Policy Officer: EU funding

ECRE and PICUM are seeking to recruit a policy officer to be based in ECRE’s Brussels office (full-time or part-time).

**Job purpose:**
The purpose of the role is to monitor and support the inclusiveness, effectiveness and compliance with fundamental rights of EU funding, with the broader aim of increasing the amount of EU funding available in practice to inclusion of refugees and migrants in the EU. This will be done through advocacy on funding and monitoring funding for policies that either support or undermine inclusion, including asylum, return and border management, during the implementation phase of the current Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF), in cooperation with ECRE and PICUM members and where relevant wider civil society. The advocacy will focus on three funds: the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI). It builds on prior collective ECRE and PICUM work on EU funding on inclusion during the negotiations of the current MFF and seeks to ensure that the gains made during the negotiation of the financial instruments are realised, that civil society expertise is informing the use of the funds and that activities funded by the EU which undermine inclusion are exposed.

**Location:** ECRE Office, Brussels

**Start date:** May 2022

**Key responsibilities:**
To coordinate and implement advocacy activities on EU funding at Brussels and Member State level in cooperation with ECRE and PICUM members.

**More specifically**
1. Monitor and analyse implementation of EU funding (AMIF, ESF+ and BMVI) particularly at national level to assess what funding is being used for; how civil society is involved; and how it is ensured that EU funding, including on asylum, return and border management, does not undermine inclusion but contributes to compliance with rights of people seeking asylum and migrants;

2. Develop and support civil society advocacy in cooperation with PICUM and ECRE members and wider civil society to increase the inclusiveness, effectiveness and compliance with fundamental rights of EU funding on asylum, return and border management and the
amount of EU funding available in practice to support inclusion of refugees and migrants in the EU;
3. Liaise with PICUM and ECRE members on a regular basis to update them on relevant developments related to the three EU funds concerned;
4. Contribute to EU civil society advocacy on the migration and asylum aspects of the MFF,
5. Develop timely and targeted recommendations, position papers and advocacy material for both external and internal stakeholders;
6. Conduct research and develop policy positions, articles, statements and background notes to support the advocacy work;
7. Oversee implementation of small advocacy grants to members and prepare donor reports on relevant activities.

Person specification:

Essential
- University degree in relevant field (e.g. Law, Human Rights, Social and Political Sciences, Migration, etc.);
- Proven professional experience of effective advocacy towards the EU institutions;
- Knowledge of the EU funding instruments, specifically European Structural and Investment Funds, and on migration, integration and asylum funding, as well as the developments and processes shaping EU funding discussions;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills - a very high standard of written and spoken English is required;
- Strong analytical skills and ability to make accurate legal analysis and concise summaries (technical and policy levels);
- Ability to work autonomously, flexibility and ability to multi-task;
- Demonstrable interest in issues of concern to refugees and migrants.

Desirable
- Experience of multi-country projects or campaigns, event management;
- Working knowledge of French, Spanish, or other EU languages;
- This role will require a willingness to travel.

Terms and conditions:

Fixed-term contract for 14 months from starting date.
We can also consider part-time options, please indicate in your application form whether you are interested in this (in the case of part-time work the contract would be for a longer duration).
Salary range: EUR 2335 to 2865, plus additional holiday pay, insurance, transport and meal allowances.
ECRE and PICUM will only be able to consider applicants with the right to work in Belgium.

Application process:
Please send your completed application form to Josephine Liebl (jliebl@ecre.org) before midnight on Sunday, 20 March 2022, stating ‘Policy Officer Funding’ in the subject heading.

Please note that only completed application forms will be accepted (not CVs or cover letters), and only by email (not by post).

Short-listed candidates will be asked to do a written test that will be scheduled at a mutually agreed time during the week of 28 March and will be invited for an interview in person in Brussels on Monday, 4 April or Tuesday, 5 April.

Candidates with a refugee background or third country migrants are strongly encouraged to apply and, other factors being equal, preference will be given to refugee or migrant candidates.

Regrettably, due to the large number of applications we usually receive, it is not possible to write to you should you not be short-listed for an interview. If you have not heard from us within 20 days of the closing date, please assume that your application has not been successful on this occasion.