

Economist: Shared Service between 3 Regional Assemblies.

Employer :	Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
Post Title :	Economist
Office Location :	Ballymun, Dublin 9
Duration:	3-year fixed term contract
Closing date:	25 th February 2019 – 5pm

Who we are:

The three Regional Assemblies were established under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the Establishment Order S.I. 573 of 2014; Eastern & Midland, Southern and Northern & Western. The main functions of the three Assemblies are to:

- Prepare and implement the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES)
- Implement the appropriate Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) operational within its geographical area.
- Management of EU Operational Programmes
- Influencing and Implementing national economic policy
- Support the work of the National Oversight and Audit Commission
- Identify, participate and co-ordinate certain EU projects
- Provide expert advice to the national delegation to the Committee of the Regions and others

The Role:

The successful candidate will serve the three Regional Assemblies on a shared service basis and will be based in the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly offices, with the possibility to work from other locations.

The role of the Economist is to ensure that a rigorous economic rationale underpins the activities of the Regional Assemblies by playing a central role in the collection and analysis of data, the establishment of baseline reporting at NUTS 2/3 levels, and by providing inputs to policy and programme development and inputs to submissions on behalf of the Assemblies, as necessary.

The role will involve imputing into the development of national, regional and local economic policy including contributing to the formulation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies for the three Regional Assemblies, and preparation and implementation of local authority Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs).

Duties:

Key duties and responsibilities

- Preparation of advice on the content of the economic dimension to the forthcoming regional spatial and economic strategies;
- Collating key datasets from relevant sources at local, regional, and accessing other datasets as necessary;
- Establishment and monitoring of progress against baselines established at NUTS 2/3 levels to assist both the planning and economic development functions of the Assemblies;
- Development of regional economic models linked to wider economic models underpinning the Medium Term Economic Strategy and ESRI models;
- Commission, initiate and oversee research projects on behalf of the Assemblies;
- Preparation of advice on the content of the economic dimension to the Local Economic and Community Plans for constituent local authorities;

- Overseeing the quantification of the costs and benefits of the implementation of specific measures at regional and local levels and contributing to such processes at national level;
- Assisting in relevant aspects of the implementation of the measures set out Project Ireland 2040, the forthcoming Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, the current Regional Operational Programmes and the emerging post 2020 EU programmes;
- Establishment of post strategy adoption monitoring mechanisms, including the setting of appropriate regional indicators to effectively measure the impact of the strategies and identification of any areas for adjustment;
- Manage other Corporate projects and initiatives upon request where relevant to the sector and
- Provide such supports as may be required by the Director from time to time to other regional assemblies, local authorities and other public sector bodies.

Essential Requirements

Character

Each candidate must be of good character.

Health

Each candidate shall be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.

Education, Knowledge and Experience

- Honours Bachelor Degree or higher degree in economics or relevant discipline
- Minimum 3 years' experience working in a similar high-level role.
- Excellent knowledge of EU policy programmes and public Institutions
- Excellent knowledge of Irish National Policy and Local Government

Essential Skills and Experience:

- Experience of delivering, co-ordinating and managing a variety of different projects individually or as part of a team, at the same time.
- Possess in-depth knowledge of macro and microeconomics, regional economic issues, spatial analysis and strong experience in quantitative and qualitative policy assessment and development.
- Experience in economic analysis, modelling and policy development.
- Knowledge and understanding of European, national, regional and local government policies and structures in the following areas:
 - Economics
 - Planning
 - Environment
- Possess excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Demonstrate lessons learned from work experience - Innovative and Initiative

Desirable Requirements:

In addition to the essential skills, it would be desirable to have the following:

- Expertise in areas such as statistics, policy evaluation; econometrics and modelling; economic planning; financial risk analysis; applied economics (health, transport, labour market, etc.), fiscal policy and public finance theory
- Political awareness and a clear understanding of the political reality and context of local, regional, national and European public institutions
- Project management skills

- Experience of managing finance and budgets and ensuring value for money
- Leading, motivating and engaging others to achieve quality results

