



UNIVERSITÄT  
LEIPZIG



iDiv

German Centre for Integrative  
Biodiversity Research (iDiv)  
Halle-Jena-Leipzig

Reference number: 116/2023

### **Science policy coordinator for the European project SOLO “Soils for Europe” (m/f/d)**

Founded in 1409, Leipzig University is one of Germany’s largest universities and a leader in research and medical training. With around 30,000 students and more than 5000 members of staff across 14 faculties, it is at the heart of the vibrant and outward-looking city of Leipzig. Leipzig University offers an innovative and international working environment as well as an exciting range of career opportunities in research, teaching, knowledge and technology transfer, infrastructure and administration.

**The German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig** is a National Research Centre funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Its central mission is to promote theory-driven synthesis and data-driven theory in this emerging field. Located in the city of Leipzig, it is a Central Institution of Leipzig University and jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). More information about iDiv: [www.idiv.de](http://www.idiv.de)

#### **About the project**

We are excited to announce the launch of our new project, SOLO, which is a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) part of the EU Mission ‘A Soil Deal for Europe’. The mission has set an ambitious goal of having 100 Living Labs and Lighthouses in place by 2030, with the aim of moving beyond the current status of only 30-40% of healthy soils in Europe. SOLO’s main goal is to deliver actionable transdisciplinary roadmaps for future soil-related research activities in the EU. SOLO will be working towards a holistic research and innovation (R&I) agenda, making use of best practices while acknowledging the diversity across European regions, nations, and landscapes. The project will focus on setting the R&I priorities as well as the technical and socio-economic options to reach each of the Soil Mission’s specific objectives and support the achievement of the Soil Mission targets. By doing so, SOLO will be making an important contribution to the European Green Deal, in particular to the Farm to Fork Strategy’, the EU Forest Strategy, the Zero Pollution Action Plan, the 2030 Climate Target Plan, the Ecosystem Restoration goals and the Circular Economy Action Plan. To achieve this goal, SOLO will be developing a knowledge and innovation network – the Soil Network of Knowledge – composed of a wide range of stakeholders working in research and in practice on different aspects of soil health. This approach emphasises co-creation of knowledge between researchers and practitioners at all stages of the roadmap development, from the identification of knowledge gaps and critical novel pathways, to the description of multi-sectorial drivers of soil health.

We are seeking individuals with a passion for soil health and science policy interfaces to join our team and help us achieve our goal of creating a holistic agenda for the future of soil-related R&I, that contributes to achieving the objectives of the Soil Mission. If you have expertise in soil science, ecology, economics, social sciences, governance, or policy design, then we want you to apply! Don’t miss out on this exciting opportunity to make a real impact on how research and innovation is done in Europe and be a part of putting Europe in a leading position on transformative research on soils and their health in the context of the post-2020 CBD Framework.

**The German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig** seeks to fill the above position as soon as possible.

#### **About the position**

- Fixed term until 30 November 2027
- Full-time position
- Planned remuneration: salary group 13 TV-L
- Place of work: Leipzig

#### **Duties**

- Support the coordination of SOLO, in particular related to the development of science policy activities, including the identification of key performance indicators to assess the fulfilment of the research and innovation priorities that will be set

- First point of contact for requests about SOLO by decision-makers, researchers and other practitioners who engage with the project
- Collaborate with SOLO partners to coordinate joint efforts on science policy activities related to soil research and innovation
- Identify and foster opportunities for collaboration of SOLO researchers/partners with government agencies, non-government agencies and the private sector, including writing grant proposals
- Organise the production of reports and joint position papers related to the new vision of SOLO for soil-related research and innovation in Europe
- Organise dedicated events on science policy issues with experts from policy, practice and science
- Develop and implement surveys to characterise and assess the state of knowledge in different fields of soil research and innovation

### Requirements

- Master's or equivalent degree in natural or social sciences and experience in research, ideally demonstrated with a PhD from any subject area
- Ideally, proven expertise and experience in working at the interface of science policy and practice and with stakeholders as well as in independent organisation of events, ideally two years or more; in the case of early career researchers, proven collaboration on the organisation of public events and science communication activities are also adequate
- Previous experience in one of the topics/objectives of the European Soil Mission is desirable
- Previous experience in writing policy briefs and/or scientific papers is desirable
- Previous experience in project management and coordination of teamwork is desirable
- An excellent command of written and spoken English is essential

### What we offer

- The opportunity to contribute to the coordination of a major Coordination and Support Action contributing directly to the European Soil Mission and the European Green Deal
- A highly dynamic, collaborative and interdisciplinary working environment
- Flexible working hours and work-life balance
- English as working language
- A highly international centre with employees from over 30 countries and various forms of support for employees from outside of Germany (Welcome Centre, German classes, etc.)
- Leipzig as an attractive city with rich culture and beautiful surroundings, where international visitors usually find it easy to settle in

Please send your application with the usual documents (including a list of publications, a list of science policy activities/publications and contact information of two scientific referees), quoting **reference number 116/2023**, via our application portal at <https://apply.idiv.de> by 28 April. While we prefer applications via this portal, hard-copy applications may also be sent to: German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv), HR, Puschstraße 4, 04103 Leipzig. Please note that it is not possible to guarantee confidentiality and rule out unauthorised access by third parties when communicating by unencrypted email. We kindly request that you submit copies only, as we are unable to return application documents. Interview expenses will not be reimbursed.

For queries on the application process, please contact iDiv's HR Department ([hr@idiv.de](mailto:hr@idiv.de)); for questions related to the position, please contact Dr Carlos Guerra ([carlos.guerra@idiv.de](mailto:carlos.guerra@idiv.de)).

Leipzig University aims to increase the proportion of women in positions of responsibility and therefore expressly invites qualified women to apply. Severely disabled persons – or persons deemed legally equal to them under Book IX of the German Social Code – are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.

iDiv is committed to establishing and maintaining a diverse and inclusive community that collectively supports and implements our mission to do great science. We welcome, recruit, develop and advance talented staff from diverse genders and backgrounds.

### ***Privacy information***

*If you choose to apply and send us your documents, you do so voluntarily. Any personal data contained within your application documents, or obtained during an interview, will be processed by Leipzig University – as the advertiser of the position – exclusively for the purposes of the selection process for the position advertised. It will not be passed on to third parties without your consent in the individual case. The legal basis for such data processing is Sect. 11(1) of the Saxon Data Protection Implementation Act (SächsDSGD) in conjunction with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The controller for the application process within the meaning of the GDPR is the addressee of the application, specified in the advertisement. Your personal data will be stored for six months after the end of the recruitment process and then erased or destroyed in accordance with data protection regulations. You may refuse or withdraw your consent with effect for the future without giving reasons. In these cases, Leipzig University will not or no longer be able to process and consider your application. Under the GDPR, subject to the relevant statutory requirements you have the following rights vis-à-vis the addressee of the application with regard to your personal data: right of access (Art. 15 GDPR); right to rectification of inaccurate personal data (Art. 16 GDPR); right to erasure (Art. 17 GDPR); right to restriction of processing (Art. 18 GDPR); and right to object to processing (Art. 21 GDPR). If you have any questions, please contact the Data Protection Officer at Leipzig University (office: Augustusplatz 10, 04109 Leipzig). You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Saxon Commissioner for Data Protection.*