



Vilnius, 07/05/2015

H.E. Dimiter Tzantchev
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representation of Bulgaria
Maria-Louizasquare 49
1000 Brussels, Belgium

By e-mail: Dimiter.Tzantchev@mfa.bg

Subject: POSSIBLE SECONDMENT OF NATIONAL EXPERTS TO THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Your Excellency Mr Tzantchev,

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE¹) has the basis to engage national experts seconded from the public sector of a Member State. Such secondments bring mutual benefits to the Member States, EIGE as well as the experts concerned.

The purpose of this letter is to explore with you the possibility of seconding an expert from your country to EIGE for a specified period of time ranging from one to four years.

Benefits for the seconding organisation

The Institute believes that secondments can strengthen Member State-EU level collaboration and provide the seconding organisation with notable benefits such as:

- Updated or broadened skills in European-level research, interpretation of data and statistics applied by EIGE (engagement in research, data interpretation, etc.)
- Detailed knowledge and expertise in all areas of EIGE's work, in particular, areas such as gender mainstreaming tools and methods, follow up of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU, Violence against Women and good practices in the promotion of gender equality, which would facilitate the work of the national equality body in coordinating support to the policy sectors.
- Knowledge and skills of the practical application of the gender equality monitoring tools, such as the Gender Equality Index or database on Gender Statistics.
- The opportunity of enriching the knowledge of the seconded expert of gender equality work at the EU level through conferences, training courses and working meetings organised, not only by EIGE, but also by other EU institutions and Member States.
- The dissemination through EIGE's knowledge management and communication channels of the materials and publications on gender equality produced in your country.

- Presentation to EIGE's broad stakeholder network and among gender experts of the Member State's specific achievements and planned priorities on gender equality.

Benefits from EIGE's perspective

The Institute is relatively small and is tasked with supporting all 28 Member States and the EU Commission in the implementation and monitoring of EU gender equality policies. EIGE needs a wide variety of skills to perform its mandated tasks and seconded experts can provide relevant experience. It is also an opportunity for EIGE to build a more engaging relationship with the Member State concerned.

Seconded National Experts

National experts may be seconded from all public administrative services including ministries, government and parliament services, the courts, central banks and administrative services of local authorities as well as decentralised administrative services of the State and of such authorities.

We are seeking to engage seconded experts and advisers with skills and competences in any of the following areas: gender mainstreaming, gender equality and research or statistics. Other relevant areas include violence against women, communicating gender and stakeholder management and networking. In our assessment of previous seconded experts, we observe that the experience is very enriching and provides a unique learning opportunity for them.

Allowances

National experts seconded from the various Member States will receive each month an allowance ranging from approximately €2,500 to €3500 based on the distance between Vilnius and the place of secondment. During the secondment, a seconded expert continues to be an employee of the seconding organisation and receives a salary with deductions for tax, social security etc.

In addition EIGE reimburses travel-in and travel-out expenses at the start and end of the secondment of the national expert and her/his family members who move to Vilnius. The Institute also reimburses schooling fees, subject to certain conditions, for Vilnius based pre-school, primary and secondary education.

We would appreciate if you bring this information to the attention of suitable candidates who can be interested in a secondment to EIGE. Should you have any further questions we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Virginija Langbakk
Director

¹ EIGE was established in 2006 as an EU regulatory agency to contribute to, and strengthen the promotion of gender equality including gender mainstreaming in all EU policies and the resulting national policies, as well as the fight against discrimination based on sex, and to raise EU citizens' awareness of gender equality.