

## Vacancy Announcement

**Position title: Scientific support officer (EN/FR)- World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**

**Salary:** Commensurate with qualifications and experience

**Duration:** 18 months years - renewable according to funding and project activities

### Context

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare worldwide, as well as for ensuring transparency of the global animal disease situation. The standards it develops for the trade of live animals and products of animal origin are recognized by the World Trade Organization as reference international sanitary rules [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int).

The OIE, then known as the « Office international des épizooties », was created on the 25th of January, 1924. Its Headquarters are based in Paris. It comprises 181 Member Countries and is present on all continents through 12 Representations. The OIE maintains permanent relations with over 71 international and regional organisations.

### Summary

In its leading role to improve animal health and welfare worldwide, one of the OIE's key missions is to ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation. Access to high quality data is the cornerstone of the effective control of transboundary animal diseases, including zoonoses; this access ensures the early and appropriate response after detection of emerging diseases, contributes to protecting public health and global livelihoods, and plays a significant role in facilitating safe trade. The OIE's World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), developed and launched in 2005, is the global tool to achieve these objectives.

WAHIS enables the collection and the dissemination of data on animal diseases of epidemiological significance in both domestic species and wildlife and is vital for the global dissemination of information on animal disease events, including zoonotic pathogens. This reporting mechanism is based on the OIE's international standards and is representative of the global consensus and shared vision to collectively tackle animal diseases and their negative impacts.

WAHIS is an evolving tool which responds to global needs, changes to international standards and has increased pace for innovation and technological change. Therefore, with more than ten years after launched, WAHIS will be renovated and its development will start in January 2018.

### Positioning and reporting

Under the authority of the Director General, the general management of the Deputy Director "International Standards and Science" and the direct supervision of the Head of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department and in close collaboration with her/his Deputy.

### Job purpose

You will support the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department in the collection, verification and dissemination of animal health information provided by Member and non-member countries to the OIE through WAHIS. In particular, you will be responsible for following the notification process of countries or territories and contributing to the improvement of the WAHIS and the future WAHIS+.

## **Missions and activities**

- 1) Following the notification process:
  - Applying a standard verification process on six-monthly, annual and wild annual reports;
  - Interacting with countries' nominated representatives on issues related to notification, including providing them with support in order to facilitate disease notification;
  - Participating in trainings of countries' representatives on WAHIS;
  - Following-up with countries to encourage them to provide regular and timely animal health reports in line with their obligations.
  
- 2) Providing support to the Early Warning System of WAHIS:
  - Preparing documents in line with the standard verification process on immediate notifications, follow-up reports and final reports;
  - Providing support in drafting correspondence to countries and disseminating sanitary information through mailing lists.
  
- 3) Participating in activities associated with the development of WAHIS. This includes:
  - Participating actively in the implementation of the new World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS+) project;
  - Working with IT experts in the development and improvements of a data extraction tool from WAHIS;
  - Contribute to the functional requirement definition and functional testing of different modules developed for the WAHIS+ system;
  - Provide feedback to the WAHIS+ project management team.

## **Qualifications and Experience**

### **Qualifications**

- Graduate degree (Bachelor's a minimum) in biology related disciplines (i.e. biologist, pharmaceuticals, animal science, health sciences, veterinarian...);
- At least 3 years of working experience in scientific related fields: data processing, data analysis, data collection;
- Proven experience working with databases;
- Work experience with Veterinary Services, animal or human health institutions, research institutions will be considered an asset.

### **Requirements**

#### **Technical skills**

- Excellent knowledge of English and French both written and oral;
- Very good command of the Microsoft Office Package (Word, Excel, Access, Power Point).

#### **Additional skills**

- Good knowledge of Spanish and/or Russian;
- Experience with Data Mining Tools, GIS, Testing Tools, Bug reporting tools.

#### **Interpersonal skills**

- Proactivity;
- Keen sense of observation, attention to detail, critical thinking and accuracy;
- Ability to work under pressure, and to efficiently prioritize work across multiple parallel tasks;
- Courtesy, tact and ability to establish and maintain good working relations in a multinational and multicultural environment;

- Good communication and writing skills and team working abilities especially under tight deadlines.

### **Working conditions**

This position may require flexible hours at times to complete specific projects.

### **General information**

The OIE places high value on a multicultural and positive work environment.

The OIE is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications of all qualified candidates, irrespective of their ethnic origin, gender, opinions or beliefs.

This is a full-time position as an international civil servant based at the OIE Headquarters in Paris (France) that is available immediately.

If you are interested in the position, please complete your application online by clicking on the link below **by 29 December 2017 at the latest**.

Should you have any questions, please contact Human Resources at [hr.dept@oie.int](mailto:hr.dept@oie.int).

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