

## Job Vacancy: LifeWatch ERIC Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

**Job Title:** Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

**Location:** LifeWatch-ERIC Statutory Seat premises. Plaza de España, Sector II-III, 41071 Seville, Spain.

**Position:** Full-time, four-year term with a possible extension of another four years.

**Brief description of LifeWatch ERIC** (<https://www.lifewatch.eu/>)

The e-Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (LifeWatch) is a distributed Research Infrastructure to advance biodiversity research, to address the big environmental challenges and support knowledge-based strategic solutions to environmental preservation. This mission is achieved by providing access to a multitude of data sets, services and tools enabling the construction and operation of Virtual Research Environments (VREs).

LifeWatch has been established as a European Research Infrastructure (ERIC) since March 2017, with the Statutory Seat and the ICT e-Infrastructure Technical Offices – located in Spain – that jointly assist the coordination and management of the day-to-day institutional relationships and administrative, legal, financial issues. It also coordinates the implementation of e-Services demanded by the Service Centre in Italy, the Virtual Laboratories and Innovations Centre in The Netherlands, as well as other distributed facilities located in other Member Countries of the LifeWatch ERIC which are encouraged to establish Thematic Centres in accordance with its overall architectural scheme.

The Statutory Seat and the ICT e-Infrastructure Technical Offices also coordinate and manage the ICT e-Infrastructure distributed construction, maintenance, deployment and operations. The Service Centre provides the interface with the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research Scientific Community, identifies the needs of the multiple users' groups from different domains and areas of interest and coordinates the development and operation of the related Services. It also assists in deploying the Services provided by LifeWatch ERIC, including those enabling discovery, visualization, and download of data and applications for analysis, synthesis and modelling of scientific topics. Thus, the Service Centre identifies new data resources, incorporates vocabularies, semantics and services to aggregate larger typologies of data. It also provides the optimisation of the access and use of Service Centre facilities as a whole and offers web-based tools to facilitate Social Networking and Social Learning (including e-Learning). Finally, it promotes the awareness of LifeWatch ERIC for users and general public, and enhances the visibility of LifeWatch ERIC scientific outcomes, by publicising and disseminating them.

The Virtual Laboratories and Innovations Centre coordinates and manages the requirements and needs analysis, design and implementation of the scientific case studies and productions of the LifeWatch ERIC Virtual Laboratories. These e-Labs are implemented and deployed through the LifeWatch ERIC ICT distributed e-Infrastructure facilities and made accessible through the Service Centre to the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research Scientific Community. This procedure guarantees the overall coherence of the Research Infrastructure by promoting synergies in regard to the semantic interoperability among data, services and their final users.

## Main accountabilities

1. As CEO of the ERIC she/he will be its chief scientific and administrative officer responsible for its daily management, including the budget responsibility in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, budgetary balance and transparency, and direct management of the staff of the ERIC. Concerning the achievement of objectives of the ERIC and performance of its tasks and activities under its statutes of the ERIC she/he will lead its scientific and technical development as well as the overall operation as a distributed research infrastructure, leading the scientific and technical development and, together with the Chief Technology Officer (CTO), overseeing the coordination and management of the distributed ICT e-Infrastructure operations among the different Centres, ensuring that LifeWatch ERIC e-Services comply with appropriate ethical, legal and societal norms and principles in order to be further provided through the Service Centre.
2. She/he will be responsible for the strategic planning and thus, building on prior work, drafting strategy, work program, budget and staff plan for LifeWatch ERIC, together with the other Executive Board Members and the Directors of the Common Facilities of the LifeWatch ERIC.
3. The CEO should ensure the long-term sustainability of the ERIC and guide its European and global expansion while ensuring action and provision of services, including the development of products at different geographical scales.
4. In particular, she/he will monitor the adherence of the ERIC members to the guidelines provided by the National LifeWatch ERIC Support Committees in order to promote adoption of relevant standards in national resource and tools creation projects; promote uptake of services among scientific communities and researchers of different biodiversity-related areas of knowledge, including ecosystem science, biodiversity informatics including bioinformatics, and gather providers and users' inputs and feedbacks.
5. The CEO shall be the legal representative of LifeWatch ERIC and committed to build strong and effective European and further international relationships, with a broad range of stakeholders within and outside the ERIC including the Research infrastructures identified on the roadmaps of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), and other relevant research infrastructures from other continents.
6. She/he is also expected to coordinate effectively the common facilities and the rest of the Distributed Centres of the ERIC and the preparation and implementation of the terms of the Service Level Agreements signed by the ERIC. The CEO will act as Project manager for adequate implementation of the conditions of the "in kind" contributions.
7. She/he will chair the Executive Board of LifeWatch ERIC and interact with the General Assembly and its Standing Committee, regularly reporting to them on his monitoring and measuring of LifeWatch ERIC activities.
8. She/he will ensure the proper functioning of the rest of the Subsidiary Bodies of the ERIC.
9. The CEO will be appointed for a four-year period and can be re-appointed. In both cases, retirement date<sup>1</sup> must be later to the end of the contract. A competitive salary, based on the qualifications and experience of the candidate, will be offered. Employment will be in Spain and follow Spanish employment law.

