



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG

Wishes to recruit

A DATA OFFICER for the Kerry/West Cork ACRES Cooperation Project

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG are seeking to recruit a Data Officer for the roll out of the Kerry/West Cork Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) Cooperation Project (CP) on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.

Background

The Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme is an environmentally ambitious agri-environment climate measure (AECM), to be known as the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme ('ACRES'), which will deliver significant long-term environmental improvement through participation by a significant number of farmers on the most appropriate land, with each making a strong improvement on their farm. Using a habitats-based approach, delivered through both multi-functional prescription and results-based actions, ACRES aims to contribute significantly to achieving improved biodiversity, climate, air and water quality outcomes. These will be achieved through two approaches under the scheme:

- an ACRES General approach offering a range of measures for individual farmers (both targeted and general); and
- an ACRES Co-operation approach, available to farmers in defined high priority geographical areas, who opt to undertake measures, as well as bespoke farm, and landscape actions. Farmers participating in this approach will have the assistance of a Local Cooperation Project (CP) Team, who will assist with implementation of the scheme at local level.

The Scheme is co-funded by the National Exchequer and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) of the European Union under Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027.

The ACRES CP will be managed by eight Cooperation Project (CP) Teams, one for each of the eight CP Zones.

Following on from the work of the MacGillycuddy Reeks EIP Project and a competitive tender process, SKDP were awarded a contract from the Dept. of Agriculture Food & the Marine (DAFM) to provide management support services for the ACRES Co-Operation approach in Zone 8 - Kerry/West Cork.

The principle of the Co-operation Projects (CP) is that they facilitate the effective implementation of locally targeted and adapted agri-environment measures in identified high environmental priority areas across the country. These include areas dominated by semi-natural vegetation (both privately owned and in commonage), Natura 2000 lands and priority water catchments, etc. These areas are

of high nature value, hold significant carbon stores and are home to some of the most pristine waters in the country. This follows on from the successful roll out of the MacGillycuddy Reeks European Innovation Partnership Project (EIP), a locally led agri-environmental scheme led by South Kerry Development Partnership.

Job Description

i. The ideal candidates shall

- Have previous experience working in a data support role.
- Demonstrate a very high level of computer literacy.
- Demonstrate understanding of databases and data storage.
- Display capability, flexibility & curiosity in researching & developing data-technical solutions for real world problems.
- Display evidence of competency in using Microsoft 365 and MS Office, particularly MS Excel.
- Must have experience of using SQL/Claris Filemaker Pro.
- Demonstrate ability to clearly communicate technical terminology efficiently to the non-specialist.
- Have transport to and from the Project Office for the full duration of the contract as well as a full clean driving licence.
- Be fluent in spoken and written English.
- An Honours Bachelor's degree or Higher Diploma in an IT or computer-related subject or any other area that demonstrates relevant skills and experience.
- Two-years post-qualification experience.
- Be eligible to work in Ireland.
- Possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills and have the ability to engage with a wide range of possible stakeholders;
- Possess excellent report writing, organisation and presentation skills;
- Be enterprising, problem solving, flexible and innovative and be capable of working on own initiative or as part of a team;
- Have a proven ability to work to foster a positive working relationship with colleagues, landowners, the wider community and external stakeholders;
- Have strong personal motivation and flexibility, with a positive, solution driven approach to work.

ii. **Character** - candidates must be of good character.

iii. Education, Training, Experience, etc.

