VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Project Officer – Impact of Return Policies**

*Based at the PICUM Office in Brussels*

Application Deadline: 7 August 2023

**Position Summary**

The Project Officer (60% position) will assist with the implementation of PICUM’s work programmes related to two DG Research-funded consortia where PICUM is a partner: [MORE](https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101094107) and [FAIR](https://www.eur.nl/en/news/research-european-return-migration-policies-awarded-36-million-euro).

The Project Officer will be supervised by the Director, and work closely with relevant members of PICUM’s communications and advocacy teams.

**Background**

**Motivations, experiences and consequences of returns and readmissions policy: revealing and developing effective alternatives (MORE)**

Returns and readmissions (RR) are the preferred EU and Member State response to migrant irregularity. Attempts to enhance the "effectiveness" of this policy have created a shrinking pathway to guarantee migrants' rights, with restrictive readings of the Returns Directive and increased efforts to scale up returns and deportations. Yet, evidence shows that such measures have failed to improve the "effectiveness" of RR policy and furthered violations of fundamental rights. MORE problematises this drive towards "effectiveness" by adopting a mixed-methods approach focused on ethnographic fieldwork with migrants and stakeholders to explore perceptions and consequences of the RR policy response. It identifies alternative solutions to the reality of irregular migration in Europe and explores why these have not become a preferred response. PICUM’s role as partner is to contribute to project analysis concerning alternative strategies to return, such as regularisation of residence status, as well as a cross-sectorial engagement strategy of the project findings.

**"Finding Agreement in Return" (FAiR)**

FAiR aims to produce new insights into the factors that determine whether undocumented people return or do not return to their country of citizenship and to create new insights into the feasibility of alternatives to return policies. The consortium will conduct a large surveyto test the public acceptability of alternatives to return for undocumented migrants in various European countries, and assess the economic, political, and human rights aspects of the most promising alternatives. The research outcomes will inform policymakers in Europe on the feasibility and costs of the alternatives.

**Main Responsibilities:**

**MORE**

* Working closely with project partner the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS), help to build a multi-level and cross-sectorial engagement strategy. In connection with this, the Project Officer will contribute to the organization and development of three task forces (meeting in hybrid format) to engage policy makers and civil society organizations in the drafting of policy recommendations and a platform for participatory discussion and validation. The Task Forces will address EU Member States policies on regularisation and other statuses for people who cannot be returned; readmission agreements; and the role of EU readmission policy in development, investment/trade, humanitarian and neighbourhood policies.
* Organise three additional task force meetings with national and regional civil society organisations on EU Member States’ policies on regularisation and other statuses for people who cannot be returned.
* Working closely with CEPs, organize a total of 6 events (webinars, policy meetings and the final project conference) during the course of the project (running three years) that present the results of the project to select audiences of policy makers and practitioners.
* Engagement and support to other project activities as appropriate.

**FAIR**

* Review mapping (done by other project partner) on alternatives to return policies for 10-12 EU+ countries, assessing their political and administrative dimensions.
* Contribute to exercise (led by other project partner) on the social acceptance of alternatives to return, on enforcement perception and on attitudes to migration, through the development of an online survey and related activities.
* Contribute to the project’s public engagement activities by coordinating small multimedia outputs where migrants and practitioners will communicate their experiences with return procedures.
* Engagement and support to other project activities as appropriate.

**About PICUM**

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, is a Brussels-based network of organisations that seeks to advance social justice and human rights for undocumented migrants, and to achieve improved pathways for regular migration to Europe. Grounded in principles of social justice, anti-racism and equality, PICUM brings together the experiences and expertise of its members, providing a platform to engage policy makers and the general public in the full realisation of undocumented migrants’ rights. Founded in 2001 as an initiative of national-level organisations to mobilise support for undocumented migrants, today PICUM gathers a network of 158 civil society organisations in more than 30 countries.

**Skills, Knowledge and Experience**

**Essential**

* Demonstrated commitment to human rights and migrant rights’, and to PICUM’s values and mission;
* 5-6 years of experience in advocacy or communications (at the EU, national or global level)
* Good understanding of migration policies in the European context and their impact on undocumented migrants;
* Exceptional public speaking and writing skills in English, with the ability to communicate effectively to a variety of different audiences;
* High degree of attention to detail and commitment to quality;
* Strong organisational skills, initiative and follow-through; can work quickly, accurately and juggle multiple tasks;
* Experience in communications and formulating messages to non-expert audiences.

**Desirable**

* Strong level of French or Spanish (additional PICUM working languages);
* Experience in working in a transnational civil society network or context at the European or global level;
* Experience in project management;
* Experience in organising online and in-person events.

**What PICUM can offer**

* 60% time position (22 hours and 30 minutes/week) with an [“undetermined contract with end date”](https://www.sociare.be/nl/kennisbank/modellen-onbepaaldeduur-einddatum) according to Belgian labour legislation. Ideal starting date: 1 October 2023 (or before). End date: 30 September 2026.
* Salary according to the wage scale of the Paritaire Committee 329.01 of € 4,025 gross per month (based on 5-6 years’ experience)
* Meal vouchers, hospitalisation insurance, group insurance scheme (pension plan) thirteenth month, additional holidays and end of year office closure also provided.
* Teleworking policy (requiring presence at the PICUM office in Brussels minimum twice a week).
* Conditions are according to Belgian legislation including the legal ability to live and work in Belgium.

**Selection procedure**

PICUM is committed to diversity in its staffing, including based on gender, ethnic origin, disability, and lived experience of migration. We encourage candidates with such diverse backgrounds to apply.

The deadline for applications is 23:59 CEST **Monday 7 August** (CEST). Please send the completed application form in English to Michele LeVoy, Director at recruitment@picum.org, with your **last name, first name and PICUM Project Officer – Impact of Return Policies** in the subject line.

**[The application form can be downloaded here.](https://picum.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/APPLICATION-FORM-Project-Officer-Impact-of-Return.docx)**

Please note that due to the large number of applications and our limited capacity, we regret that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. **Interviews** will take place online the week of 21 August 2023.