

EEAS Vacancy Notice

Seconded National Expert in the Directorate for Strategic Communication and Foresight (SG.STRAT)

Policy Officer

[Strategic Communication Officer (Strategic Partners Engagement Focus)]

COST-FREE

AD level post

Job No 423200

We are:

The European External Action Service (EEAS) supports the High Representative in the exercise of his mandate to conduct and implement an effective and coherent EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), of representing the EU and of chairing the Foreign Affairs Council. It also supports the High Representative in his capacity as Vice-President of the Commission with regard to his responsibilities within the Commission in the external relations field including the coordination of other aspects of the EU's external action. The EEAS works in close cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Council, the services of the Commission and the Secretariat General of the European Parliament.

The Directorate for Strategic Communication and Foresight steers communications and outreach to promote the role of the EU as a strong global actor, ensures the EEAS' contribution to EU efforts to fight disinformation, information manipulation and interference, and coordinates strategic policy analysis with a view to inform policy and decision-making. The Directorate develops Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy activities across a wide range of geographic and thematic topics and works in close cooperation with EU Delegations, Member States, international partners and relevant services from other EU institutions. The Directorate also oversees internal communication in the EEAS.

We propose:

The post of a "cost-free" Seconded National Expert on the position of "**Strategic Communication Officer**" (Strategic Partners Engagement Focus).

The successful candidate will be based at the EEAS Headquarters in Brussels, within the StratCom Task Force Sub-Saharan Africa, in the Directorate for Strategic Communication and Foresight (SG.STRAT). She/He will work to **enhance overall EU international and institutional engagement efforts** in the context of Strategic Communication and fight against Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The expert will support overall EU efforts to promote its image, activities, values and counter FIMI by engaging with EU MS to strengthen coordination, coherence and complementarity between the EU and EU Member States communication efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as engaging with other international actors in order to ensure coordinated quality and impact of Communication strategies. The expert will be required to work closely with relevant divisions and entities of the EEAS, EU MS representatives, EU Delegations, European Commission services and Representations in the member states, international partners, the expert community, EU CSDP, EC Spokespersons Service, EP press team, external contractors and other relevant networks.

Functions and Duties

The Seconded National Expert is expected to perform the following tasks:

- Promote and facilitate closer cooperation and synergies between the EEAS, the EU institutions, and EU Member States in their efforts towards effective EU strategic communications and to counter FIMI in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Promote and facilitate closer cooperation and synergies between the EEAS, its strategic partners, and civilian (civil society, academia, etc) partners in their efforts towards effective EU strategic communications and to counter FIMI in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Ensure link between EU coordination of communication activities between EU embassies in Sub saharan countries and EU coordination at capital level to seek coherence and complementarity of EU MS and EU institutions communication strategies and products.
- Strengthening the institutional network of those working on FIMI issues and liaising with national government officials, including through Rapid Alert System;
- Raising awareness on the disinformation through the development of communication materials for the EUvsDisinfo website and dedicated campaigns, including products for the EUvsDisinfo campaign on social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, etc.);
- Assist in drafting internal briefings and other related tasks supporting the communication of the EU's policies and values in the Sub-Saharan region;
- Draw on the analysis of the information environment and of the FIMI monitoring done by the team and in designing, programming and managing engagement activity;
- Support other functions of the Task Force and of SG.STRAT.

We are looking for:

The European External Action Service (EEAS) is seeking a dynamic, proactive and highly motivated colleague with strong analytical, project management and networking skills to occupy the post of Seconded National Expert (SNE).

Legal basis:

- This vacancy is to be filled in accordance with the EEAS Decision of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy HR DEC(2014) 01 of 04/02/2014 establishing the rules applicable to National Experts seconded to the European External Action Service.

