



Post Title:	Research and Innovation Specialist: Nature, Finance & Entrepreneurship
Post Status:	18 month Fixed-Term Contract (full-time), subject to extension
Location:	Dublin City Centre (flexible working conditions to accommodate part-time working from home)
Reports to:	CEO
Salary (employee):	€55,432
Scale	In line with public sector Executive officer pay scales
Starting Date:	1 st February 2024

Post Summary

Horizon Nua is a not-for-profit foundation specialising in social innovation, research, capacity-building and communications with a specific focus on nature-based solutions (NBS) and nature-based enterprises (NBEs). Our mission is to accelerate societal transition towards a nature-positive economy in line with global goals (UN SDGs, COP CBD) and European policy objectives (EU Green Deal, EU NBS strategy).

We are looking for an experienced, highly motivated Research and Innovation Specialist to join our small, fast growing team.

Context

Horizon Nua is a not-for-profit foundation specialising in social innovation, research, capacity-building and communications with a specific focus on nature-based solutions (NBS) and nature-based enterprises (NBEs). Our mission is to accelerate societal transition towards a nature-positive economy in line with global goals (UN SDGs, COP CBD) and European policy objectives (EU Green Deal, EU NBS strategy). We achieve this by translating robust research into actionable guidelines, tools and recommendations for rapid take-up in practice. We have a close working relationship with Trinity College Dublin and other research institutes across Europe through collaboration on multiple EU Horizon European research and innovation projects in the field of nature-based solutions ([Connecting Nature](#), [GoGreenRoutes](#), [Invest4Nature](#), [NetworkNature+](#), [GoNaturePositive](#), [UrbanGreeningPlans \(UGP+\)](#), [NBS Eduworld](#), [C-FAARER](#) and others). More specifically Horizon Nua is focused on the identification of research results of relevance to practice and the translation and testing of these outcomes with practitioners to increase uptake and impact.

Horizon Nua delivers online and offline capacity building measures to equip local authorities, policy makers, businesses and nature-based entrepreneurs with insights and tools to enable them to better address societal challenges and measure the impact of changes made (see examples of tools developed in 'Relevant publications'



section below). Horizon Nua manages the Connecting Nature Enterprise Platform and coordinates activities to promote the nature-based economy, including the delivery of a series of high profile webinars, workshops and events.

Overview of Duties and Responsibilities

Research & publications

In collaboration with research partners in different EU projects, Horizon Nua is required to contribute to different research methodologies such as literature review, interviews and surveys related to the financing, business models and governance of nature-based solutions (NBS) and nature-based enterprises. A priority outcome for Horizon Nua is translating academic research output into different dissemination formats leading to higher take up of research results by different target audiences including businesses and policy-makers. The successful candidate will be expected to:

- Collaborate with research teams in academic institutes to ensure Horizon Nua contribution to research requirements is fulfilled. This may involve planning (including ethics and GDPR) and implementing research related to NBS and nature-based enterprises using a range of methodologies such as literature review, interviews and surveys.
- Collaborate with research partners on data analysis, in particular qualitative data analysis of interview data. Experience in quantitative data analysis of survey data is also an advantage.
- Contributing to the write-up of research results in collaboration with research partners. This may involve leading on the write-up of academic publications related to nature-based enterprise research.

Translating research into different formats for non-academic users

A priority is translating academic research into different formats for increased uptake by different stakeholders. This may include for example:

- Engaging with different stakeholders, directly and indirectly to better understand their needs, motivations and preferred modes of engagement
- Based on these needs and preferences, translating knowledge into relatable narratives and different formats, for example:
 - the development of reports and policy briefs for policy-makers;
 - the design and development of educational content for nature-based enterprises e.g. online training, skills development and capacity building material;
 - the design and dissemination via online channels such as social media of infographics and other material summarising key messages for wider audiences.

Contributing to new funding applications

Nature-based entrepreneurship is an emergent research area. In collaboration with senior management and research partners, the candidate will:

- identify priority areas for future research and innovation.
- collaborate with relevant research and innovation partners in Ireland and internationally to identify relevant funding channels
- contribute to the development and submission of funding applications.



Knowledge and Experience

Essential criteria

- Academic qualifications: Postgraduate or PhD level in business, finance, innovation, entrepreneurship, economics or relevant field. Experience of working in a cross-disciplinary environment would be an advantage
- 3-5 years experience in a similar role combining research and innovation expertise. Demonstrated capacity to plan, deliver and write-up research
- Proven research writing expertise contributing to writing up results for research papers
- Proven experience in translating academic outputs for different stakeholders audiences
- Interest and understanding of financing and economic context of biodiversity loss and positioning of nature-based solutions as a response to this global crisis

Desirable criteria

- Track record of participation / task management in international transdisciplinary research and innovation projects e.g. Horizon Europe; H202, EU LIFE, Erasmus, Biodiversa+ etc
- Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research techniques, analysis and publishing
- Experience in building consensus within complex, multi-stakeholder environments

Skills & Competencies

- Proven research and publication skills.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills- highly skilled in working and building consensus within complex, multi-stakeholder environments.
- Team worker: Ability to work effectively as part of a team – tolerant, cordial and willing to help others, shares work and information; establishes rapport with others
- Excellent IT and communication skills in particular relating to research software.
- Demonstrate strategic vision, resilience and tenacity in approaching challenges.
- Organisational Ability: Excellent organisational and task management skills together with the ability to work on a number of tasks simultaneously.

Post Information

The role is being offered as an 18 month contract subject to a satisfactory probation period. The contract period may be extended subject to securing additional funding for the post. The successful candidate will be based in our offices in Dublin 2 with flexibility offered to enable remote working (within Ireland) for up to 2 days a week if desired.

Benefits:

- Generous annual leave entitlements
- Time off in lieu working arrangements



- Hybrid working facilitated
- Company pension scheme
- Some work related overseas travel opportunities

Application Information

Applicants should forward a 3 page (max) CV **and** cover letter outlining your suitability for the role to hello@horizonnua.eu. Closing date for applications is **Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 16.00 (GMT)**.

Applications will be evaluated and suitable applicants invited to interview on a rolling basis to facilitate an early start date.

Informal enquiries about the role should be directed to hello@horizonnua.eu.

Please note: Applicants must possess the required documentation to live and work in Ireland if they are not EU citizens. Possession of the necessary permissions should be stated clearly in your cover letter if this pertains to your situation

About Horizon Nua

Horizon Nua is a successful, fast growing, non profit organisation based in Dublin. We support people, cities, regions, innovators, and entrepreneurs to transition towards a just, carbon-neutral, nature-positive economy. We advocate for nature-based enterprises, supporting their growth and development while working with decision-makers at all levels to embed support for this fast-growing sector into sustainable economic and environmental policies. Working with the public and private sectors to drive the growth of the nature-positive economy – we support businesses, governments and others to drive transformation towards improving the state of nature and the restoration & protection of ecosystem services.

For more information, please visit horizonnua.eu