



## Science-Policy Interface research coordination position at Alternet

The Alternet Association looks to employ a science-policy interface research coordinator trained in environmental or social sciences. The objective of the international non-governmental organization (i-ngo) Alternet is *to provide sound scientific evidence to international, European, national and regional policymakers, businesses and people aimed at or involved in actively improving the sustainable use, management, conservation and restoration of biodiversity, ecosystems, ecosystem services and social involvement, through the integration of European interdisciplinary research capacity, knowledge integration and communication*. Alternet aims to cooperate with European stakeholders in the scientific, policy, public and private sectors with regard to:

- contributing to the definition, development and implementation of European and global research on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services and other research that directly or indirectly contributes to the Association's objective;
- developing and integrating European capacity in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services;
- creating opportunities for ecological, economic, social and human scientists and to work together in an inter- and transdisciplinary context within the framework of Alternet its objective;
- supporting the interface between science and policy through communication with policy makers, and public and private interest groups on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services;
- integrating and disseminate existing knowledge to directly support evidence-based policies on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services.
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Alternet its daily operations are currently executed by the founding members of the Association and by the secretariat. In addition, the Alternet activities are developed by its management board which consists of 13 members from different research institutes across Europe. Alternet activities are decided on by the council of the Association. All of the present 30 effective member institutes are represented in the council.

### About the position:

We are looking for a candidate with profound knowledge of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and with processes and other international policies and strategies dealing with biodiversity and ecosystem issues. Research coordination tasks will include approaches to involve the CBD processes, with emphasis on the draft Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in the European biodiversity research community, with the aim to build a strong science base.

The position will be linked to the EU CO-OP4CBD project (Horizon 2022 project), in which Alternet is a full partner. The candidate will be responsible for taking up the following four tasks:

- Identify, map and establish contacts with individuals, networks of scientists, practitioners and other knowledge holders, including relevant traditional ecological knowledge holders.
- Set up thematic expert groups, according to the CBD agenda items.
- Develop a full understanding of the monitoring framework (of the GBF) and review processes at the global level and what it means for the EU and its Member States.
- Map capacity building needs by examining the draft long-term strategic framework for capacity development, to support the implementation of the CBD post 2020 GBF and the report of the study to inform the preparation of a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020.

The candidate will be responsible for the task deliverables and will help with the financial reporting. In addition the candidate is expected to work in close collaboration with the other international partners of the CO-OP4CBD project ("Co-operation for the Convention on Biological Diversity"). Furthermore, the candidate will be responsible to work together with the Alternet network and secretariat, to implement the objectives of Alternet ([www.alterneteurope.eu](http://www.alterneteurope.eu)).

*CO-OP4CBD aims to enhance coordination of the EU support to advance the implementation of the CBD, and doing so make more effective use of existing expertise and initiatives. This will lead to greater coherence in the ways in which the EU, its Member States and associated countries identify and draw on available expertise, improved advice and support to a range of CBD processes, and a more coordinated and cooperative approach in the engagement of experts in supporting implementation of other intergovernmental agreements and processes. Therefore the core focus of CO-OP4CBD is to support the increase facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation in European countries and elsewhere.*

*This will be achieved through the implementation of a set of Coordination and Support Actions: 1) building on existing networks of experts and institutions; 2) engaging experts into the CBD processes; 3) supporting the implementation of monitoring, reporting and review; and 4) increasing technical and scientific cooperation. These actions are targeted at and will benefit the EU, its Member States and associated countries. Many actions and outputs of CO-OP4CBD however will be of interest and use to other Parties to the CBD.*

Alternet is involved in the several work packages, and a majority of tasks; it takes the lead in the following tasks:

Task 1.2 Knowledge holders' identification (Lead: Alternet; Participants: RBINS, FRB, SYKE, Pensoft, CER) (M3-M24) Following the knowledge needs identification in task 1.1, this task identifies, maps and establishes contacts with individuals, networks of scientists, practitioners and other knowledge holders, including traditional ecological knowledge holders, with relevant knowledge and experience to meet those needs. Existing platforms, networks and communities of practice addressing relevant topics, also beyond Europe (with a focus on Africa), are identified (in close collaboration with the Science Service results from European level). Within this identified group of experts, potential trainers and speakers could be invited to contribute to training courses and workshops (in cooperation with WP4) to share their knowledge and expertise more widely. This task will consistently build on previous work done (e.g., KNEU, EKLIPSE) and identify connections such as with experts involved in IPBES or Biodiversa+. This task will produce a report (D1.2) containing the information regarding the different knowledge holders so it can be utilised across CO-OP4CBD.

