VACANCY NOTICE – 2026-JRC.E.3-IPR-FGIV-003227

Project Officer – Scientific Research

Type of contract	Member of the European Commission's contract staff, Function Group IV (article 3b of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants)
Duration of contract	36 months (renewable up to maximum 6 years)
Area	Civil and Structural Engineering
Place of employment	Ispra (IT)
Indicative basic salary	4.449,31 - 6.444,59 € (applicable as of 1st of July 2025) For more detailed information please consult: Working Conditions

WE ARE

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society.

The current vacancy is with **Unit 'Built Environment'** of the **Directorate for Societal Resilience and Security**. The Directorate works on science for policy challenges in space, security and migration and, thus, contributes to the political priorities of the Commission to improve societal resilience and security in a changing geopolitical context. The mission of the unit is to contribute to better EU regulation, competitiveness and innovation to enhance resilience of the built environment. The Unit performs research on safety and security of buildings, the green and digital transition of the construction ecosystem and modernising European infrastructure such as Trans-European Networks for Transport. The Unit also produces and manages knowledge to support the future enlargement as well as policies and standards for a resilient built environment, focusing on pressing issues like adaptation to climate change and resource efficiency, and promoting the values of the New European Bauhaus.

The jobholder will contribute to the development and implementation of scientific projects at the Reaction Wall of the European Laboratory for Structural Assessment with a strong focus on the experimental aspects and the laboratory activities, including hands-on work for the progress of both software and hardware used for the control, monitoring and data processing of hybrid tests on real-scale structural specimens, as well as for the design, preparation and execution of experiments.

We offer:
A dynamic and highly rewarding post in a stimulating scientific environment with policy relevant projects and opportunities for international collaboration. The working environment is friendly and efficient, providing plenty of room for initiative, responsibility and technical growth. The successful candidate will contribute to the laboratory tests operations, data analysis and development of the facilities/testing procedures concerning both the mechanical and the analytical aspects.

Please see also Working at the Commission – conditions and environment (europa.eu)

WE PROPOSE

A post at the ELSA (European Laboratory for Structural Assessment) Reaction Wall and HopLab laboratories of the JRC Built Environment Unit, which is based in Ispra (IT).

ELSA performs research providing innovative solutions for management of crises and evidence-based policy making in areas linked to security and defence, resilience and the green and digital transition. In ELSA experiments are conducted in large-scale physical and hybrid (physical+numerical) models of buildings and infrastructure for the assessment of their performance in cases in which the response cannot be predicted by available pure numerical tools. Examples of these are structures introducing new materials or construction solutions, especially when submitted to extraordinary loads due to natural or human-made hazards. ELSA also implements the JRC's 2030 strategy for opening Research Infrastructure to external scientific use, enabling access for EU researchers and leading industries to ELSA Reaction Wall and HopLab laboratories.

The jobholder's tasks will mainly include:

- Collaborate in the test execution at ELSA Reaction Wall concerning large scale cyclic, pseudo-dynamic and other kinds of hybrid testing;
- Collaborate in the continuous development of the testing methods and controller software to face changing requirements of laboratory users;
- Hands-on participation to the design, preparation and execution of experiments;
- Contribute to the advances in the post-process of experimental data and management of the generated dataset;
- Contributing to the provision of technical advice and evidence-based support to policymaking.

WE LOOK FOR

We are looking for a motivated, committed and reliable candidate with a strong scientific background in structural dynamics, engineering and finite element methodology. The successful candidate should be a self-starter with an open mind towards learning new skills and technologies, ability to manage his/her work independently, while being keen to contribute to a dynamic team.

The ideal candidate must have a level of education corresponding to completed university studies of at least five (5) years attested by a diploma in the field of engineering AND a doctoral diploma in mechanical, structural or automation engineering OR five years (5) of experience as researcher in the field.

The following background will be valuable:

- previous research or professional experience relevant to the topics of the position;
- knowledge in structural dynamics and earthquake engineering;
- knowledge in the field of control theory and practice;
- experimental work in the field of structural engineering, including design and execution of experiments, as well as data processing;
- experience in numerical modelling and dynamic analysis of structures;
- basics of software programming (e.g. Matlab, Python, C++, C#).

Very good command of English (C1), both oral and written, is required, as well as very good command of another EU official language. Basic knowledge of Italian will be considered as an advantage.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are **already on a valid CAST FG IV reserve list**, or you **have already applied to one of the calls below**, you can directly submit your application at JRC Recruitment Portal.

If not, before applying to this position, **you must register** for one of the two following databases:

- the Call for Expressions of Interest | EU Careers (europa.eu) (CAST Permanent FG IV), which is used by a wide range of organisations (institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the European Union), or
- the call for researchers (JRC Call COM/1/2015/GFIV – Research), which is mainly used by the JRC.

Note that each of the calls above has **different minimum eligibility requirements and different selection tests**.

The JRC cultivates a workplace based on respect for other people and the environment, and embraces non-discriminatory practices and equality of opportunity. In case of equal merit, preference will be given to the gender in minority.