CIHEAM
MONTPELLIER

Job Vacancy Announcement for an international competitive recruitment

for the position of a Scientific Administrator

Field: Territorial Analysis and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applied to agriculture, rural development and climate change in the Mediterranean

Ref.: 20261009
Publication Date: October 28, 2026
Application deadline: January 15, 2027
Shortlist closure: February 2027
Face-to-face INTERVIEWS of shortlisted candidates: February-March 2027

FUNCTIONAL TITLE: Scientific Administrator
PLACE of WORK: Montpellier, France
START DATE: from 15 March 2027
DURATION: 4 years, renewable

JOB PROFILE

The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM-IAMM) is one of the four institutes of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), an intergovernmental organization created in 1962. The CIHEAM Montpellier is an institution of higher education, research and cooperation dedicated to the sustainable development of Mediterranean agriculture and territories.

Located in Montpellier, it welcomes students, researchers and international experts every year on a campus that includes teaching, research, collaborative work and a university residence.

ISO 9001 certified since 2008, the CIHEAM Montpellier places quality of service, continuous improvement and environmental responsibility at the heart of its operation.

The CIHEAM Montpellier is offering **a position of Scientific Administrator specialized in geography and territorial analysis**, mobilizing the tools of geomatics and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), applied to the study of rural territories and the management of resources in the context of climate change. The CIHEAM offers professional, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary training at Master 2 level to students and professionals from various cultural and disciplinary backgrounds.

1. Scientific context

The central objective of the scientific strategy of the CIHEAM Montpellier is to support decision-making in the fields of food security and sustainability in the Mediterranean. It proposes research rooted in the study of the nexus "Actors – Productions – Ecology and Food Value Chains" to characterize, evaluate and support agricultural, environmental and nutrition strategies at the local, national and regional levels, allowing the resilience of agri-food systems in a context of agroecological transition in the Mediterranean. The work of the recruited person will be positioned in Axis 2 of this strategy, entitled **"Territorial Systems and Agricultural and Rural Policies in the Mediterranean".** The objectives of this axis are: (i) to question indicators and spatio-temporal scales to characterize territorial systems; and (ii) to analyze territorial dynamics and recompositions driven by endogenous (specific assets, territorial resources) and exogenous (political reforms, metropolization, global changes, environmental processes, etc.) changes, the adaptation capacities of territories and related strategies. Spatial, environmental and socio-economic analysis methods are favoured

to diagnose territories and estimate the effects of projects and policies in a context of global changes and necessary territorial adaptations. The privileged entries for this axis involve the notions of agricultural landscape, agroecological practices, ecosystem services, land tenure and sustainability, while paying particular attention to the modes of organization, the institutional mechanisms deployed and the concrete measures applied.

The position available is part of a core development issue for the Mediterranean: the adaptation of Mediterranean territories to climate change. More specifically, it concerns the production of territorial diagnostics, spatial representations and geomatic impact analyses, intended to support public and territorial decision-making. In this perspective, the candidate profile should focus on:

- **the spatial and territorial analysis** of natural and agricultural resources, and the measurement of the impacts of climate change on Mediterranean rural and agricultural territories;
- **geographic information systems** applied to rural territories in a context of growing climatic uncertainty (control of databases, study of land use, landscape dynamics, territorial vulnerability, etc.);
- **mastery of skills applied to land use planning** at the interface of the social and human sciences, and environmental sciences, in connection with agricultural and rural development issues, biodiversity, water management and food security;
- **a good knowledge of governance mechanisms** on the issues listed above, with a sensitivity to public decision-making processes at the local, national and Mediterranean levels allowing to translate territorial analyses into operational recommendations for decision-makers and to conduct the analysis of public policy mechanisms.

From a scientific point of view, the candidate will have to contribute to the renewal of approaches applied to the management of a territory's resources and its agriculture, as well as to the analysis of the spatial differentiations of the effects of climate change. Skills in territorial foresight, based for example on participatory multi-stakeholder approaches as well as land use modelling will be a plus.

Keywords: geography, territorial analysis, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), data analysis, climate change, rural development, Mediterranean agriculture, spatial planning.

2. Missions

The activities of the person recruited will be divided within the framework of the three missions of the CIHEAM Montpellier: Higher Education - Research - Cooperation for Development. He or she will carry out these missions primarily in the Mediterranean regions.