Candidates must, on or before closing date for the competition:

- Hold a qualification at least level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications in Data Science and Analytics, SQL for Data Analysts, Coding and or Programming, Remote sensing etc.

or

- Hold a qualification of at least Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications in Data Science and Analytics, GIS, Geomatics, or Geosurveying or a comparable qualification; together with a post graduate qualification in Environmental Science or Data Science and Analytics.

or

- Hold a primary or post-graduate degree in a cognate discipline (Geography, Remote Sensing, etc.), together with a post graduate qualification in GIS, or Data Science and Analytics.

or

- Hold a post-graduate degree (MSc.) in GIS or Geomatics, or Data Science and Analytics or equivalent

And

- 3 years' relevant post-graduate experience including use of relational databases/SQL and data management experience;
- Experience in ecological survey design and data analysis;
- Excellent IT skills with knowledge of software application development using GIS and relational databases;
- Experience of data archiving and metadata management;
- Have knowledge and awareness of agri-environmental schemes such as REPS, GLAS, Burren Programme, MacGillycuddy Reeks EIP, Hen Harrier & Pearl Mussel Project;
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal communication skills;
- The ability to manage effective teams;
- Full clean driving licence and access to their own transport.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of and familiarity with surveying techniques, GPS, digital imaging, remote sensing including photogrammetry;
- Experience in manipulating digital mapping data and a sound knowledge of mapping concepts, e.g. grids, projections, transformations, generalisation, accuracy, precision, etc.;
- Familiarity with computer programming concepts;
- Knowledge of results-based schemes would be an advantage.

iv. Duties

The Data Officer will have particular responsibility for the following duties:

- ❑ Design and maintain bespoke databases to ensure data is accurate, up-to-date and relevant and to track the progress of project actions and key performance indicators.
- ❑ Develop creative solutions to enable the more efficient and impactful running of the project (enhancing user interfaces, analysing data (incl. remote sensing), auto-generating data and reports).
- ❑ Improving project communications, reporting mechanisms and review/monitoring systems.
- ❑ Communicate regularly with the Project Manager and the Project Team regarding IT solutions.
- ❑ Ensuring that all project data workflows are compliant with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR;
- ❑ Development of content for social media/ website etc.;
- ❑ Public awareness activities;
- ❑ Assistance in monitoring of project progress and risk;
- ❑ Support the dissemination of information on the Project to members of the public;
- ❑ Have a flexible approach to working, and a willingness to travel to project sites in the local Co-operation area and to various related events and
- ❑ Any other duties as assigned by the Kerry/West Cork ACRES Co-Operation Project Team Project Manager from time to time.

Post Location

The post will be work-based at the main office in Beaufort, Co Kerry with the possibility of hybrid working arrangements (working in office and from home).

Employment Administration and Responsibility

The payment of salary, travel & subsistence, and other matters relating to the financial administration of the post will be the responsibility of the South Kerry Development Partnership CLG.

Reporting To

The Data & GIS Manager will report to the Kerry/West Cork ACRES Co-Operation Project Manager.

Particulars of Employment

The Data Officer will be employed by South Kerry Development Partnership CLG on a full time (37.5 Hours per Week) fixed term contract basis. The contract period will run for 5 years. The contract may be extended annually there-after, subject to continuing funding.

Salary

The salary scale for the position will be €43,254 to €49,007 per annum with start point dependent upon qualifications & experience.

Pension

Following completion of 6 months of satisfactory service, the Data Officer will be eligible for inclusion in the SKDP voluntary staff pension scheme. For members of the scheme, SKDP will make employers pension contributions of 10% of the gross salary of the participating staff member. The Data & GIS Manager will be required to make a minimum 5% contribution.

Travelling & Subsistence Expenses: - Any travel undertaken by the Data Officer will be paid at approved Partnership rates.

Selection

- i. Selection shall be by means of competition based interview.
- ii. A panel will be formed on the basis of such interview.
- iii. Candidates may be short-listed on the basis of relevant qualifications and experience as set out in their application. The candidates short-listed will be invited to attend for interview. South Kerry Development Partnership CLG will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by candidates in attending for interview.
- iv. The Board of South Kerry Development Partnership CLG shall require persons to whom appointments are offered to take up such appointment within a period of not more than one month.

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG is an Equal Opportunities Employer and acknowledges the assistance of the Dept. Of Agriculture, Food & the Marine in supporting this post.