



Laboratory Scientist

– Biotechnology & Soil Microbiology

Location: Košice, Slovakia (on-site, with occasional flexibility)

Position: Full-time

Start date: As soon as possible

About *ekolive*

ekolive is a deep-tech biotechnology startup based in Košice, Slovakia, focused on restoring soil health and advancing sustainable agriculture through innovative microbial solutions. Our patented *InnoBioTech*[®] platform harnesses natural microbial-mineral interactions to develop next-generation biostimulants, reducing reliance on chemical inputs and supporting regenerative farming systems.

We are a small, dedicated, and ambitious team where every member plays a crucial role. We're looking for a scientist who doesn't just want a job, but a mission – someone eager to grow with us, contribute to our story, and help scale a technology with real global impact.

The Role

We are seeking a motivated and hands-on Laboratory Scientist to join our R&D team. This is a unique opportunity to work directly with our Head of R&D, learn our proprietary technology from the ground up, and contribute to its ongoing development and optimisation.

In the short term, you will support day-to-day laboratory activities, experimental work, and product development. Over time, you will take on greater responsibility – driving research projects, shaping our R&D strategy, and ultimately stepping into a leadership role within our lab. This position is designed for someone who wants to build a long-term career at *ekolive* and grow as our company grows.

Key responsibilities:

- Support the Head of R&D in experimental design, execution, and analysis related to microbial culturing, biostimulant formulation, and product efficacy testing.
- Conduct systematic laboratory and small-scale trials to evaluate and improve biostimulant performance.
- Contribute to the development and refinement of *ekolive*'s R&D agenda, moving toward independent strategic input and project leadership.
- Assist in the preparation of scientific publications, project proposals, and technical reports for EU and national research consortia.



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- Maintain accurate records, ensure laboratory compliance with quality and safety standards, and help manage lab resources and inventory.
- Collaborate with the broader team on field trials, data interpretation, and cross-functional projects as needed – a true startup mindset is essential.

Who You Are

- You hold a MSc or PhD in Biotechnology, Microbiology, Biology, Organic Chemistry, Agricultural Science, or a related field.
- You have a strong foundational understanding of soil functions, the soil microbiome, and plant-microbe interactions – prior hands-on experience in a lab setting is essential.
- You are genuinely curious about our technology and motivated by its potential application in sustainable agriculture.
- You are proactive, resourceful, and able to work independently – you don't wait for instructions but identify needs and act on them.
- You are fluent in English (working language) and ideally also in Slovak (for local collaboration and documentation).
- You are looking for a long-term role where you can grow, take ownership, and eventually lead.
- You thrive in a dynamic, agile environment and are prepared to contribute beyond your core responsibilities when needed.

What We Offer

- A rare opportunity to learn and develop a patented biotech platform from within a growing startup.
- A clear pathway to laboratory leadership and increased responsibility as you prove your capability and commitment.
- Direct involvement in shaping our scientific direction and product pipeline.
- Integration into a passionate, mission-driven team where your work has visible impact.
- Competitive salary in line with our startup structure, with the potential for virtual equity and performance-related rewards as the company grows.



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- A collaborative on-site work environment in our Košice lab, with access to modern equipment and pilot-scale facilities.

How to Apply

If you are ready to commit to a long-term journey with *ekolive* and believe you have the drive and expertise to grow with us, please send your CV and a brief cover letter (in English) to ekolive@ekolive.eu.

In your cover letter, please address:

1. Why *ekolive's* mission and technology resonate with you personally and professionally.
2. Your experience relevant to soil microbiology, biostimulants, or agricultural biotechnology.
3. Your long-term career aspirations and how you see yourself contributing to *ekolive's* future.

We are looking for a scientist who wants to build with us – not just fill a position.

ekolive s.r.o.

Americká trieda 3, Košice, Slovakia

www.ekolive.eu

We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for an interview will be contacted.