

## **Job Advertisement / June 2021**

### **Programme Director for the EASAC Biosciences Programme**

EASAC is the association of the National Science Academies of the EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland and UK – which is represented by the Royal Society. EASAC was founded 20 years ago and its core business is to provide an independent science perspective for European policy thinking. EASAC is focused on the areas of Biosciences (including Public Health), Energy and Environment. Some recent publications of the EASAC Biosciences Programme include: Decarbonisation of the Health Sector, Challenges and Potential in Regenerative Medicine, the Regulation of Genome-Edited Plants in the European Union, The Imperative of Climate Action to Protect Human Health in Europe, and Opportunities for Future Research and Innovation on Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture.

EASAC is now looking to appoint a new Programme Director for its Biosciences Programme. The Programme Director manages EASAC activities in the biosciences field, working closely with the EASAC Biosciences Steering Panel and its nominated Chair(s). S/he will also work in collaboration with the Directors of EASAC's two other core Programmes, Energy and Environment, to explore opportunities for cross-sectoral and synergistic work.

**The Biosciences portfolio draws on, and extends, previous EASAC expertise in this broad area, currently covering a range of interests:**

1. Science and policy issues for emerging technologies and their socio-economic impact in the EU; for example, biotechnology, nanotechnology, synthetic biology, personalised medicine.
2. Other biomedical opportunities and challenges, including translational science and the relationship with innovation.
3. Animal health and the animal-human health interface.
4. Plant sciences and related genomics and genetics, with applications for food and agriculture.
5. Biosecurity, biosafety and other technical and societal concerns related to developments in the biosciences.

In each case, the focus is on EU policy needs, but it is recognised that similar issues often arise world-wide and individual projects take account of the global context. Frequently, the project remit requires both consideration of the implications of the scientific evidence for policy formulation and the evaluation of the adequacy of the relevant science base.

#### ***The Role of Programme Director***

The Biosciences Programme Director will hold the responsibility to:

- lead on the effective implementation of EASAC Council approved Biosciences projects;
- keep abreast of key policy issues, challenges and controversies related to the field and inform and advise EASAC colleagues on important developments;
- work within EASAC to ensure that the best relevant expertise and experience in Europe is convened, drawing on academy networks, experience and expertise;

- ensure that the Biosciences Programme output is disseminated strategically and that it aims at policy impact; and support that science-based advice and best-practices are shared with EASAC member Academies to help build their capacity;
- establish, develop and maintain strategic relations with key stakeholders in the EU (Commission, Parliament and agencies), especially relevant to the biosciences field, as well as key scientists and possibly also the (science) media.

### **Requirements**

The ideal candidate will:

- have an outstanding scientific understanding of the biosciences field. Ideally, his or her scientific expertise would cover two or more of the areas listed above;
- have substantial research expertise, ideally – but not necessarily – in one of the areas covered in EASAC's Biosciences Programme;
- have a broad experience relevant to the EASAC Biosciences Programme and the competency to manage a demanding mix of projects and priorities across a potentially wide range of biosciences-related fields;
- have an excellent command of written and spoken English, and the ability to interpret and convey scientific, technical and policy-related ideas effectively to a range of audiences;
- have a solid understanding of and ideally also direct experience with policy processes in the European Commission and/or European Parliament;
- be versatile, flexible and creative in problem-solving and designing effective models of project delivery and engagement. S/he will need the personal skills to work with leading experts from different fields and nations to ensure their expertise is transformed into a policy-relevant report and outcome;
- be resilient and remain open to fresh approaches to the initiation and conduct of projects, and to the influencing (outreach) strategy that accompanies them;
- be committed to delivering projects on time, to budget and the agreed scope, with strong project management, resource management and writing skills;
- build and maintain contacts in academic, research and policy-making communities in Europe and, where required, elsewhere; and represent EASAC's interests in meetings and conferences/events, as required.

### **What EASAC offers**

EASAC offers a stimulating environment of outstanding scientific debate, partly managed by the Programme Director, and a strong supportive core team of colleagues in the EASAC Bureau (the group of President, Vice-Presidents and Steering Panel Chairs) and EASAC Secretariat, including two other Programme Directors, as well as those working within the member academies.

In this highly impactful role, the Programme Director operates within a fully independent organisation with an outstanding reputation, contributing to scientific analysis and science-based recommendations to policy thinking for the benefit of Europe. For practical reasons a consultancy contract for 8-10 days per month, with a daily remuneration of ca. €400 to €550 per day (depending on experience), can be offered.

The location of the role is flexible. The EASAC Biosciences Programme Director will undertake regular travel to Brussels and elsewhere in Europe.

For more information or applications, please write to the EASAC Secretariat at [secretariat@easac.eu](mailto:secretariat@easac.eu)

*EASAC Secretariat*

*June 2021*