Key Competencies

Management & Change	<p>Strategic ability Analyses, reviews and evaluates complex, economic and financial information and have the capacity to present options and recommendations. Implements or revises policy to support regional and local government economic objectives.</p> <p>Networking and representing Develops and maintains positive and beneficial relationships with relevant interests and leads and works in multi-disciplinary teams.</p> <p>Influencing and negotiating Establishes appropriate and productive working relationships at local, regional, national and European level, within the public sector. Effectively influences key stakeholders to achieve operational strategy and objectives.</p>
Delivering Results	<p>Problem solving and decision making Assimilates information from across their area of operation, assesses risk and identifies key elements and potential solutions. Appropriately evaluates and challenges the available information rather than accepting evidence on face value. Addresses issues logically and on a step by step basis. Shows good judgement and balance in making decisions or recommendations.</p>
Performance through People	<p>Communicating effectively Presents ideas effectively to individuals and groups and delivers presentations suited to the nature and needs of the audience. Is clear in all communications, considering the audience in getting the message across. Puts in place or develops existing systems and mechanisms to make best use of available information. Communicates with credibility, conviction, composure and confidence in potentially stressful public situations.</p>
Personal effectiveness	<p>Resilience and personal well being Demonstrates appropriate and positive self-confidence. Operates effectively in an environment with significant complexity and pace. Is self-motivated and enthusiastic about role.</p>

Terms and Conditions

1. The Post

The post is for a three-year fixed-term contract. This is a full-time post.

2. Probation

There will be a 6-month probation period which may be extended to one year at the discretion of the Director.

3. Superannuation

If you are pensionable under the Local Government (Superannuation) (Consolidation) Scheme 1998 and are liable to pay Class A PRSI contributions, you would be required in respect of superannuation to make contributions at the rate of 3.5% of net pensionable remuneration plus 1.5% of full pensionable remuneration. You are required in respect of spouses' and children's pension benefit to contribute at the rate of 1.5% of full pensionable remuneration in accordance with the terms of schemes made under the Local Government (Superannuation) (Consolidation) Scheme 1998. Maximum retirement age is 65.

If the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 applies to your employment, 65 is the minimum age at which your pension may be paid. As a new entrant to the public service, under the terms of this legislation you will not be required to retire on grounds of age.

Persons who become pensionable officers of a regional assembly who are liable to pay the Class D rate of PRSI contribution will be required in respect of their superannuation to contribute at the rate of 5% of their pensionable remuneration. You may also be required to pay Spouses and Children/Widows and Orphans contributions at the rate of 1.5% of gross pay. Maximum retirement age is 65.

If you are pensionable under the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other provisions) Act 2012, you are required to pay contributions as follows: 3% of gross remuneration and 3.5% of net pensionable remuneration. The minimum age at which you may retire is allied with the State Contributory Pension age (currently 66, rising to 67 in 2021 and 68 in 2028). The maximum retirement age is 70.

4. Salary

Salary shall be at Local Government Administrative Officer Grade - €48,978– €50,176– €51,576– €52,979– €54,384 – €55,637 – €56,922 – €58,166 – €59,405 – €61,534 (LSI 1) – €63,672 (LSI 2)

5. Hours of work

37 hours per week. The successful applicant will be expected to work outside of normal office hours including weekends if necessary without additional remuneration. Flexi Leave arrangements may apply.

The Assembly reserves the right to alter your hours of work from time to time.

6. Annual Leave

Annual leave entitlement for the position will be 30 days.

7. Retirement

There is no mandatory retirement age for new entrants to the public service as defined in the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004.

Anyone who is not a new entrant to the public service, as defined in the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004, is subject to a compulsory retirement age of 65 years.

The maximum retirement age for new entrants as defined by the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012 is 70 years.

8. Residence

Post holders shall reside within a reasonable commutable distance of Ballymun, Co. Dublin. The Director of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly reserves the right to assign the post holder to any premises, now or in the future subject to reasonable notice.

9. Start date

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly shall require the successful candidate to take up their appointment within a reasonable period. Should they fail to take up the appointment within an agreed period, the Assembly at its discretion may not appoint them.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The above represents the principal conditions of service and is not intended to be the comprehensive list of all terms and conditions of employment which will be set out in the employment contract to be agreed with the successful candidate.

10. How to apply

Application forms are available for download on www.emra.ie. Only applications received by email and on the official application form will be accepted. Emails should be addressed to recruitment@emra.ie only and must be received no later than **5pm on February 25th**.

Application forms received after the closing date will not be accepted.

Selection will be by means of a competition based on an interview conducted by the Assembly. The Assembly reserves its right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate which may include shortlisting on the basis of essential requirements and level of experience. Shortlisting will be on the basis of information supplied on the application form.

A panel may be formed on the basis of such interviews. Candidates whose names are on a panel and who satisfy the Assembly that they possess the qualifications declared for the post and that they are otherwise suitable for appointment may, within the life of the panel, be appointed as appropriate vacancies arise. The life of the panel shall be for a period of two years from the date of the formation.

Applicants should hold themselves in readiness for interview in March 2019.

11. Special Needs

Candidates who indicate on their application that they have special needs will be required to submit a psychologists/medical report to the Assembly. A determination, if any, will be made by the Assembly on appropriate accommodations to be made for individual candidates, during the selection process.