
Postdoc position in ecology available at Earth and Life Institute

Evaluation of floral enrichment effects to maximise biological control and pollination ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes

Project description

Agricultural systems in all European countries face degradation of ecological networks, loss of associated farmland biodiversity and their landscape Ecosystem Services (e.g., pollination or pest management) due to intensive agriculture practices, habitat simplification, and pesticide use.

The European project Biodiversa+ ConservES (Living-lab approach to floral enrichment as a tool to conserve biodiversity and maximise ecosystem services in European agricultural landscapes) has been conducted in four countries (France, Germany, Tchech Republic and Belgium) since 2022. To evaluate the effects of 2 types of flowering green infrastructures, hedgerows and flowering managed strips on both pest management and pollination services for cereal fields, diverse species groups are studied: plants, aphids, parasitoids, slugs, carabids, syrphids and bees.

The post-doc researcher will analyse data acquired during 2 years in Belgian sites.

Your tasks:

- Participating in field observations in the spring and summer of 2025
- Participating in monthly meetings among partners
- Collecting and comparing data (species diversity and abundance)
- Statistical analysis and interpretation of the gained data
- Publication of results in international papers
- Contribution to the dissemination of findings to relevant stakeholders.

Your qualifications

- PhD in Ecology, Biology, Agronomy, Environmental Sciences, or similar
- Experience in agroecology, entomology, and vegetation surveys
- Solid statistical analysis with R and GIS skills
- High communication and writing skills (in English and French)
- High motivation, team leader

What we offer

At Earth and Life Institut, we offer competent supervision, a collaborative environment in a supporting team, and an excellent research infrastructure. You will work in Louvain-la-Neuve. The research groups there conduct basic and applied research to understand better drivers of biodiversity and how biodiversity and associated ecosystem services supporting sustainable agriculture can be effectively promoted.

Starting date 1st of January 2025 or as agreed. Duration 12 months

Place of work: Louvain-la-Neuve

Salary: according to the standards of the Belgian Universities.

Employment level: 100 %

Application

We look forward to receiving your application by email (Thierry.hance@uclouvain.be and anne-laure.jacquemart@uclouvain.be). Please send a detailed CV, contacts with 2-3 referees, your publications, and a one-page motivation letter.