

Full-Time Vacancy – One year fixed-term contract

Research Officer

About EuroHealthNet

EuroHealthNet is the European Partnership for health, equity, and wellbeing. It consists of over 60 bodies from European countries responsible for public health and health promotion in Europe. From our office in Brussels, we coordinate policy, advocacy, research and capacity building activities which help address health inequalities and positively affect the determinants of health. There are currently 18 highly-skilled colleagues in the office plus rotating internships, all of whom contribute to an active, diverse and dynamic work environment. You can read about our work at www.eurohealthnet.eu.

About the position

EuroHealthNet's activities take place across three complementary platforms covering policy, practice and research. A core management and administration team unifies and builds connections between the platforms. Within the core team, communications activities amplify the messages and expertise of the EuroHealthNet Partnership.

The successful candidate will be part of EuroHealthNet's Research Platform, whose main objective is to identify and promote evidence-based approaches to improving health, equity and wellbeing, principally as part of pan-European research projects funded by the European Commission's Horizon Europe programme. Many of these projects focus on environmental health, developing new understanding and evidence to help address the threats of climate change and environmental degradation in ways that promote health and reduce health inequalities.

The Research Officer will support EuroHealthNet's participation in two Horizon Europe projects: RESONATE and FEAST, under the guidance and supervision of senior staff.

RESONATE aims to build a stronger causal evidence-base of the links between nature, health, and wellbeing, demonstrating nature's capacity to build physical and mental resilience. The project hopes to scale and spread the use of cost-effective nature-based therapies to build more resilient communities across Europe. EuroHealthNet is leading a Work Package analysing the health equity impacts of the project's case studies, and developing greater clarity about the concerns, challenges, barriers, needs, and opportunities of nature-based therapy to improve health and wellbeing, to be able to provide guidance to health professionals and to increase nature-based therapy uptake.

FEAST aims to advance the state of the art in research and innovation by bringing together different disciplines across the food system and, importantly, underpinning food actors' behavioural dimensions, which is often missing in food system solutions. This approach will stimulate the co-creation of novel, practical and scalable community-based, technology-based and policy-based solutions. EuroHealthNet is leading the policy Work Package of this consortium, first developing with partners a stakeholder and policy mapping and a related power analysis, and later organising policy dialogues that will inform policymakers of the results achieved, with the aim to maximize the likelihood that such results will be translated in policy implementation.

Responsibilities

The Research Officer's work would be divided between RESONATE and FEAST. The successful candidate would also be expected to support the EuroHealthNet Research team to effectively engage in other related projects and activities and EuroHealthNet's overall strategic objectives in the area of climate & health as the need arises, in consideration of existing workloads and capacities. Specific responsibilities will include:

For **RESONATE**:

- Setting up the methodology and overseeing the implementation of health equity impact assessments in case studies across 6 EU Member States, working in collaboration with researchers and teams on the ground, as well as directly with the involved communities (e.g., through workshops, surveys, etc.). The Research Officer would be expected to carry out the qualitative assessment and to liaise with researchers in the consortium in terms of the quantitative assessment.
- Researching the barriers and enablers of nature-based therapy in the health sector (literature review and interviews with health professionals) and developing guidelines to support health professionals in implementing nature-based therapy in their practices.

For **FEAST**:

- Helping to organise policy dialogues, networking with relevant stakeholders, developing related agendas and structuring methodology to enhance discussion between participants.

Across both projects:

- Liaising with partner organisations to develop research methodologies across different work strands and to maximise the impact of the research.
- Drafting reports and articles bringing together research results and providing policy recommendations, and monitoring EU and national policy-making to identify opportunities to maximise the projects' impacts and relevance.

- Helping to organise, as well as participating in and contributing to meetings and events of the two consortia.
- Contributing to the projects' overall reporting requirements.

Profile

- You are educated to at least Master level in a relevant field such as social and behavioural sciences, humanities, or other environment or health-related fields;
- Minimum of 2 years of relevant experience, such as research or field experience related to socioeconomic inequalities. Previous experience in carrying out health impact assessments will be strongly valued, as will experience of working on EU research projects (Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe) in the field of public health and/or environmental health. Please provide at least one reference to support your application.
- Experience in food systems policy debate, or an experience/interest that is compatible to the debates and challenges central in this field.
- Good understanding of European policy and practices in the field of climate and health.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English (native speaker level), proven experience in writing articles and reports as well as presenting findings to diverse audiences. English writing skills will be tested during the interview. Other European languages are a plus.
- Very good analytical and problem-solving skills, and attention to detail, as well as a proactive mind-set, a pragmatic approach and a willingness to take the initiative.
- Good organisational skills and sense of priority setting; ability to work on multiple tasks simultaneously to meet rapidly changing requirements of projects and different deadlines.
- Proficient in using Microsoft Office.
- Very good interpersonal skills and teamwork; ability to work in a small, busy, international team, while also being able to work autonomously with minimum supervision when needed.
- Experience of living in different contexts across Europe and social, cultural and political differences is desirable.
- Willing to travel within Europe when required.

Practicalities

This position is offered according to Belgian national legislation. It is an offer for a full-time position of 38 hours per week with a fixed-term contract of one year. There is a possibility of obtaining an extension of another year or a permanent contract afterwards.

For this position, the monthly gross salary ranges between €2,900 and €3,300 depending on experience and qualifications, and will also include benefits such as meal vouchers, financial support towards the use of public transport to work, and hospital insurance.

All applicants must be qualified, eligible and able to work in Belgium. We are unfortunately not able to provide financial assistance to relocate to Brussels or Belgium.

The post will combine in-office and remote work, as well as occasional travel within Europe – depending on COVID-19 regulation. The successful candidate will be supplied with necessary materials to work remotely, as required (e.g., laptop).

We value diversity and inclusivity

Diversity is a core value of EuroHealthNet. We are passionate about building and sustaining an inclusive and equitable working and learning environment. Every member on our team enriches our diversity by exposing us to ways to understand and engage with the world, identify challenges, and to design and deliver solutions. We offer a flexible working environment, in line with our gender, diversity, and inclusion strategy, and reasonable accommodations will be made for people who identify as living with a disability.

Specific measures are taken to eliminate (unconscious) bias and make the recruitment process more objective. These include anonymising applications during the initial selection; using a point-based system based on the job criteria for rating applications and interviews; making sure all applicants are asked the same interview questions; and offering an opportunity to receive personal feedback to all applicants.

This is an important post for us. Please do not hesitate to apply, also if you do not fulfil all selection criteria.

Applications

Applicants should send an email to David Hargitt, Senior Operations Coordinator (d.hargitt@eurohealthnet.eu), with the following subject line: “Research Officer vacancy”.

Please include the following two files as attachments (do not include any other attachments):

1. Your **CV**, with its filename: LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_CV

Please do not include personal details such as your picture, personal situation or birth date.

2. A **motivation letter**, 1-page maximum, with filename: LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_ML

Please note that applications that do not follow the above instructions will be disregarded.

The closing date for applications is **Wednesday March 29th, 2023 (midnight CET)**.

Interviews (preferably in person, but online is possible) with short-listed candidates will be held in the following weeks. We expect the successful candidate to start on or around **1 June 2023**.

Thank you for your interest in EuroHealthNet!