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In a cooperation project between the **International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)** and the German **Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG)** a vacancy for a full-time post (39 hours per week) as a

Research associate / project manager (m/w/d)

at the ICPR secretariat in Koblenz (Germany) is to be filled from **1 April 2021** on. According to the project agreement, the position is **limited to 3 years**.

Job description

The project manager will coordinate the **EU co-funded international project on non-target screening** (Title: *Monitoring the pollution of water through non-target screening on the Rhine*), i. e. in particular:

- 1) Coordinate and harmonise the actions between the individual monitoring stations, the ICPR and the software developer. This concerns in particular the works in the following areas:
 - Optimisation and implementation of the sample preparation method for the subsequent measurement by means of high-resolution mass spectrometry linked to liquid chromatography (LC-HRMS);
 - Optimisation, adaptation and validation of data acquisition for LC-HRMS measurements from the five monitoring stations for a joint evaluation;
 - Optimisation of the evaluation algorithms and strategies of LC-HRMS data of different mass spectrometer types with the aim of a joint (semi-) automated evaluation for the five monitoring stations;
- 2) Conception and implementation of a server-based solution for the joint evaluation of the measurement data of individual stations as well as a permanent and secure data storage on the server;
- 3) Preparation of the reporting to the EU (interim report and final project report);
- 4) Public relations, in particular the presentation of the project results at national and international conferences, writing publications and organising a workshop on the results of the project.

In addition, the following tasks are to be carried out in the function of a research associate:

- Supporting the daily non-target screening at the measuring station Koblenz/Rhine using LC-HRMS;
- Participation in the optimisation and implementation of the sample preparation method;
- Prioritisation and identification of previously unknown substances in the Rhine.

Internationale
Kommission zum
Schutz des Rheins

Commission
Internationale
pour la Protection
du Rhin

Internationale
Commissie ter
Bescherming
van de Rijn

International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Rhine

You have the following qualifications:

- relevant university/college degree in chemistry, natural sciences, environmental management, bioanalytics, water management/water quality or equivalent qualification;
- experience in environmental analysis, especially in the field of LC-MS and non-target screening or similar analytical methods;
- good knowledge of IT and data management;
- quick perception and ability to set priorities;
- very good communication and organisational skills;
- ability to express complex scientific facts concisely, clearly and comprehensibly (both written and spoken);
- experience in project management / coordination would be an asset;
- professional experience in the field of water management or environmental management would be an asset;
- a high degree of ability to work in a team, resilience and flexibility;
- very good knowledge of English and good knowledge of German.

We offer you:

- a varied and very interesting job in the service of the environment;
- a motivated, dynamic and multicultural team;
- a salary according to TVöD-Bund salary group E13.

According to the project agreement, the position is limited to 3 years.

Description of the project

The main objective of this project is to develop an international, centralised, innovative and fast data processing, evaluation and storage of non-target data and to establish it in the measuring stations along the Rhine. Daily non-target screening produces large amounts of data, which are currently often stored locally. A central data archive allows for the subsequent analysis of relevant substances and reduces the workload of the measuring stations.

In addition, unknown substances in the Rhine and their sources are to be identified. A cost-benefit analysis and an implementation strategy will help to further establish non-target screening in the daily measurement routine.

5 monitoring stations are involved in the project, which already operate non-target screening:

- Weil am Rhein (Amt für Umwelt und Energie Basel-Stadt);
- Karlsruhe (Landesanstalt für Umwelt Baden-Württemberg);
- Koblenz (Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde);
- Bad Honnef (Landesamt für Natur, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen);
- Lobith (Rijkswaterstaat – Ministerie voor Infrastructuur en Waterstaat).

For further information

Mr Marc Daniel Heintz (Executive Secretary)

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Please submit your complete application documents in electronic form by 14 February 2021, 24:00 h to sekretariat@iksr.de.

Brief introduction of the ICPR

For 70 years, Switzerland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Luxemburg and the European Union have been working together in the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) on the basis of a treaty under international law in order to reconcile the many different uses of the river and its protection. In order to fully implement European directives, this trans-boundary cooperation was extended to Austria, Liechtenstein, Italy and the Belgian region Wallonia.

The current President is Veronica Manfredi, Director at the European Commission. The President and the different ICPR fora are supported by the international staff of the permanent secretariat in Koblenz (Germany).

For its successful work since 1950, the ICPR was awarded the European RiverPrize and in 2013 and the International Thiess RiverPrize in 2014. For detailed information on the ICPR please see to www.iksr.org.