

EEAS Vacancy Notice

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

Policy Officer, Information Integrity and Countering Foreign Information and Manipulation and Interference Division (SG.STRAT.4)

COST-FREE

AD level post

Job No job 460150

We are:

The European External Action Service (EEAS) supports the High Representative in the exercise of his/her 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/her capacity as Vice-President of the Commission with regard to his/her 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 EEAS SG STRAT.4 Information Integrity and countering Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) Division plays a leading role in addressing FIMI, including disinformation, by implementing the Action Plan against Disinformation (2018), European Democracy Action Plan (COM/2020/790 final), the Strategic Compass and relevant Council Conclusions, which outline and call for concrete actions to bolster EU's capabilities to detect, analyse and respond to FIMI and strengthen coordinated and joint responses between the Union and Member States.

The Division also develops situational awareness, conducts public awareness about the harmful impact of FIMI and contributes to the development of effective policy responses in the EU and at the international level. It manages the EU's Rapid Alert System and works closely with other EU institutions and agencies to implement relevant policy initiatives tackling foreign information manipulation and interference. It is also responsible for international cooperation, in particular with the G7 and NATO, on the topic.

We propose:

The post of a "cost-free" Seconded National Expert (SNE) 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 contribute to the work of the Division in developing and implementing support to CSDP Missions and Operations, in line with the EU Strategic Compass.

The expert will work closely with the relevant divisions of the EEAS, EU Delegations, EU CSDP Missions and Operations as well as other European institutions and services.

We are looking for:

The EEAS is seeking a dynamic, proactive and highly motivated colleague with strong analytical, project management and networking skills to occupy the post of SNE within the CSDP team of SG.STRAT.4.

With a specific focus on support to CSDP missions and operations, the SNE will: (a) assist the Division in coordinating, streamlining and guiding knowledge production on foreign information manipulation and interference, including disinformation, and information environment analysis; (b) assist the Division in increasing the analytical capacity on emerging threats, actors and regions; (c) undertake support activity, including analysis, training and advise, to assist CSDP Missions and Operations and EU Delegations in conflict regions in increasing their understanding of (online) communication threats, disinformation and foreign manipulative interference; and (d) develop and manage projects aiming at increasing operational capacity and resilience of CSDP missions and operations against foreign information manipulation and interference.

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 a professional experience of at least 5 years, preferably in foreign or internal affairs, journalism, communication or capacity building and international partnerships;
- have hands-on knowledge in developing capacities and/or training on monitoring and analysing the threats of foreign information manipulation and interference, including disinformation, or closely related areas;
- have prior experience in handling projects including external partners and contractors;
- have capacity to create constructive working relations in the field of external relations with national authorities, international organisations and EU Member States;

B. Skills

- 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;
- Have strong drafting and analytical skills combined with sound judgement;
- Be willing to travel, including to difficult environments;

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>

- Be able to coordinate (ad hoc) teams (also for projects and missions);
- Be a flexible team player.

Furthermore:

- Experience of working in a team in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environment;
- Experience in working with or within other EU institutions;
- Prior experience working in a security oriented environment and/or conflict region context;
- Prior experience working in (civ/mil) missions and operations and/or in a supporting reach back role;
- Prior experience in managing projects implemented by external contractors;

would be considered as strong assets.

C. Languages

- Thorough knowledge (excellent capacity to write and speak) of English is required. A working level notion of French (both orally and in writing) 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, creative and flexible personality. Able to adapt quickly to new situations and deal with new challenges, including missions in conflict areas.

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: 01/11/2024

Place of secondment: Brussels, Belgium

For further information, please contact: SNE-HQ@eeas.europa.eu