The main missions of the Scientific Administrator will be to:

- co-manage the Master's degree in Climate Change, Agricultural Management and Territories (CGAT); provide Master 2 level training at the CIHEAM Montpellier and internationally, short specialized courses in GIS, as well as the supervision of Master's and PhD students;
- Develop and lead the use of territorial analysis in the context of the institute's research and cooperation projects;
- Respond to calls for applied research, action research and development cooperation projects in his/her field, and publish the results of his/her research in scientific or popular journals;
- To insert the CIHEAM Montpellier into local, national and international scientific and socio-economic networks, and to contribute to the networking of Mediterranean territorial and agricultural research in its field of expertise.

This job is based in Montpellier. It will require frequent travel to Mediterranean countries related to cooperation activities and field missions (geographical surveys, participatory mapping, territorial surveys).

3. Qualifications

Degrees: Agronomist (Engineer or Master's degree) with a PhD in Geography, Spatial Planning or any related discipline with a good command of GIS (e.g. social and human sciences or environmental sciences with a strong spatial component).

Professional experience:

- Research experience: at least two years of post-doctoral experience in the above-mentioned disciplines, with a mastery of territorial approaches to apply them to agricultural, rural development and climate change issues, in France and/or abroad;
- Proven experience in teaching and training in higher education with a varied audience. The recruited person is expected to offer innovative educational content and adapt to the diversity of learners' profiles.
- Proven experience in the use of GIS tools and data analysis for the study of territorial, agricultural and environmental dynamics;
- Proven experience of participating in an international research project;
- Experience desired in setting up and coordinating collaborative projects (national, European, international), and in conducting research or cooperation projects in developing countries or in Mediterranean areas;
- Experience in the analysis or evaluation of territorial, agricultural or environmental public policies, and in interactions with institutional and decision-making actors;
- Good knowledge of Mediterranean countries and their territorial issues.

Skills:

- Scientific skills: mastery of spatial methods and data analysis applied to agriculture and territories, and strong sensitivity to multidisciplinarity (geography, agronomy, ecology, territorial economics);
- Teaching skills and ability to supervise students of different nationalities, including in teaching territorial approaches;
- Oral and written fluency in French and English (the two working languages of the CIHEAM). The practice of another Mediterranean language would be a plus;
- Interpersonal skills for team and partnership activities in various socio-cultural contexts;
- Ability to work in interaction with actors in the socio-economic and territorial world (local authorities, developers, development agencies) and to mobilise professional networks;
- Organizational and autonomous skills, spirit of initiative and synthesis, rigor.

4. Application file

The application must include the following elements:

- CV including: civil status; scientific activities including a list of publications and research work (in particular in geography, GIS and territorial analysis); teaching activities; development cooperation activities;
- Dissertation on scientific work or equivalent (8 pages maximum);
- Cover letter on the completion of the missions defined in the job profile (3 pages maximum).

5. Selection procedures and remuneration

Applications will be examined by a committee of international experts. A shortlist will be drawn up and the selected candidates will be invited for an oral presentation of their application. The committee will issue an opinion to the director of the CIHEAM Montpellier who will submit his choice to the Secretary General of the CIHEAM for validation by the CIHEAM Board of Directors.

The recruited person will benefit from the status of administrator of the CIHEAM-IAMM with a 4-year renewable Scientific Administrator contract, starting with a 6-month probationary internship.

The level of remuneration is set in accordance with the CIHEAM-IAMM salary scale according to diplomas and experience. It is comparable to that practiced in French higher education.

CIHEAM Montpellier is committed to a policy of non-discrimination and gender balance. This position is open to individuals with disabilities.

Closing date of the call for applications: 15 January 2025

The application file must be sent by email in a maximum of 3 electronic files such as doc or odt or pdf to the address:

emploi@iamm.fr

6. Scientific referents

For any questions and clarification needs on the profile, you can contact:

Tristan Berchoux: berchoux@montpellier.ciheam.org

Mélanie Requier-Desjardins: requier@montpellier.ciheam.org

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The CIHEAM is an intergovernmental organization created in 1962 to which thirteen Mediterranean States are now members: Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and Turkey. The CIHEAM Montpellier is accredited by France to deliver the national Master's degree and also awards an international diploma: the CIHEAM Master of Science.

(http:// www.montpellier.ciheam.org/)