Task 2.1 Set up of communities of experts (Lead: Alternet; Participants: FRB, CER, MNHN) (M3-M48) This task will set up the thematic expert groups according to CBD agenda items, based on the mapping of experts and networks (developed under WP1). While some are regularly brought forward (e.g., marine and coastal biodiversity, invasive alien species, climate change, sustainable use, access-and-benefit sharing), there will also be flexibility for WP2 to include additional issues that may be addressed by CBD and its subsidiary bodies/working groups for the duration of the project (e.g., traditional ecological knowledge, synthetic biology, digital sequence information), as advised by Task 1.1. This task will particularly endeavour to involve experts from Central and Eastern European countries, who are currently under-represented in science-policy interface (e.g., through understanding current role, contribution, motivation and incentives to mobilize Central and Eastern European experts by relevant mapping exercises and consequent engagement workshops). African experts will also be included as appropriate. This task will result in a consolidated list of thematic expert groups (D2.1). The lists will be regularly updated.

Task 3.1 Develop a full understanding of the monitoring framework and review processes at the global level (Co-leads: Alternet and UNEP-WCMC; Participants: RBINS, SYKE, CER) (M1-M48) This task will establish an understanding of the needs and opportunities of the EU and its Member States and associated countries to implement the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This is envisioned to be an ongoing process, responding to reported capacity needs and the evolving negotiations by Parties to the CBD. Noting the need to translate the post-2020 biodiversity framework into the national context, this task will identify the specific needs of EU Member States and associated countries (in particular those from Africa) to identify the necessary actions for monitoring and reporting, including areas of possible alignment between the mechanisms in place in CBD and the EU. To assist with this translation, Task 3.1 will develop an initial report and accompanying recommendations on these requirements, with regular revision

to include updates and ensure alignment with the evolving CBD processes (D3.1). This task will further connect with existing networks (e.g. EuropaBON) and the newly established EU monitoring and assessment group for establishing new monitoring and review mechanisms, which will hold initial meetings in 2022.

**Task 4.1 Capacity building needs (Lead: Alternet; Participants: RBINS, NINA, CER, MNHN) (M3-M24)**  
Examining the draft long-term strategic framework for capacity development to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/7/ADD1) and the report of the study to inform the preparation of a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020 (CBD/SBI/3/INF/9) this task will begin by analysing and discuss how the EU and its Member States and associated countries (in particular those from Africa) can best respond. In particular this task will focus on how technical and scientific cooperation can be a means to deliver capacity-building for the different key groups of this Project and in particular thinking about the different needs of policy, science and practice from each other. The scope of this task will be the EU and its Member States and associated countries. The work under Task 4.1 will be carried out in close collaboration with WP1 and WP2 (Tasks 1.2 and 2.2) and the outcomes (capacity needs) of the study will be presented in a report (D4.1).

The candidate is expected to have experience in CBD processes and the EU biodiversity relevant policy domain. Furthermore, it is expected for the candidate to actively take part in the development of new projects in the scope of Alternet's objectives.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- Design work plans to fulfill the different tasks and realize the targets as described in the CO-OP4CBD project;
- Project management, including developing exchange and involvement with the other partners of the CO-OP4CBD project, with the scientific community, the policy domain and other relevant actors;
- Organize different workshops and meetings;
- Dissemination and outreach activities;
- Work together with Alternet and its accountant firm on financial reporting;
- Development of new proposals to get EU funding.

#### **We are looking for:**

Someone who is proactive and enjoys collaborating with a variety of scientific disciplines as well as policy makers, policy advisors and other actors that will be involved in this science-policy Interface project. You should have strong interests and skills in project development, dissemination and communication. You should also have a good understanding of global CBD and EU policy processes as well as cross-cutting approaches. Basic knowledge of the different public sectors' information needs, mandates, roles and challenges is necessary. You need to be available for international traveling and meetings at an ad-hoc base (global and at EU level) as well as for regular meetings in Brussels.

#### **Formal qualifications:**

Minimum MSc qualification in biology, geography, sociology, political science or a related multidisciplinary programme. However, having a PhD in this field is an advantage. Knowledge of CBD processes, especially the draft GBF, and experience at the EU-level, are important advantages. Excellent speaking, writing and presentation skills in English are required.

#### **iNGO Alternet offers:**

- A 0,8 up to full-time position for 4 years in one of Europe's strongest biodiversity research networks;
- Payment according to education level and experiences and according to EU standards including social allowances;
- Flexible working hours, with the possibility for working from your home address;

- Enjoyable work environment at INBO in Brussels, with a dedicated small international team.
- Location: Havenlaan 88, BE-1000 Brussels, Belgium

### **Application and further information**

Applications may be submitted electronically to [secretariat@alterneteurope.eu](mailto:secretariat@alterneteurope.eu). It must include a CV with information on education, relevant work experience and two references.

Competitive candidates will be invited for an interview in the second half of January 2023.

The starting date for the successful candidate will be asap afterwards.

Enquiries about the positions can be made to:

Maurice Hoffmann, tel . +32 472 08 22 53 [maurice.hoffmann@inbo.be](mailto:maurice.hoffmann@inbo.be)

Jiska van Dijk, tel. + 47 99 39 31 48 [jiska.van.dijk@nina.no](mailto:jiska.van.dijk@nina.no)

**Application deadline is the 15th of January 2023.**