

## Expert in Water Management, L-4

<b>Deadline for Applications:</b>	<b>1 October 2009</b>
<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Expert in Water Management; L-4</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)</b>
<b>Organizational Unit:</b>	<b>Environment, Housing and Land Management Division</b>
<b>Duty Station:</b>	<b>Geneva, Switzerland</b>
<b>Starting date</b> (date when the selected candidate is expected to start):	<b>1 November 2009</b>
<b>Duration of initial contract:</b>	<b>6 months</b>
<b>Expected duration of assignment:</b>	<b>Three years or longer</b>

### **Address applications to:**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Environment, Housing and Land Management Division  
Secretariat of the UNECE Water Convention  
Email: [water.convention@unece.org](mailto:water.convention@unece.org)

The application should include (a) **a cover letter**; (b) **a P11 form**; and (c) **contact information of three referees**. The cover letter must describe the ways in which the education and work experience of the applicant meet the requirements of the post. As consideration of candidates will be linked to their capacity to start the appointment on the proposed date, the cover letter should make explicit reference to that.

The application package should be prepared as either PDF or MS Word files and attached to an e-mail sent to the above address. We regret that it will not be possible to acknowledge applications, and only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

### **Organisational Context**

The position is located in the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, Economic Commission for Europe. The "EU Water Initiative EECCA Component" is a partnership that seeks to improve the management of water resources in the EECCA region (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia). The partnership was established between the European Union and the EECCA countries at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002.

The EU Water Initiative EECCA Component has two thematic pillars:

- Water supply and sanitation, including financing of water infrastructure, and
- Integrated water resources management (IWRM), including transboundary river basin management and regional seas issues.

National Policy Dialogues are being carried out within the EECCA Component of the EU Water Initiative and are the main operational instrument within this Initiative. Since 2006, UNECE and in particular the secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), is a strategic partner for the IWRM pillar (while the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – OECD- is a strategic partner for water supply and sanitation). Since UNECE has been carrying out National Policy Dialogues in four countries: Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. These Dialogues are high-level consultation mechanisms, usually led by the Minister for Environment, and in some cases under the supervision of the office of the Prime Minister. The objective of National Policy Dialogues is to establish a sustainable process to develop IWRM in the respective countries. These Dialogues result in "policy packages" such as new legislative acts, Governmental Orders and development strategies.

Under the supervision of the Chief of the Pollution Prevention Team, the incumbent will be responsible for the implementation of the EECCA component of the EU Water Initiative in the area of IWRM and in particular for assisting, supporting and developing the National Policy Dialogues.

**Responsibilities and expected tasks to be carried out:**

- **Manage the National Policy Dialogue process with focus on Integrated Water Resources Management, including continuation of the established dialogues and the initiation of new dialogue processes in EECCA countries**
  - Facilitate the process of initiating and implementing NPDs through, among others, the establishment of national steering groups with the direct participation of high-level decision makers
  - Direct, in cooperation with the steering groups and their chairs in the respective countries, the achievement of the NPDs strategic objectives
  - Produce and deliver substantive and strategic presentations/reports during steering group and other meetings
  - Liaise and ensure coordination with activities under the Water Supply and Sanitation pillar of the EU Water Initiative, led by OECD, activities of the European Commission, of other UN-Agencies and other partners and activities under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and its Protocol on Water and Health
  - Assist authorities in EECCA countries in building consensus and articulating common positions.
- **Provide substantial input to the policy packages**
  - Formulate relevant technical and strategic proposals as basis for policy packages
  - Contribute substantively to the development of policy packages, provide technical advisory services on IWRM related issues, including transboundary aspects, climate change, water and health and water monitoring and permitting
  - Work closely with and advise relevant government agencies, building new joint initiatives, providing technical, operational and strategic advice, and relevant capacity development services
  - Identify in cooperation with partners needs and opportunities for development of policy packages.
- **Manage and develop the project**
  - Be responsible for the administrative and financial aspects of the project
  - Arrange consultancy contracts, grant agreements and other needed contracts to carry out activities under the project
  - Be responsible, as programme manager, to meet the deadlines for specific tasks established in the annual work programme, such as preparation of the budgets and other working documents
  - Identify and develop partnership with donors, private sector and other actors in the field
  - Draft project proposals to the EU and other donors, develop budgets and follow-up of their implementation
  - Produce project reports to the EU Commission and other donors according to project documents
  - Provide information required by UN organizations, donors and other partners
  - Participate and represent UNECE in project meetings or in meetings on issues related to the project

**Competencies**

- **Professionalism:**

Sound knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts and approaches relevant to Integrated Water Resources Management; as they relate to policy formulation, design of strategies, capacity building, awareness raising, and consensus building. Sound knowledge of UNECE Regional Conventions and Protocols. Ability to guide the development of normative work and the production of reports and papers on IWRM. Capacity to design adequate responses and advise different constituencies, in particular high level decision makers, on IWRM issues. Practical experience in

programme/project management and administration. Excellent research analytical and problem-solving skills.

- **Planning and organization:**

Proven ability to plan and organize work, coordinate inputs from a wide variety of sources and synthesize those inputs into well constructed briefs, reports, advice, and other documents. Ability to plan, organize and service intergovernmental bodies and technical meetings, workshops, seminars, and other fora.

Proven ability to plan and prioritise work, use time efficiently, anticipate potential problems and take preventive measures, allocate appropriate amount of time and resources, monitor and adjust plans as necessary.

- **Communication**

Excellent communication skills, both oral and written; excellent drafting capabilities, as demonstrated by a strong publications record; ability to defend, explain, advise, and build consensus on difficult issues and views with respect to IWRM to senior officials and members of intergovernmental bodies. Demonstrated ability to promote and persuade others to consider new ideas;

- **Teamwork:**

Excellent interpersonal skills, including tact and diplomacy; proven ability to work in collaboration with other colleagues to achieve common goals; proven ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with people in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment, with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

- **Client Orientation:**

Demonstrated ability to understand clients' needs and articulate adequate and innovative responses to their needs. Capacity to anticipate needs, factor in change, build scenarios and propose responses to address emerging issues with focus on IWRM. Demonstrated ability to see things from the client's perspective. Ability to identify client needs and match them to appropriate solutions. Demonstrated ability to establish trust and respect

## **EDUCATION**

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in water or environmental management, or related field. A first-level university degree in combination with qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree. PhD in water management or environmental issues would be an asset.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

A minimum of seven years of progressively responsible experience in the area of water management are required.

Extensive experience in countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as wide experience in working with inter-governmental processes are also required.

Record of research, publications and papers on natural resources development with focus on policy, legal, regulatory, and sustainable development issues.

Strong background in programme/project management. Experience from administration of activities in countries with economies in transition and in managing international projects.

## **LANGUAGES**

Fluency in oral and written English and a strong knowledge of Russian are essential.

## **OTHER SKILLS**

Negotiation and consensus building capacity.

Knowledge of the UN systems and in particular of UN financial rules.

The post requires frequent travelling in countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.