

# European MARINE BOARD

Advancing Seas & Ocean Science

## Position Announcement Science Officer



The European Marine Board (EMB) invites applications for the position of Science Officer. The successful candidate will join the EMB Secretariat based at the InnovOcean campus in the port of Ostend, Belgium. InnovOcean also houses the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) and a number of regional and international marine organizations including the International Oceanographic Data Exchange office of IOC-UNESCO and the Secretariat of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet). Staff working at InnovOcean generally live within a commuting radius which includes Ostend itself, several coastal towns, the heritage city of Bruges and the vibrant university city of Ghent.

This is an exciting opportunity to work as part of a dynamic, professional Secretariat to promote and advance marine science on behalf of the EMB membership of institutions from across Europe. The post can involve regular visits to Brussels and some international travel.

Applications including a full CV, short cover letter and a motivation statement (500 words max.) should be sent in electronic format to [info@marineboard.eu](mailto:info@marineboard.eu) by **17.00 CET on Sunday 31 January 2021**. Please include the reference **EMB SO2021** in the subject line of the email. Further details on how to apply can be found on Page 4 of this brochure.

# The European Marine Board

**Mission:** *The European Marine Board (EMB) is the leading European think-tank in marine science policy. It provides a platform to advance marine research and to bridge the gap between science and policy.*

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The European Marine Board was established in 1995 to facilitate enhanced cooperation between European marine science organizations towards the development of a common vision on the strategic research priorities for marine science in Europe. Today, EMB represents 35 member organizations (research funding bodies, research institutes and national networks of third-level institutes) from 18 countries. Through the EMB, these organizations work together to develop a common European vision on the research priorities and strategies for marine science.

The EMB provides the essential components for transferring knowledge from the scientific community to decision makers, promoting Europe's leadership in marine research and technology. Adopting a strategic role, the EMB provides a unique forum within which marine research policy advice to national agencies and to the European Institutions is developed, with the objective of promoting the establishment of the European Marine Research Area.

Since its establishment the EMB was hosted by the European Science Foundation, which provided a legal entity to support the operation of the Secretariat, as well as a range of support services. In 2016, the EMB has established its own legal entity, European Marine Board IVZW, and in 2017 the EMB separated from ESF to become an entirely independent organization. The Science Officer will be employed by EMB IVZW.

## The Secretariat

The European Marine Board Secretariat implements the work programme of the EMB on behalf of the EMB membership and Executive Committee. The Secretariat is currently comprised of five staff including the EMB Executive Director, who is Head of the Secretariat, three Science Officers and an Executive and Finance Officer. All staff are based at the EMB office in Ostend.

Since 2007, the Secretariat has been hosted by the Government of Flanders at the InnovOcean campus in the harbour of Ostend, Belgium. The generous support package from Flanders provides the EMB with extensive office space, IT support and meeting rooms.



## The role of Science Officer

Reporting to the EMB Executive Director, the successful candidate will provide support to core activities of the Board in working with an extensive network of experts to deliver scientific strategy and foresight, advancing future seas and ocean research. One of the main tasks will involve engagement in activities funded by the European Commission via Framework projects (Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe) and other external contracts.



Specific duties of the position:

- Ensuring compliance with external contracts through full and timely reporting, liaising with external partners and organizing workshops to collect stakeholder and policy input via various mechanisms; in particular in relation to ecosystem-based approaches to the management of fisheries;
- Supporting the EMB's strategic foresight and science policy activities and providing, in a timely manner, high-quality papers, minutes and reports;
- Taking responsibility for adherence to budgets of specific activities and providing necessary information to support preparation of regular financial reports;
- Representing the EMB at external meetings;
- Contributing to science communication (material for hard copy publication, online dissemination and electronic communication such as infographics) and outreach of EMB publications, projects and developments;
- Maintaining an up-to-date awareness of relevant scientific and research policy developments;
- Undertaking other specific tasks at the request of the Executive Director.

## Profile and competences required

### Specific experience and competences

- Post-graduate qualification at Master's level or higher in marine science with a further 1-2 years' research experience in a relevant scientific or science-policy role;
- Excellent standard of spoken and written English and strong editorial skills;
- Ability to draft concise and clear science-based documents to publication standard;
- Basic knowledge of European and national research structures and institutions and the European and international science-policy landscape;

- Good working knowledge of MS Office systems and of relevant online data and information sources; and
- Competence in electronic media (film, infographics, animations, etc.) would be preferred but is not essential.

Additional competences that would be beneficial for this position:

- Experience in working for EU H2020 projects;
- Awareness of current European and International marine science initiatives (e.g. the UN Decade for Ocean Science)
- Experience with collecting, processing and formulating stakeholder input; and
- Basic knowledge of ecosystem models, socio-economic indicators, fisheries and ecosystem assessment.

Inter-personal competences:

- Excellent organizational skills, capacity to deliver on allocated tasks and to meet deadlines;
- Action-orientated and responsible;
- Creative, willing to take initiative and continuously improvement-minded;
- Transparency in working and a team-orientated work ethic;
- Good communication and presentation skills across cultural and scientific boundaries; and
- Positive and constructive attitude; able to exercise discretion, diplomacy and tolerance.



## Employment Conditions & Application Procedure

- This full-time position is offered by European Marine Board IVZW for a contract period of 4 years. The successful candidate should preferably **start in April 2021**.
- The place of work is Ostend (Belgium) and the post will require some international travel.
- A competitive salary will be offered commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate.
- To apply, send a full CV, covering letter and motivation statement (500 words max.) outlining your suitability for the post **by 17:00 CET on Sunday 31 January 2021** to [info@marineboard.eu](mailto:info@marineboard.eu), quoting the following reference in the subject line: **EMB SO2021**. Please include the name and contact details of three referees.
- Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by Monday 15 February 2021 and will be invited for an **interview** (in - person or potentially via online video-conferencing) to be scheduled in the **week of 22 February 2021**. Prior to the interview, the shortlisted candidates will be asked to undertake a writing and editing skills test (in English).

Further information on the EMB is available at [www.marineboard.eu](http://www.marineboard.eu). Informal enquiries about the position can be made to [info@marineboard.eu](mailto:info@marineboard.eu) or to the EMB Executive Director, Sheila Heymans ([sheymans@marineboard.eu](mailto:sheymans@marineboard.eu)).