

EEAS Vacancy Notice

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

Information and Communication Officer (Sub Saharan Africa Team)

COST-FREE

AD level post

Job No 445255

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 (SG.STRAT) 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.

Within the Directorate, the Division "Strategic Communication regional teams and coordination of Task Forces" (SG.STRAT.3) provides strategic communication support in the implementation of EU foreign and security policy in Europe and the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, Sub Saharan Africa, Americas and Asia Pacific. The Division develops and implements specific strategic communication actions focused on advancing EU policies, values and interests. The Division also conducts awareness raising campaigns about the harmful impact of disinformation and contributes to the development of effective policy responses in the EU and at the international level. The Division - and the geographic Task Forces it coordinates - contribute to effective and fact-based strategic communication and the strengthening of the overall media environment and civil society in the regions it covers.

We propose:

The post of a "cost-free" Seconded National Expert on the position of "**Information and Communication Officer**". The successful candidate will join the StratCom Task Force Sub-Saharan Africa and be based within the Division SG.STRAT.3 - Strategic Communication Regional Teams and Coordination of Task Forces.

She/he will **contribute to EU strategic communication efforts towards and in the sub-Saharan African countries, and produce analysis of the information environment and Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference** in the various countries of the sub-Saharan region to help design and enhance Strategic Communications in the region.

The expert will support overall EU efforts to counter foreign information manipulation and interference and strengthen strategic communication efforts. The expert will be required to work in close coordination with the relevant divisions of the EEAS, the European Commission, the Council, the Parliament, the EU Delegations, the Spokespersons Service, EU CSDP missions and operations, EU MS representatives and the expert community in the priority regions, as well as external contractors and other relevant networks.

Functions and Duties

Under the authority of the Head of Division, the Seconded National Expert is expected to perform the following tasks:

- Contribute to deliver strategic communication in support of the HRVP and the EU Foreign Policy in close cooperation with EU Delegations in the region and other EU institutions in HQ.
- Analyse the information environment of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including actors and channels; contribute to the design of communication campaigns, projects and capacity building activity to counter and/or mitigate communication issues and threats, and FIMI.
- Analysis of (online) information environments and emerging threats/actors, and detection of disinformation and foreign manipulative interference, in particular in the context of Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Increase awareness and understanding on operational elements of disinformation and foreign manipulative interference via providing assistance to, and act as reach back for EEAS HQ and EU Delegations in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Design and develop support activities, including training and coaching, for EEAS HQ and EU Delegations in Sub-Saharan Africa, in order to increase their capacity to analyse their overall communication environment as well as to detect and analysis potential threats coming from disinformation and foreign manipulative interference;
- Manage a network of contracted and external experts in analysing information environment and emerging threats and actors in the context of disinformation and foreign manipulative interference;
- Contribute to the drafting of terms of reference for media analysis services contracts and management of projects with external contractors and/or partners;
- Raising awareness on the information environment in sub Saharan Africa and disinformation by participating in expert panels, drafting articles, conducting training workshops and participating at public events;
- Contribute to developing of projects aiming to bolster the EU's and partner countries capability to reduce the harmful impacts of and build resilience against FIMI (media literacy, media support, awareness raising, capacity building for CSOs and public administration).
- Provide briefing notes, reports, assessments, analysis, draft policy decisions/suggestions in the area of geographical competence.
- Support other functions of the Task Force Sub-Saharan Africa 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 a 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 experience in analysing information environments including actors, channels and audience and use it for the formulation of recommendations. Experience on Sub-Saharan Africa would be an asset
- Have experience in assessing information environments and/or communication driven threats, disinformation and foreign manipulative interference, including relevant analysis/monitoring methods and techniques. Experience on Sub-Saharan Africa would be an asset;
- Have experience in the field of online publicly available information analysis, including a specific focus on social media;

^[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 the ability to assist the Directorate and its Task Forces in coordinating, streamlining and guiding knowledge production on countering disinformation and foreign manipulative interference, and information environment analysis;
- Have the ability to assist the Directorate and its Task Forces in increasing the analytical capacity on emerging threats and actors in the region.
- Have the ability to undertake support activity assisting EU Delegations in conflict regions in increasing their understanding of (online) communication threats, disinformation and foreign manipulative interference. This with a specific emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa.

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;
- Have experience of independently leading and managing projects, including external partners and contractors;
- Have hands-on knowledge in developing and/or training on monitoring and analysing the threats of disinformation and foreign manipulative interference in an operational context;
- 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 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 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;
- having prior experience working in the Sub-Saharan regional context;
- have prior experience in managing projects implemented by external contractors.

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.

Other expenses such as removal costs, allowances, salary, insurance, schooling (while the SNE maintains the right to enrol the children in an European School Type I)[1] and costs related to the enrolment to the Interinstitutional nurseries or the After-school centre managed by the early childhood centre of the European Commission shall not be covered by the EEAS. However, in case the SNE makes use of these two facilities for their dependent children, the EEAS shall recover any invoiced cost (including the institutional and the parental contribution, estimated at approximately EUR 18,000 per year and per child) from the Seconded National Expert concerned on a yearly basis. For further information, please contact RM-01-COORDINATION@eeas.europa.eu

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

Vacancy available from: 1st October 2024

Place of secondment: Brussels, Belgium

For further information, please contact:

SNE-HQ@eeas.europa.eu

