

EEAS Vacancy Notice

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

Policy Officer, East StratCom Task Force, Information Integrity and countering Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference Division (SG.STRAT.4)

COST-FREE

AD level post

Job No job 447487

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.

We propose:

The post of a "cost-free" Seconded National Expert for the position of "Policy Officer".

The successful candidate will join the Information Integrity and countering Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference Division (SG.STRAT.4) and will be a part of the East StratCom Task Force (ESTF). The Division and the Task Force play a leading role in addressing disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference, in raising awareness about these problems in the Eastern Neighbourhood countries and beyond and in supporting media and NGOs to develop and strengthen capacities in these fields.

Functions and Duties:

- Support independent media and civil society organisations in the Eastern Neighbourhood, in particular Ukraine, as a part of the social and economic development of these countries.
- Enhance information integrity activities through capacity building the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood, in particular Ukraine, contributing to the further development of democratic institutions and processes in addition to promotion of human rights.
- Engage media partners and independent media in the neighbourhood countries, in particular Ukraine, increasing their understanding of the FIMI/disinformation landscape, audience needs and vulnerabilities and serving the information and capacity development needs of vulnerable audiences;
- In the context of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, work closely with authorities in the Eastern Neighbourhood, in particular Ukraine, as well as media and civil society organisations on their efforts to increase resilience and capabilities;
- Capacity building: Contribute to supporting media in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood, in particular Ukraine, through developing and maintaining existing networks of journalists and media-related NGOs;
- Raise awareness on how disinformation undermines democratic dialogue in the Eastern Neighbourhood and beyond through, i.a., appearing on expert panels, giving background briefs to journalists and speaking in public at related research and awareness raising events; Support an enabling environment for other external policies and programmes of the Union in close collaboration with the Commission and by way of managing and implementing relevant projects;

- Raising awareness of disinformation through partnerships with strategic communication teams in the EU member states and partner countries, academia, online platforms and research organisations.

We are looking for:

The European External Action Service (EEAS) is seeking a dynamic, proactive and highly motivated colleague with focus on capacity building and administration of support and development programming to occupy the post of Seconded National Expert (SNE). The expert should demonstrate strong analytical, project management and networking skills. Based in the Information Integrity and countering Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference Division and as a part of the East Stratcom Task Force, at the EEAS, the expert will support and engage media organisations and NGOs in Ukraine and the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood as part of the economic and social development of these countries. The expert will also contribute to the EU's overall efforts to counter foreign information manipulation and interference and strengthen international cooperation and communication efforts. The expert will be required to work closely with relevant policy divisions of the EEAS, EU MS representatives, EU Delegations in the priority regions, European Commission services and Representations in the member states, EC Spokespersons Service, EP press team, external contractors as well as the expert community and other relevant networks.

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;

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>

- 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: (To be adapted as appropriate by the relevant Division)

Candidates should:

A. Professional knowledge

- Have a professional experience of at least 5 years, preferably in foreign or internal affairs, journalism, communication or capacity building and international partnerships.
- Have a thorough knowledge of EaP region and Russia, including foreign and security policy of these countries. The experience of working in the EaP countries or Russia and knowledge of the respective information environment will be considered an asset.
- Have professional experience in project management and internal, external or government communications. Experience in crisis management and communication would be a strong asset.
- Good working knowledge of the EU (institutional) environment and decision-making processes and understanding of the EU's policies towards Eastern Partnership countries and Russia will be considered an asset.

B. Skills

- Have the capacity to work and communicate under time constraints 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 in the field of communications;
- Experience in digital communication campaigns would be an asset.

C. Languages

- Thorough knowledge (excellent capacity to write and speak) of English is required. Knowledge of Russian will be considered a strong asset. Knowledge of another EU language would be an asset.
- Have the ability to work in a team, to coordinate with other teams and to communicate effectively.

D. Personal Qualities

- Be dynamic. Motivated and flexible personality. Able to adapt quickly to new situations and deal with new challenges, including missions in conflict area.

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: 1 year, renewable up to 4 years in total

Vacancy available from: 1 September 2024

Place of secondment: Brussels, Belgium

For further information, please contact:

SNE-HQ@eeas.europa.eu

