

Job 2: Early Stage Researcher ESR B4 Evolution Institute/ Supervisor Giessen **Tom Wilke**
Title

Drivers of Pontocaspian biodiversity Rise and Demise: Molecular evolution of Pontocaspian biota Summary

The Justus Liebig University Giessen is looking for prospective candidates with a background in evolutionary biology and an interest in interdisciplinary palaeontological and phylogenetic research in the Pontocaspian region (Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Anatolia and surroundings).

Description The successful candidate will be employed as researcher without a PhD and enrolled as PhD student to complete a PhD thesis within the contract period of 3 years to reconstruct past evolutionary events and diversity changes over ~2 Ma in several Pontocaspian species flocks (e.g., lymnocardiine and dreissenid bivalves, pyrguline gastropods) using genetic information from extant taxa combined with fossil occurrences as a baseline for understanding the current species richness and distribution patterns (biodiversity). Of interest are coalescent analyses based on mtDNA data for reconstructing past demographic and spatial expansion events, molecular clock analyses for timing past diversification events and lineage-through-time (LTT) plots to test for deviations from a constant speciation rate over time. The latter two approaches are based on multi-locus genetic datasets. The inferred evolutionary events will be compared to major hydrological and climatic events of the Pontocaspian derived from parallel projects to obtain an understanding of the biotic and abiotic factors driving evolution in space and time. This project will include a secondment at the Natural History Museum Grigore Antipa in Bucharest (RU) for analyses of extant Black Sea taxa and a secondment at Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden (NL) to study fossil mollusk occurrences. The candidate will enroll in an extensive Network Training Program. **Research Fields**

Evolution, phylogeny, phylogeography, paleontology, Career Stage Early stage researcher or 04 yrs (Post graduate) **Research Profiles**

First Stage Researcher (R1) **Type of contract**

Temporary employment with the Federal State of Hesse. Full time 40 hrs/wk **Salary** a month/year

A salary that matches the MSCAITN and local rules, a monthly mobility allowance of 600, gross and a possible monthly family allowance of 500, gross. **Benefits**

In accordance with Marie Sklodowska Curie Regulations Information about the Marie Sklodowska Curie actions is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/> http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/aboutmsca/quickguide/index_en.htm

Financial and other technical information is available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/aboutmsca/actions/itn/index_en.htm

www.pontocaspian.eu

Address details of workplace Department of Animal Ecology and Systematics Systematics and Biodiversity Group Justus Liebig University Giessen H.-Buff-Ring 26-32 (IFZ) D-35392 Giessen, Germany **Specific demands from your country/ institute** Ability to work in an

internationally oriented environment, including fluency in English **M.Sc. in relevant field** Applicants are invited to submit the following documents: Letter of application (max 2 pages); Resume (Curriculum vitae); The names, position and e-mail addresses of at least two persons that can be contacted for reference; List of publications, including submitted manuscripts or papers in press, if any; Transcript of BSc and MSc diploma. **The required**

documents should be submitted by email to
sollicitaties@naturalis.nl
before 16 April 2015.