lost working time is similarly not supported.
4. Instructions and Application

Interested Applicants are to submit their application documents, together with a detailed Curriculum Vitae, electronically to international.mcst@gov.mt, with “Call for a Marine Environmental Professional” as a subject heading. Applications should be received by not later than **Thursday 26th May 2022 (23:59 CET)**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they are provided with a written confirmation of receipt of their application.

Inquiries must be submitted to international.mcst@gov.mt. Replies will be published in an FAQ document.

*Data Protection Clause: The information collected through this Call shall be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act, Chapter 586 of the Laws of Malta* *and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). The contents remain confidential and solely intended for the use of this Call’s purpose and will not be disclosed or copied without your consent. Submitted information will be retained for a period of ten (10) years from the date that the S4GES Joint Action ends.*

1. For more information refer to the article on S4GES published in *Sustainability* (2021, 13, 8664. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13158664>). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)