

EEAS Vacancy Notice

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

Policy Officer, SG.STRAT.2

COST-FREE

AD level post

Job No 334403

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 on the position of "Policy Officer".

The successful candidate will join the EEAS Strategic Communications and Information Analysis Division (SG.STRAT2), which supports, through strategic communication, the implementation of EU external policies and programmes in the priority regions (Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans). The Division also plays a leading role in addressing disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference and in raising awareness about them. The successful will work on horizontal issues related to disinformation and foreign manipulative interference. The focus of his/her work will be on new and emerging threats, actors and regions, more specifically within the context of Sub-Saharan Africa. Alongside She/He will contribute to the development of the Division's information analysis process and CSDP Missions support activity.

Functions and Duties

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

- 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 reachback for EEAS HQ CSDP structures, CSDP Missions and EU Delegations in Sub-Saharan Africa;

- Design and develop support activities, including training and coaching, for CSDP Missions and EU Delegations in Sub-Saharan Africa, in order to increase their in-theatre capacity to detect and analysis potential threats coming from disinformation and foreign manipulative interference;
- Manage a network of contracted and external experts in analysing emerging threats and actors in the context of disinformation and foreign manipulative interference;
- Manage projects with external contractors and/or partners to deliver an the annual objectives of Division's business plan;
- Raising awareness on the disinformation by appearing on the expert panels, giving background briefings to journalists, drafting articles, conducting training workshops and participating at the public events;
- Support other tasks of the Strategic Communications Division.

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).

Based within the Strategic Communication, Task Forces and Information Analysis Division (STRAT.2) at the EEAS, the expert will support overall EU 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, the expert community, EU MS representatives, EU Delegations in the priority regions, European Commission services and Representations in the member states, EU CSDP, EC Spokespersons Service, EP press team, external contractors 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;

^[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>

- 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 at least 3 years of experience in assessing information environments and/or communication driven threats, disinformation and foreign manipulative interference, including relevant analysis/monitoring methods and techniques. In particular experience on Sub-Saharan Africa is highly recommended;
- have at least 3 years of experience in the field of online publicly available information analysis, including a specific focus on social media. In particular experience on Sub-Saharan Africa is highly recommended;
- Have the ability to assist the Division and its Task Forces in coordinating, streamlining and guiding knowledge production on disinformation and foreign manipulative interference, and information environment analysis;
- Have the ability to assist the Division and its Task Forces in increasing the analytical capacity on emerging threats, actors and regions, with a specific emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Have the ability to undertake support activity assisting CSDP Missions and 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;
- Have professional experience in developing and managing dedicated knowledge driven projects aiming at increasing operational resilience and cognitive security of EU missions and operations against disinformation and foreign manipulative interference.

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 external partners and contractors;
- have hands-on knowledge in developing and/or training expeditionary capacities 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, including missions in conflict area.
- Have the ability to work in a team, to coordinate with other teams and to communicate effectively.

Furthermore:

- having prior experience working in a security oriented environment and/or conflict region context;
- having prior experience working in (civ/mil) missions and/or in a supporting reachback role;
- having a recent HEAT certificate, or are recent pre-deployment training certificate;
- have prior experience in managing small to medium sized teams in an analytical role;
- 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.

Duration of the secondment: 1 year, renewable up to 4 years in total

Place of secondment: Brussels, Belgium

For further information, please contact:

SNE-HQ@eeas.europa.eu
