

Announcement for the opening of a selection procedure for the hiring of (1) research technician

Reference: 2026_019_TS_XTREMOLIFE

A call is open for the recruitment of one (1) Research Technician within the scope of the project XTREMOLIFE – Advancing Sampling and Screening of Extremophile Microorganisms for the Biodiscovery of Bioactive Compounds from Volcanic, Desert, and Polar Ecosystems. This project is funded by the European Union’s Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Program under Grant Agreement No. 101181714. The position is offered under the following terms and conditions:

1. **Scientific Area:** Marine Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Environmental Biotechnology, Biological Sciences or related areas.

Admission requirements: In order to be admitted to the competition, candidates must hold a Bsc or Integrated Master in any of the scientific areas outlined in point 1. Applicants must demonstrate an excellent academic and professional track record, proven ability to work collaboratively within the framework of European projects, and a high level of motivation to conduct research on the biotechnological applications of cyanobacteria and microalgae.

Candidates must provide documented laboratory experience in fundamental microbiological techniques, particularly in the isolation of cyanobacteria and/or microalgae from diverse environmental samples, including field sampling activities. This experience must include taxonomic classification using a polyphasic approach integrating genotypic, phenotypic, and chemotaxonomic methods.

Candidates must also demonstrate technical proficiency in the cultivation of photosynthetic microorganisms at different scales, as well as in downstream processing procedures for the production of chemical extracts.

Preference will be given to candidates with experience in maintaining culture collections of photosynthetic microorganisms and in applying chemical analytical techniques, including mass spectrometry for chemotaxonomic and chemometric analyses. Experience in bioactivity

assays will be considered an additional asset. Candidates must be able to communicate effectively in English, both orally and in writing.

Any national, foreign and stateless candidate(s) who hold a degree in one of the aforementioned areas and a scientific and professional curriculum whose profile is suited for the activity to be performed is encouraged to apply to this position. *In cases where the degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, the said degree must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of 16th August until the signature of the contract.*

- 2. Work plan:** The selected candidate will join the XTREMOLIFE project at CIIMAR, contributing directly to its technical implementation and ongoing development. XTREMOLIFE aims to accelerate the bioprospecting and biodiscovery of novel extremophilic microorganisms by identifying promising strains, characterizing their secondary metabolites, elucidating their bioactivity and chemical structures, and optimizing cultivation conditions to establish a pathway toward their full biotechnological valorisation. The project focuses specifically on microalgae, cyanobacteria, and their associated microbiomes, with chemical prospection targeting bioassays relevant to human, fish, and plant health.

The selected technician will be responsible for:

- i) Performing the isolation and taxonomic characterization of extremophilic cyanobacteria and microalgae from environmental samples, including participation in field sampling trips.
- ii) Ensuring the routine maintenance and cultivation of the project's microbial strains under Good Laboratory Practices (GLP).
- iii) Executing the production of chemical extracts for bioactivity testing.
- iv) Conducting research assays in alignment with the project's objectives and maintaining precise technical records to support the research team.
- v) Contributing to the preparation of technical reports, scientific publications, and outreach activities to communicate project results.

3. **Legislation and official rules:** Article 140, n. 2, g)) and Article 148, n. 4, of the Labor Code (Law 7/2009, of 12 February and respective updates).
4. **Work place:** The selected candidate will work under the supervision the principal investigator of the project, Dr. Mariana Reis, integrated in the Research Team “Blue Biotechnology, Environment and Health” at CIIMAR (University of Porto). The laboratory is located at the headquarters of CIIMAR, in the modern Cruise Ship Terminal of the Port of Leixões, in Matosinhos, Porto’s metropolitan area. The selected candidate will work in an international and highly multidisciplinary environment with a strong connection to the Ocean.
5. **Duration of the contract:** An unfixed-term employment contract starting April 2026, under the legal terms in force (Labor Code).
6. **Salary:** The gross monthly salary corresponds to Level 19 (€ 1,657.04), in accordance with the single remuneration table. In addition, the position includes meal allowance and the statutory holiday and Christmas allowances, paid separately.
7. **Selection methods:** A global appreciation of the candidates’ merit and motivation (valued from 1 to 10) will be made on the basis of the evaluation of their scientific and curricular track-record, in particular the quality of their research outputs related to the subject area of the present call.

This will result in a pre-selection of the three best-scoring candidates, scored higher than 7, which will be communicated to the candidates. One or both of the referees indicated by each of the pre-selected candidates can be contacted at this stage to provide reference letters. An interview may also be carried out, in which case all of the pre-selected candidates will be summoned to the interview. The jury will select one candidate among the pre-selected candidates to the position.

If an interview to the three pre-selected candidates takes place, its objective is solely to clarify issues related to their application, namely regarding their curricular and professional achievements. In this case, the interview will have a relative weight of 0.3 and the previously communicated score will have a relative weight of 0.7.

The evaluation of the professional track record relates to the relevance, timeliness, quality and adequacy to the current project and will focus on the past 5-years that the candidate considers more relevant (as highlighted in their application). *This 5-year period can be increased, if justified and asked for by the candidate, on account of disease, maternity/paternity leave, or other duly justified period of unavailability to work.*

8. Composition of the jury:

President of the jury: Mariana Reis

Vogal: Natália Silva

Vogal: Guilherme Scotta Hentschke

9. Form of advertising/notification of the results: The results of the first step of the evaluation (pre-selection) will be sent to the candidates by e-mail. The candidates have a 10-working day term in which to contest the decision, if they wish, as provided in the Administrative Procedure Code, in a preliminary hearing setting. After the eventual collection of reference letters and interviews, the final results will be communicated by e-mail to the candidates. The jury reserves the right not to assign the work contract if none of the candidates meet all the requirements and match the desired profile.

10. Deadline for application and how to apply: Candidates interested in this position should send their application between the **06/03/2026 until 19/03/2026**, to rh@ciimar.up.pt. **The subject of the e-mail must contain the competition reference “2026_019_TS_XTREMOLIFE. The application must be formalized compulsorily by sending the following documents (all documents in English language):**

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae in English including the e-mail address and phone number of the candidate as well as two reference contacts (name, e-mail and current position);
- Motivation Letter (max 2 pages) that includes a short description of the professional accomplishments that the candidate considers relevant in the past 5 years;
- Copy of the eligibility certificates.

The whole application should be no bigger than 5 MB. **Applications that do not include all the previously indicated elements will not be considered.**

11. Non-discrimination and equal access policy:

CIIMAR actively promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, wherefore no candidate can be privileged, benefited, impaired or deprived of any rights whatsoever, or be exempt of any duties based on their ancestry, age, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family and economic conditions, instruction, origin or social conditions, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and union membership.

Pursuant to Decree-Law no. 29/2001 of 3 February, disabled candidates shall be preferred in a situation of equal classification, and said preference supersedes any legal preferences. Candidates must declare, on their honour, their respective disability degree, type of disability and communication/expression means to be used during selection period on their application form, under the regulations above.