

Job offer - Researcher on Alpine Forests, Ecosystems and Protected Areas (m/f/d) in Austria

About the Job

The work is focused on the implementation study for the development of an OECM (Other effective area-based conservation measures) in Carinthia, Austria. The work will be carried out in close collaboration with the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Management of Conservation of the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (www.cuas.at/unesco-chair) at the CUAS Campus in Villach.

The job requires a German-speaking researcher in the field of Alpine Forests, Ecosystems and Protected Areas. It will be directly related to an Alpine-forest use case within the Horizon Europe project BIO-CAPITAL.

The employment contract (12-18 months, part time or full-time, with flexible working arrangements) will be with the company JSC One (www.jsc-one.com), an Italian SME specialised in environmental economics and financial innovation for nature conservation.

Your profile

We are looking for an enthusiastic and skilled researcher with an interdisciplinary perspective, who can analyse and address the emerging environmental and economic issues related to the establishment of an OECM. These tasks will be carried out in consultation and collaboration with experts and include the following preferred requirements:

- Excellent German language skills (spoken and written) and very good command of English
- An undergraduate or Master degree related to environmental sciences (e.g., forestry, landscape planning, geography, environmental economics).
- Specific scientific and practical interest in working on Conservation areas and/or Alpine forestry (a previous direct experience in the field would be preferred).
- Advanced technical skills, particularly in geoinformatics, ICT, data management and potentially AI, are desirable. Proficiency in standard software applications is expected.

Your personal attributes

- A team-oriented individual with a reliable work ethic and attention to detail.
- Interested in engaging with diverse project partners and stakeholders.
- Flexible and resilient.
- Eager to learn new skills and develop innovative approaches.

This position requires a dynamic and interdisciplinary professional who is passionate about advancing the field of conservation area management.

Your tasks

As a researcher within a Horizon Europe project of European relevance, you will support the development of an OECM in Austria, from its conceptualisation to its potential recognition by the IUCN. You will contribute to a significant research initiative of European importance and collaborate closely with regional and international partners to implement your tasks effectively. You will work on the project in collaboration with experienced researchers, who will support your work as well as your personal and professional development. This work will involve:

- International review of OECMs, including literature analysis, expert interviews, best practices and existing standards.
- Co-development of an OECM management concept together with right-holders, experts and stakeholders (e.g. zoning, management categories, management plan, monitoring framework).
- Contribution to legal, governance, business and financial frameworks for the OECM in collaboration with BIO-CAPITAL partners.
- Preparation of reports and scientific outputs, including graphics, maps and model-based analyses.
- Support dissemination and knowledge transfer to conservation practice and higher education (e.g. contribution to the CUAS Master's programme "Management of Conservation Areas").

Our offer

Your workplace will be located at the CUAS Campus in Villach, ensuring closer proximity to the pilot region. Your employment contract will be with the company JSC One.

- Scope of employment: part time (at least 24 h a week) or full time (with flexible working conditions).
- Contract duration: 12 – 18 months, starting in March.
- Place of work: Campus Villach, Europastrasse 4, 9524 Villach.
- Minimum salary: € 2,990 - gross per month (for full-time employment), negotiable based on qualifications and experience.

We are committed to fostering diversity and inclusion and encourage applications from individuals of all backgrounds, particularly those underrepresented in academia.

Application process

Expected timeline for the application process:

- Application deadline: 20 February 2026
- Proposed start date: 16 March 2026

Required documents:

- Letter of motivation
- Curriculum vitae incl. photo
- Proof of education and practical experience
- (If available) List of publications and PDFs of selected publications

Please submit your complete application documents to: horizon@jsc-one.com. We look forward to receiving your application and to the possibility of working together.

For any questions, please contact:

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