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<sup>1</sup> 65 years-old in Spain.

10. Her/his office will be located in the administrative headquarters of the ERIC in Seville.

## Requirements of the ideal candidate

1. Have a higher university degree or equivalent qualifications and experience with research in areas of knowledge related to biodiversity and bioinformatics.
2. Have previous experience in working in different Centers of research or universities outside her/his country of origin.
3. Have experience in advisory boards or committees engaged in policy proposals in areas linked to ecosystem and biodiversity problem identification and proposals for their solution.
4. Have experience as participant, preferably principal researcher, of European funded research projects consortia including projects in other regions of the world.
5. Have experience in fund raising operations for research projects in biodiversity, ecosystem and/or bioinformatics.
6. Have proven organization, management and communicative skills.
7. Have understanding of current and emerging agendas and challenges in data management and curation in the bioinformatics domain as well as the ability to understand organizational and technical issues involved in building, maintaining, and federating digital repositories, catalogues, authentication services, and similar infrastructure components, in particular Biodiversity-related Big Data and its modelling tools, Virtual Research Environments, and supercomputing networks, while being also able to identify the technical needs derived from the biodiversity conservation goals established by policy makers, ranging from local to global levels.
8. Provide a record of relevant academic excellence.
9. Have high proficiency in English language, the working language of LifeWatch ERIC under article 1.3 of its Statutes.

## Salary

According to European/international standards for similar role and responsibilities and requirements of this function (115,000 € as annual gross salary).

## Application procedure

The call for interest is subject to the following procedure:

1. To apply, a short cover letter and a copy of your *Curriculum Vitae* should be submitted to: [ceorecruitment@lifewatch.eu](mailto:ceorecruitment@lifewatch.eu). **Deadline for receipt of applications: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.**
2. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted directly by the Chair of the LifeWatch ERIC Recruitment Committee.
3. Candidates should be prepared to participate in an interview and other activities with members of the LifeWatch ERIC Recruitment Committee and the Executive Board at the Statutory Seat<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> According to Italian Privacy Protection Law n. 196/03 any resume not mentioning explicitly the following wording: 'I authorize the use of my personal data in accordance with Italian Privacy Protection Law

4. For more information, questions can be directed in full confidence to the Chair of the LifeWatch ERIC Recruitment Committee. Email: [ceorecruitment@lifewatch.eu](mailto:ceorecruitment@lifewatch.eu).
5. The LifeWatch ERIC Recruitment Committee will propose one list of up to the maximum of five candidates for the CEO position to the General Assembly, providing a summary of the information supporting its decision and the qualifications of the different candidates.
6. The General Assembly will make the final selection provided it is satisfied with the work of the Recruitment Committee.
7. Start date in office for the appointed Director: **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.**