

## Postdoctoral Research and #SCICOMM Management position in Bioresource Recovery

*Resource recovery for the biobased economy*

*This position is part of a larger contingent of recruitments of new staff members committed to research in topics within the projects in the BioRefine Cluster Europe*

### **Introduction**

In frame of international collaboration, Ghent University and the University of Vic - Central University of Catalonia (UVIC) want to join forces on science communication and on research towards biorefineries, in frame of the Biorefine Cluster Europe ([www.biorefine.eu](http://www.biorefine.eu)).

The Biorefine Cluster Europe itself brings +/- 30 EU projects together, aiming to enhance the R&D communication and thereby maximizing innovation-to-implementation impact. The cluster is founded in the sound belief that research projects need to engage strongly with their stakeholders in addition to producing scientific results and publications.

The research focus of participating projects is recovery of biobased resources, varying between renewable energy, materials, chemicals, amongst others. For an overview of the participating projects, see [www.biorefine.eu/projects](http://www.biorefine.eu/projects).

Ghent University (Belgium) is internationally one of the leading institutes in resource recovery and renewable resources for the biobased economy. It is home to the BioRefine Cluster Europe ([www.biorefine.eu](http://www.biorefine.eu)), a network of international research and development projects with dedicated focus of guiding innovation towards applied market implementation.

The Technology Centre for Biodiversity, Ecology and Environmental Technology (BETA) at University of Vic – Central University of Catalonia ([www.betatechcenter.com](http://www.betatechcenter.com)), aims to improve competitiveness and technological development in companies through R&D projects at a local, state or European and International level developing and transferring innovative and competitive technology with sustainable criteria to the agri-food, waste and environment sectors.

### **Research groups**

The ECOCHEM-C2C research group, led by Prof. E. Meers, holds the secretariat to the Biorefine Cluster Europe. This research group is also directly involved in 14 European projects, several of which as lead partner. For fluent organisation of the management and execution of the research, the team currently relies on a middle-management structure consisting out of 4 postdoctoral managers, for which we are now looking for a 5<sup>th</sup> enthusiastic manager.

BETA Technological Center (UVIC, UVIC-UCC) is currently participating in 9 European projects, coordinating 4 of them, and is also hosting 5 Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellows. BETA is formed by a multidisciplinary young team of 35 researchers, and we are looking to incorporate a dynamic person willing to be part of our project.

### *Job description*

UGhent and UVIC have a declaration of intent on working together via a postdoctoral position. The position starts of in Ghent (BE) with foreseen rotation to Barcelona (ESP), practical arrangement of which will be worked out together with the postdoctoral manager.

The postdoctoral manager will have a senior mandate to organize and deploy research communication tools linked to the Biorefine Cluster Europe, including (i) the expansion of the website with E-archiving function of publications and output coming from the member projects, (ii) organisation of joint events between projects and interlinking these projects in existing brands of international conferences, (iii) expand the outreach of electronic and hard-copy news channels, (iv) engage with our community managers to maximize the impact of research programmes.

Regarding research background we are particularly looking for a management member who has experience in bioresource recovery with particular interest for one or more of the following disciplines for which we have new projects approved : (i) bioenergy processes with focus biogas technology, (ii) added value products from biogas (rather than energy), (iii) nutrient & OC recovery from digestate, (iv) refining and upgrading the gas phase and biorefinery application of this gas for energy or non-energable applications.

Postdoctoral managers in our team receive the opportunity to expand the research line they supervise and extend their own involvement in that research domain.

The new manager will be responsible for management of the team's research duties of 1 or 2 projects, which includes following up on the project deliverables, supervising the associated (PhD) researchers and making sure all required financial and content reports are delivered.

For this profile we are also looking for someone to take an active supervising role over science communication from the Biorefine Cluster Europe. In that sense, we are looking for a highly motivated person with a clear vision on deploying and managing communication strategy that engages stakeholders from industry, agriculture, policy and research.

### *Your profile*

- You are interested in and motivated by the research domain
- You have mastered the English language, both in writing skills and oral presentations
- Proficiency in other languages (with particular interest for Dutch and/or French) can be considered a plus

- You have the required communicative skills to interact independently with scientific community, business community and farming community
- You have a relevant PhD degree in bioscience with dedicated interest in science communication
- You have at least 6 years of experience in research activities (including PhD)
- Over the last 3 years, you have been living outside of Belgium for at least 2 years.

### **We offer**

- Attractive salary as postdoctoral manager
- Full-time employment for a period of 3 years, potentially extendable
- Embedding in two different research groups of young dynamic applied experts, consisting out of more than 60 motivated people from Belgium and Spain
- Integration in a strong management team of young potentials
- Involvement in European projects with research partners throughout Europe
- An innovative hot-topic research scope with clear practical applications
- The possibility to develop a broad network
- Stimulation to self-improvement by encouraging participation in courses, workshops and conferences

### **How to apply**

Qualified candidates should submit a CV with reference to your key research & publications and the topic of your PhD research (**max. 3 pages**) in English, a motivation letter indicating your affinity for the research topic at hand as well as science communication (**max. 1.5 page**), a vision note stating on how you would maximize stakeholder outreach / science communication for the Biorefine Cluster Europe projects (**max. 2 pages**).

**Also, you need to provide a confirmation of (at least) 2 years of residence and professional activity outside of Belgium over the last 3 years.** This information should be sent via email only and with the subject 'Application BCE – *your name*' to Evi Michels ([evi.michels@ugent.be](mailto:evi.michels@ugent.be)), Daily Manager of the BioRefine Cluster Europe, with copy to Prof. Erik Meers ([erik.meers@ugent.be](mailto:erik.meers@ugent.be)), and BETA Director [sergio.ponsa@uvic.cat](mailto:sergio.ponsa@uvic.cat) **before August 19, 17h** (Central European Time). Candidates that are accepted for the next round will be invited for interviews, with the first interviews being held in the second half of August.