



The Institute of Soil Research is currently seeking a
Scientific Assistant



Extent of employment: 30 hours per week

Duration of employment: 2 years; possibility to extend 1 more year.

Workplace: Peter-Jordanstraße 82, 1190 Vienna, Austria

Position Details

European Joint Program EJP SOIL “**Towards climate-smart sustainable management of agricultural soils**” (<https://ejpsoil.eu/>), aim to enhance the contribution of agricultural soils to key societal challenges: climate change mitigation and adaptation, food security and ecosystem services, including soil biodiversity maintenance. EJP SOIL has a network of 26 research institutions from 24 European countries and developing joint solutions through multiple research projects within EJP SOIL consortium. The EJP SOIL (spans 5 years, until Jan 2025) unites a unique group of 26 leading European research institutes and universities in 24 countries and has funded 31 research projects, including MINOTAUR, within the EJP SOIL consortium.

The project MINOTAUR (**Modeling and mapping soil biodiversity patterns and functions across Europe**) is aiming to address the lack of harmonized and central databases for soil biodiversity at international level. This is central to integrate diverse set of soil biodiversity data for achieving the goal of effective soil monitoring and evidence-based policy decisions. The overall aim of this scientific assistant position is to identify, collect, harmonize and synthesize soil biodiversity data (macro and meso fauna) and associated soil functions from existing databases and transfer into existing long-term database(s) to serve multiple stakeholders beyond the project period.

In Austria, currently 70 scientists are working in this program. This position in MINOTAUR project provides an opportunity to engage not only within EJP SOIL projects (SERENA, CLIMASOMA, SIREN, CarboSeq) but also with other current (SOILGUARD, EXCALIBUR, GLOSOLBIO) and past (SOILBIODIV, EcoFINDERS, LandMark, SoilMan, etc.,) EU projects. The work is conducted in close collaboration with European Soil Observatory (Joint Research Center, Italy), EUdaphobase (the largest soil biodiversity data warehouse in Europe) and SoilBON initiative.

Your responsibilities:

- Development of standardized templates for data collection from national and international soil biodiversity databases
- Selection of various data sets, databases and data platforms (websites/portals)
- Assessment of quality standard and harmonization of data on various soil biodiversity and functional indicators
- Integrate existing soil biodiversity data and synthesize harmonized data to identify the knowledge gaps on various soil biodiversity groups (macrofauna and mesofauna).
- Interact closely with project partner groups: EUdaphobase, European Soil Observatory, MINOTAUR work packages and EJP SOIL WP6.



- Collection of soil samples from long-term experimental sites in Austria
- Participate in project meetings and contribute to project reporting
- Contribute to publications on this topic in cooperation with the project team
- Contribute to writing research proposals

Required Qualifications and Skills

- A Master's degree in soil science, environmental sciences, biology or other appropriate disciplines
- Strong interest and experience in data analysis (e.g. with R or similar)
- Experience in working with large datasets
- Skills and motivation to work with international teams
- Very good knowledge of written and spoken English
- Experience in scientific programming and data visualization are desirable
- Stress resilience, reliability, independence

Additional information

- The successful candidate will have the possibility to join the interdisciplinary team of scientists at the Institute of Zoology and Institute of Soil Research the BOKU Vienna.
- Institute of Zoology and Institute of Soil Research will contribute to the supervision.
- The position is initially limited to 2 years and the project team will aim to secure additional funding another year to complete the PhD.
- The candidate has an opportunity to work in close collaboration soil biodiversity projects and be part of a large network researchers in the field of soil biodiversity.

Applications can be submitted until: **March 8th, 2022**, or until the position is filled.

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna seeks to increase the number of its female faculty and staff members. Therefore, qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply. In case of equal qualification, female candidates will be given preference unless reasons specific to an individual male candidate tilt the balance in his favor. Gross monthly salary: in terms of collective agreement for university staff, scientific assistant without doctoral degree: B1, (14x a year)

Your application should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copies of your certificates and qualifications, contact details of two references.

For further inquiries please contact Dr. Johann Zaller (johann.zaller@boku.ac.at) and/or Dr. Rajasekaran Murugan (rajasekaran.murugan@boku.ac.at).


Please send your job application to Karin Slama, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, 1190 Vienna, Peter-Jordan-Straße 70; E-Mail: karin.slama@boku.ac.at (Reference "Minotaur scientific assistant").

We regret that we cannot reimburse applicants travel and lodging expenses incurred as part of the selection and hiring process.



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