Eligibility criteria

Candidates must:

- a) Be drawn from public administrations in Member States, from international organisations or, only in exceptional cases and with prior authorisation from other sources;

- b) Have at least three years' full-time experience of administrative, scientific, technical, advisory or supervisory functions equivalent to those of function groups AD or AST as defined in the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of other servants of the Union or, where justified in the interests of the service, professional training of an equivalent level.[1];
- c) Have a thorough knowledge of one Union language and a satisfactory knowledge of a second language for the performance of his/her duties;
- d) Have or be able to obtain security clearance of minimum level EU-SECRET/SECRET-UE for the functions that he/she will carry out;
- e) Remain in the service of the employer throughout the period of secondment and shall be paid by that employer;
- f) Remain subject to the social security legislation applicable to the public administration, international administration or entity which employs the SNE and which will assume responsibility for expenses incurred abroad. In case of posting to an EU Delegation, the employer certifies that the SNE is covered for medical expenses incurred at the place of secondment, as well as costs of repatriation on health grounds throughout the full period of secondment;
- g) Ensure that there is no conflict of interest and that he/she will, at all times, safeguard the independence and coherence of EU foreign policy as well as the integrity and confidentiality of EU documentation, information and procedures.

Selection Criteria

Candidates should:

A. Professional knowledge

- have completed university studies of at least three years attested by a diploma;
- have the capacity to work in languages of CFSP and external relations necessary for the performance of their duties;
- have at least five years of relevant professional experience in communications, media and information analysis, preferably in the international context;
- be a national of one of the Member States of the European Union and enjoy full rights as a citizen.

B. Skills

- Have the capacity to work and communicate in an international diplomatic and multilingual environment. Intercultural sensitivity skills are required;
- Have solid analytical and drafting skills. Rapid grasp of problems and capacity to identify issues and solutions. Creativity and flexibility would be valuable assets.

^[1] Staff Regulations of Officials (SR) and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union (CEOS). For reference, see: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1570023902133&uri=CELEX:01962R0031-20190101>

- Have experience of independently leading and managing projects, including external partners and contractors;
- Have a solid experience and skills in article writing;
- Have hands-on knowledge and experience in strategic engagement activity, including community of practice building, conference/work shop organisation, training, etc.
- have capacity to create constructive working relations in the field of external relations with national authorities, international organisations and EU Member States;
- have the ability to communicate clearly, both in writing and orally, on complex issues and the capacity to perform with accuracy and in a flexible manner a diversity of tasks in a complex institutional environment;
- be able to coordinate (ad hoc) teams (also for projects and missions).

C. Languages

Thorough knowledge of English and/or French (excellent capacity to write and speak).

D. Personal Qualities

- Be dynamic. Motivated and flexible personality. Able to adapt quickly to new situations and deal with new challenges. Be ready to perform field missions.
- Have the ability to work in a team, to coordinate with other teams and to communicate effectively.

Furthermore:

- experience of working in a team in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environment;
- experience in working with or within other EU institutions;
- experience of working on high impact communication;
- experience of working on/in Sub-Saharan Africa.

would be considered as strong assets.

Equal opportunities

- The EEAS is committed to an equal opportunities policy for all its staff and applicants. The EEAS is committed to promoting gender equality and to preventing discrimination on any grounds. It actively welcomes applications from all qualified candidates from diverse backgrounds and from the broadest possible geographical basis amongst the EU Member States. We aim at a service which is truly representative of society, where each staff member feels respected, is able to give their best and can develop their full potential.

- Candidates with disabilities are invited to contact SNE-HQ@eeas.europa.eu in order to accommodate any special needs and provide assistance to ensure the possibility to pass the selection procedure in equality of opportunities with other candidates. If a candidate with a disability is selected for a vacant post, the EEAS is committed to providing reasonable accommodation in accordance with Art 1d.4 of the Staff Regulations.

Conditions of secondment

SNEs shall remain in the service of their employer throughout the period of secondment and shall continue to be paid by that employer.

Duration of the secondment: 2 years, renewable up to 4 years in total

Vacancy available from: Immediately

Place of secondment: Brussels, Belgium

For further information, please contact:

SNE-HQ@eeas.europa.eu
