CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR (M/F/X) WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CREATION OF THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR CLIMATE

The Centre of Excellence for Climate (hereinafter "Climate Centre") is a newly created structure that works transversally to the existing Federal Science Institutes (hereinafter "FSI’s") and builds bridges to national, European or international research centres and universities.

The climate centre recruits a scientific director to lead the centre in consultation with the business director.

The objectives of the Climate Centre are as follows:
- Provide general support for climate research in all Belgian institutions
- Promote cooperation between disciplines around a coherent research agenda
- Bridge the gap between the research community and users through climate services

To achieve these objectives, 7 priority missions have been identified. The business director and scientific director are jointly responsible for the phased roll-out and fulfilment of these missions:
- Regroup climate research of the different FSI’s under one functional management to further increase quality and impact
- Develop programmes to improve the cooperation between Belgian FSI’s, universities and research centres
- Set up a permanent research mission to produce detailed climate projections for Belgium that form the scientific basis for impact and vulnerability studies
- Collect and share climate data from and for climate research in Belgium via an open portal addressed to the research community
- Set up support to increase the Belgian share in international funding and programmes
- Develop a one-stop shop to serve as a contact point for climate services that meet the needs of companies and sectors
- Provide scientific support for the analysis of the climate threat and the management of natural disasters at the level of the federal government

FUNCTION DESCRIPTION

The Scientific Director will provide leadership to researchers, set the research agenda, establish interdisciplinary groups and oversee all scientific work.

You will assemble and functionally manage several interdisciplinary, transversal scientific teams. The selected research staff will remain employed by their own institution (FSI, university or research centre), although their scientific work will be carried out under the coordination and supervision of the Climate Centre.
The Climate Centre's resources, as well as those of Belspo (the Belgian Science Policy Office), will also be used to (co-)finance researchers who facilitate cross-institutional collaboration.

The number of researchers involved in the Climate Centre is expected to grow steadily through three levers:

- Regrouping of existing FSI researchers in cross-cutting teams
- Linking up with existing researchers in universities and research centres
- Stimulating research teams with additional funding, both internal and external

You will perform these tasks in consultation and close cooperation with the business director in order to achieve the climate centre's objectives.

PERSONAL SKILLS

- You will have an established (inter)national reputation that enables you to convince other researchers to join forces under the coordination of the Climate Centre.
- You can draw up, lead and implement scientifically oriented, strategic and operational plans to contribute to the achievement of the specific objectives of the Climate Centre.
- You are able to assume and monitor the scientific coordination and management of the climate centre.
- You take responsibility for achieving the desired scientific results within the time frame and with the means made available.
- You have good management skills combined with an understanding of the scientific community, as you will be responsible for leading the various interdisciplinary transversal scientific teams involved in the Climate Centre.
- You have strong communication skills, enabling you to be the face of the Climate Centre towards the general public.
- You have an affinity with translating research results into policy,
- You have affinity with involving (potential) users in the design of research projects and agenda setting

DIPLOMA:

Diploma required by the deadline for submitting applications: diploma related to one of the scientific fields of study of the climate centre (including applied sciences).

This position is open to candidates who can be assigned to the Dutch or French language role, in accordance with the rules laid down by the laws on the use of languages in administrative matters.

A candidate's language role is determined by the language of his/her Master's degree/licence.

If the candidate has studied in a language other than French or Dutch, they must either hold a certificate attesting to their knowledge of Dutch or French (see * below), or a diploma mentioned in the Royal Decree of 27 APRIL 2016 implementing Article 3 of the Law of 27 May 2014 regulating the language framework for some foreign scientific staff employed by the federal scientific institutions (FSI).
EXPERIENCE:

You have 12 years of experience which can be counted as scientific seniority under the Staff Regulations (see ** below) in a field related to the aim of the Climate Centre and you have completed at least 3 of the following 7 tasks:

- Development, coordination and management of transnational climate-related research projects
- Representing a scientific organisation in committees or meetings at national or European level
- Organising the flow of knowledge between the European/international level and national stakeholders
- Development of a data management strategy for scientific data modelling
- Use of science for developing or monitoring climate-related policies
- Adaptation to or inclusion of research in climate-related scientific agendas at European or international level
- Establishment of a centre or network in a climate-related scientific field

and you can demonstrate that you have developed a network of actors in the world of climate science research and that you have an international reputation in this field.

ASSETS

- Active knowledge of both national languages as well as English.

OFFER

You will be recruited as a full-time scientific director (38 hours/week) (scientific degree of research leader - SW4) for an open-ended employment contract

If your current contract allows it, a secondment formula can also be envisaged.

The recruitment will take place in the framework of the establishment of a centre of excellence for climate

Remuneration:
99,047,35 € (gross annual salary at the current index and a scientific seniority of 12 years).
110,096,89 € (gross annual salary at the current index and a scientific seniority of 22 years).

Benefits:
- pleasant and stimulating working environment;
- possibility to receive a bilingualism bonus;
- advantageous hospitalisation insurance;
- free public transport to and from work
- possibility of receiving a bicycle allowance for commuting;
- various social benefits and attractive offers.

Working place: Plateau van Ukkel, Ringlaan 3, 1180 Brussels.
SELECTION PROCEDURE

Your application (written motivation, curriculum vitae, copy of diploma) should be sent to selections-selecties@belspo.be no later than **22 March 2022**, mentioning the reference CLIMATE CENTER/SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR (SW4)

**Screening of applications (conditions for participation)**

A first selection will be made based on the profile and the conditions of participation (required diploma and experience). At the end of this screening only 6 candidates will be retained, taking into account the conditions of participation, their professional career and their affinity with the field of the vacant position.

**Interview 1:**
The 6 selected candidates will be invited for a first round of interviews (week of *02 May or 09 May 2022*). This first interview will focus on your vision for the position. Depending on the circumstances, this interview will take place in person or by video conference, according to the instructions given in advance.

**Interview 2:**
From this, the *first 3 (ranked)* candidates will proceed to a second round of interviews. This interview is scheduled for the week of *06 June or 13 June 2022* and will focus on the competencies expected for the position. Depending on the circumstances, this interview will take place in person or by video conference, according to instructions given beforehand.

(*) candidates who have studied in a language other than French or Dutch must have obtained the language knowledge certificate issued by SELOR (www.selor.be/nl/contact), whereby the language examination passed replaces the diploma required for determining the language regime: article 7, for a level 1/A position in French or Dutch

(**) see the note on the attribution of scientific seniority on the website of the PPS Science Policy http://www.belspo.be/belspo/organisation/job_en.stm or request the note by e-mail at selections-selecties@belspo.be; pursuant to art. 7, § 2 - 3, of the royal decree of 25 February 2008 determining the status of the scientific personnel of the federal scientific institutions)