

Communication Officer DeSIRA LIFT

We are looking for...

Are you passionate about communication on topics related to food, environment and agriculture? Are you interested in making research accessible to different audiences through different communication channels? Do you want to support communication that bridges the worlds of science and policy relevant for the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? If that is the case, then please continue reading, because *we are looking for a communication officer for our DeSIRA-LIFT project.*

Background...

For Agrinatura, Wageningen University & Research (WUR) will lead an European Union (EU) project that aims to link research and innovation with a multi-stakeholder approach thus contributing to addressing food security and climate change. The project is called DeSIRA-LIFT (Leveraging Innovation for Food system Transformation), an umbrella project for the many DeSIRA research projects (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture, in short DeSIRA) that are currently being implemented.

What is the DeSIRA programme?

The DeSIRA programme seeks to enhance an inclusive, sustainable and climate-relevant transformation of agri-food systems, by enhancing the developmental impact of applied research on food systems. It supports actions in low- and middle-income countries to strengthen the resilience of their agri-food systems, the relevance of the national and regional research and innovation systems, and the coherence and efficiency of their agricultural public research and extension services related to climate change challenges.

DeSIRA-LIFT is a *service project* to the European Commission (EC), Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and will have a global scope. DeSIRA-LIFT includes three areas of services:

1. Support to country-based DeSIRA projects to enhance their impacts on climate-oriented innovation systems in line with more sustainable food system transitions.
2. Support to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) ex-pillar IV organisations in their Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) related roles.
3. Enhance policy support to (i) facilitate policy dialogues at the national levels with the support of EU delegations, (ii) support collective thinking at EU level with other EC DGs (RTD, AGRI) and relevant EU fora (such as EFARD, EIARD, Agrinatura, etc.), and (iii) provide guidance at the international level with organisations such as CGIAR.

We ask ...

We are looking for a pro-active Communication Officer who has experience in communications for applied research and capacity building projects in the field of social and/or environmental sciences and international development.

You have the following qualifications:

- Qualifications and skills:
 - o A relevant education in (project) communication.
- General professional experience:
 - o At least 3 years' professional experience in areas directly relevant to international development, innovation with a social science perspective, knowledge and innovation systems, or likewise.
- Specific professional experience:
 - o Proven experience in communication.

- At least 5 years' experience of working in a research environment.
- Experience in communication for EU-funded projects is desirable.
- **Soft skills**
 - Expertise in communication, (including note-taking and reporting, liaising with experts and stakeholder groups, assisting the experts in the organisation of events, reporting to the EU);
 - Expertise in on-line communication, including social media.
 - Communications coordination skills, working with web and graphic designers, editors
 - Internal communications
 - Copywriting
- **Language skills**
 - Excellent writing and oral presentation skills in English. Working knowledge of French would be an advantage.

Specific tasks include...

The communication officer will provide support to the DeSIRA LIFT project in communicating project activities and findings through a variety of communication channels. The main tasks will be:

- Coordination and development of a web platform for the project
- Development and coordination of project branding (with graphic designer)
- Incorporation of EU guidelines in all communication means
- Internal communications, information sharing with project partners
- Supporting in development of communication means, i.e. reports, policy briefs and presentations
- Alignment with external communications officer, based at Wageningen University & Research

We offer...

The consultancy assignment consists of 119 person days over a period of three years, subject to satisfactory performance in the first six months of the contract. The maximum daily rate (including overhead costs) allowed under this contract is 450 euro per day (excl. VAT) depending on the candidate's experience. The expert will collaborate closely with the DeSIRA-LIFT project director based at Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen University & Research. It is expected that most of the work can be done virtually from home.

Expression of interest

If you are interested in this long-term consultancy, please submit the following as separate documents:

1) A brief statement of no more than two (2) pages of text expressing interest and presenting your candidature by e.g., (i) explaining your motivation and relevant past experience, (ii) supplying two professional references and (iii) presenting your daily rate in EUR. 2) A CV including examples of your communication portfolio. Deadline for submission is 29th of August 2021.

Applications will be assessed on the selection criteria: qualifications and skills (40%), relevant experience (40%) and daily rate (20%); shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview early September 2021.

More information...

For more information about the content of this consultancy, or submission of your expression of interest, you can send an e-mail to helena.posthumus@wur.nl.