Bonn, Germany

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Research Associate - Resource Statistics for Prospecting Secondary Materials in the Urban Mine (Personnel Service Agreement - PSA)

Organizational Unit : United Nations University - Vice-Rectorate in Europe (UNU-ViE)
Reference Number : 2016/UNU/ViE/SCYCLE/ PSA/RA/1
Applications to : hrbonn@vie.unu.edu
Closing Date : 31 January 2016

United Nations University Objectives:

The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars, engaged in research, postgraduate teaching and capacity development and dissemination of knowledge in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The mission of UNU is to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations and its Member States. For more information, please visit http://unu.edu.

The United Nations University Vice-Rectorate in Europe (UNU-ViE):

UNU-ViE concentrates on relationships between advancing science and technology for human security. In addition to its scientific core mandate, it administers the central units providing service to UNU entities in Bonn. The central administration units include Finance, Human Resources, Information Communication Technology, Communication Services, Procurement and General Administration. These units also assist with the administration of new UNU initiatives in Europe and Africa. For more information on the organization, please visit the following websites: http://ehs.unu.edu/vice-rectorate

SCYCLE Programme:

UNU ViE-SCYCLE has been launched on 1 January 2016 succeeding the former UNU-IAS Operating Unit SCYCLE. It will be an independent Programme hosted by UNU-ViE in Bonn (Germany). SCYCLE envisions to enable societies to reduce the environmental load from production, use and the disposal of ubiquitous goods and especially electrical and electronic equipment to sustainable levels by means of independent and both comprehensive and practical research providing more thorough fact bases for policy development and decision making. Therefore SCYCLE activities are focused on the development of sustainable production, consumption and disposal patterns for electrical and electronic equipment, as well as other ubiquitous goods. SCYCLE leads the global e-waste discussion and advances sustainable e-waste management strategies based on life-cycle thinking.
Prospecting Secondary Raw Materials in the Urban Mine and Mining Waste (ProSUM) Project:

The Horizon 2020 funded ProSUM project which will establish a European network of expertise on secondary sources of critical raw materials (CRMs), vital to today’s high-tech society. ProSUM directly supports the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Raw Materials and its Strategic Implementation Plan calling for the creation of a European raw materials knowledge base. Data on secondary raw materials are available in Europe, but scattered amongst a variety of institutions including government agencies, universities, NGOs and industry. By establishing a EU Information Network, the project will coordinate efforts to collect secondary CRM data and collate maps of stocks and flows for materials and products of the “urban mine”. The scope is the particularly relevant sources for secondary CRMs: Electrical and electronic equipment, vehicles, batteries and mining tailings. The project will construct a comprehensive inventory identifying, quantifying and mapping CRM stocks and flows at national and regional levels across Europe. Via a user-friendly, open-access data platform, it will communicate the results online and combine them with primary raw materials data at national geological institutes. ProSUM provides a factual basis for policy makers to design appropriate legislation, academia to define research priorities and to identify innovation opportunities in recovering CRMs for the recycling industry. The project will enable interdisciplinary collaboration, improves dissemination of knowledge and supports policy dialogues. A consortium of 17 partners, representing research institutes, geological surveys and industry, with excellence in all above domains will deliver this ambitious project.

Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the Scientific Advisor, the Researcher will provide support to the UNU-ViE (SCYCLE)’s team of technical specialists. He/she will specifically be responsible for model construction and development of the analysis tools for describing stocks and flows of CRM’s in the urban mine, for harmonization of data from existing sources and recommendations to data providers and national geological surveys and statistics institutes in Europe to enable and strengthen the EU data network on the subject.

The specific responsibilities of the position are as follows:

- Model selection and statistical compilation of the urban mine in Europe. Mostly on the sales, stocks, and flows of wastes of electronic products containing CRM’s.
- Construction and streamlining of the corresponding databases for the project and supporting data deliveries to the database of the webportal
- Contribute to the development of methodologies for addressing defined research questions concerning the evaluation of impacts related to current and future supply of CRM’s to the European industry.
- Contribute to the visualization of the mapping of the Urban Mine and development of policy briefs and scientific papers, specifically regarding recommendations for data harmonization across Europe.
- Assistance in subsequent project acquisition also for related waste streams like renewable energy, other metal scraps as well as e-mobility and professional appliances; investigating options for applications of the datasets for use in mere macro-economic modelling national materials accounts, primary raw materials databases, criticality assessments and LCA databases etc.
- Perform any other support duties as required.

Required qualifications and experience:

- As a minimum, a master degree in an environmental science, engineering, beta science with a strong statistical knowledge;
- Excellent spoken and written English and preferably French and possibly German as well; Computer proficiency (Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Access, R, Matlab, SPSS, or similar knowledge of database software and statistical analysis tools is essential)
- Excellent research, writing and analytical skills
- Knowledge of quantitative data analysis tools with eye for detail and attention to accuracy;
- Interpersonal and communication skills to interact effectively with people of different national and cultural backgrounds.
Remuneration & Duration of Contract:

The successful candidate shall work under a Personal Service Agreement (PSA) for a fixed period of twelve (12) months with the possibility of renewal. The combined duration of appointments under a PSA shall not exceed six (6) years.

Remuneration will be commensurate with qualification and experience of the successful candidate. The working location will be Bonn, Germany with frequent travel to Eindhoven, the Netherlands in the first 6 months. The research work may result in a PhD trajectory in cooperation with one or more of the academic institutes involved in the project.

This is a locally recruited post and no relocation allowances apply. The successful candidate will be employed under a local contract and will not hold international civil servant status nor is he/she a “staff member” as defined in the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations.

Starting Date:

As soon as possible (preferably by March 2016)

Application Procedure:

Interested applicants should submit their applications by e-mail (to hrbonn@vie.unu.edu), and must include the following:

- A cover letter setting out how the qualifications and experience match the requirements of the position;
- A curriculum vitae and a completed and signed UNU Personal History (P.11) form downloadable from the UNU website. Please avoid using similar forms provided by other United Nations organizations;
- An indication of the reference number of the vacancy announcement (2016/UNU/ViE/SCYCLE/PSA/RA/1)

The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs. (Charter of the United Nations - Chapter 3, article 8)