

JOB VACANCY AT EIT FOOD

JOB TITLE:

Entrepreneurship Programme Manager

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Entrepreneurship Programme Manager will be responsible for facilitating and driving EIT Food's Business Creation activities, which are executed by the EIT Food partners, on pan-European level for the Entrepreneurship Segment "EXPLORE"¹.

LOCATION:

This post can either be filled in the EIT Food headquarters in Leuven, Belgium, or in the UK branch of EIT Food at the office in Reading, England. If based in the UK, frequent travel to Belgium is to be expected (e.g. 1-2 trips per month). Depending on the chosen location, the employment contract will be either under Belgian or UK law.

Occasional travel within Europe to attend events and visit EIT Food Partners may be required.

DURATION AND CONTRACT TYPE:

Full-time for a limited period of 6 months (maternity leave replacement in UK, fixed term contract in Belgium).

MANAGER/SUPERVISOR:

You will report to the Director of Business Creation at EIT Food Headquarters based in Leuven, Belgium. If you are based in Reading, you will also be supervised by your official employer, the Director of the Co-Location Centre for the region ("CLC North-West").

EXPECTED START DATE:

The expected starting date is 14th of October 2019 at the latest.

MAIN DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

¹ Explore programmes are for individuals, scientists and aspiring entrepreneurs who are driven to solve the complex challenges facing our food system. Explore activities are designed to springboard ideas into viable market solutions by providing you with the skills, network and funds needed to validate your ideas and business model. See the EIT Food website for more details on the EXPLORE programme.

You will be responsible for ensuring the execution, monitoring and reporting of activities of the Entrepreneurship segment “EXPLORE”:

- Drive the execution of the Innovation Grants activity within the assigned EXPLORE segment in close collaboration with the Education and Business Creation teams
- Lead the monitoring and reporting on the EXPLORE activities delivered by EIT Food partners, such as the SeedBed Incubator programme.
- Facilitate and nurture the EIT Food network of partners as well as other collaboration opportunities
- Act as primary regional contact for advice and support on Entrepreneurship EXPLORE opportunities and promote EIT Food opportunities through EIT Food CLC North West partners and by direct engagement in regional industry, knowledge exchange and start-up ecosystems
- You will actively support EIT Food’s Central Operations Team with:
 - Timely reporting on progress and on financial and performance matters of activities under responsibility
 - Contribute to the annual Business Plan and information and reporting and evaluation requests from EIT Food
 - Putting together the Annual Report of EIT Food
- Actively liaise with other EIT Food headquarters functions such as Operations, Education, Innovation and Communication, and with other Entrepreneurship Programme Managers to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the EIT Food Business Plan

KEY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES:

Qualifications

- Master degree or equivalent experience (preferably related to agri-food space but not necessary) associated with a high-level professional training in entrepreneurship / business / commerce/ research funding
- Knowledge of tools for new ventures creation and seed / early stage investment evaluation methodologies, confirmed by relevant experiences in technology or financial sector
- Fluency in English. Other European languages will be considered
- Very good command of Microsoft Office

Experience

- 3+ years of relevant working experience in technology transfer
- Translational research management or startup/entrepreneurship sector
- Relevant experiences in working with translational/commercial research funding schemes, specifically involving H2020 funding instruments
- Experience in preparing business plans and project management

- Expertise and experience in the food sector is a clear plus
- Established network of contacts with representatives of start-up community, seed and VC funds, financial institutions and entrepreneurship support organizations across Europe is a plus
- International exposure and experiences

Skills and behaviour

- Exceptionally organized, self-directed and capable of multi-tasking
- Strong sense of ownership with proven record of delivering results
- Combination of analytical thinking with creativity
- Excellent verbal and written communication, presentation and persuasion skills
- Ability to interact and communicate effectively with individuals at all levels of the organization with tact and diplomacy, and with a high level of cultural sensitivity
- Openness and proven ability to establish trust as well as the capacity for building alliances between industry, public sector, research, education and other stakeholders, including remote communication with international teams
- Proactive, independent and trustworthy
- Respectful of timelines and deadlines and attention for detail
- Active interest in the food sector

EIT FOOD OFFER:

EIT Food offers a 6 month employment contract with a competitive salary package consisting of a monthly salary and additional in-kind benefits.

Flexibility and the balance between work and private life are equally important.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES:

EIT Food is an equal opportunity employer, offering each candidate matching the minimum obligatory qualifications and experiences an equal chance in employment and promotion procedures.

DESCRIPTION OF EIT FOOD

The website of EIT Food is <https://www.eitfood.eu>.

EIT Food is a consortium of +55 partners from leading businesses, research centers and universities across +13 countries. It is a people-centric and resource-smart transformer of the European food system, driving consumer confidence and improved global health. Though a start-up, EIT Food is operating in an international environment and has characteristics of a multinational.

EIT Food members have a strong belief that the food sector needs to be transformed and that this can only be achieved by reconnecting partners within the food sector and by giving the consumer a more central role. The main issues the food sector is facing are that it is complex, fragmented, slow to adopt new technologies, not attractive to new talent, and not resource efficient. An effective

food sector is needed to address major societal issues and challenges: feeding 9-10 billion people in 2050; 3 billion overweight people; 2 billion undernourished people; more than 30% of food wasted.

EIT Food's vision is to put Europe at the center of a global revolution in food innovation and production, and its value in society. EIT Food will engage consumers in the change process, improve nutrition and make the food system more resource-efficient, secure, transparent and trusted.

EIT Food boosts the skills and entrepreneurial spirit in the sector and unlocks the potential of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), which in turn will accelerate innovation, create jobs, benefit businesses and increase Europe's competitiveness.

EIT Food is structured as a Belgian "international non-profit association" ("internationale vereniging zonder winstoogmerk – ivzw") based in Leuven. The KIC has a Supervisory Board and a Management Team.

APPLICATION:

Interested candidates are asked to send their CV and motivation letter in English in electronic format to work@eitfood.eu before September 18 2019. Please state in the description line of the email your name and "application to the position of Programme Manager for business creation".

Shortlisted candidates may be invited for an interview. Shortlisted candidates may be asked to prove their background, qualifications, skills and experiences by providing relevant documents. EU "right to work" requirements must also be satisfied before appointment to the role.