Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Vacancy Notice Number: VNSECS01579
Vacancy Type: International Seconded
Field of Expertise: MEDIA AFFAIRS
Functional Level (LoPC):
Post Title: SENIOR ADVISER
OSCE Mission/Institution: OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
Duty Station: Vienna
No. of Positions: 1
Date of Entry on Duty: As soon as possible
Vacancy Notice Issue Date: 03-Dec-2020
Deadline for Application: 29-Jan-2021

Background

This position is open for secondment only and participating States are kindly reminded that all costs in relation to assignment at the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media must be borne by their authorities.

Candidates should, prior to applying, verify with their respective nominating authority to which extent financial remuneration and/or benefit packages will be offered. Seconded staff members in the OSCE Secretariat and Institutions are not entitled to a Board and Lodging Allowance payable by the Organization.

The OSCE has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities. All 57 participating States enjoy equal status, and decisions are taken by consensus on a politically, but not legally binding basis.

Free expression and free media are basic human rights. To ensure compliance with media-freedom commitments agreed upon by participating States, the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) was established in December 1997. The function of the Representative is to observe relevant media developments in OSCE participating States with a view to providing early warning on violations of freedom of expression. The Representative concentrates on rapid response to serious non-compliance with OSCE principles and commitments by participating States. In case of serious problems caused, for instance, by obstruction of media activities and unfavourable working conditions for journalists, the Representative seeks direct contacts with the participating State and other parties involved, assesses the facts and contributes to the resolution of the issue. Another task is to assist participating States by advocating and promoting full compliance with OSCE principles and commitments regarding freedom of expression and free media. Assistance is typically provided in the form of legal analyses of legislation, organizing conferences and roundtables during which best practices are shared and promoted, preparing topical publications and guidebooks on media freedom matters and providing training seminars for media and government officials.

Tasks and Responsibilities

Under the overall leadership of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the immediate supervision of the Director of Office, the Senior Adviser will be tasked with:

1. Providing overall supervision and political guidance on the monitoring efforts for a designated region and focal point of the office for that region;

2. Following political and legal developments affecting freedom of expression in the designated region and preparing
comprehensive analyses, notes and reports;

3. Analysing public policy, legislation and state practice affecting freedom of the media in the designated region;

4. Maintaining relevant networks, correspondents and media freedom advocacy contacts and maintaining regular contact with journalists' associations in the designated region;

5. Contributing to the reports on and participating in visits conducted by the Office; serving as focal point for visits to designated region;

6. Assessing developments in view of suggestions for interventions to RFOM, including necessary political sensitivity and use of language;

7. Liaising with consultants and experts outside of RFOM, especially when supervising the production of commissioned reports or studies;

8. Establishing and maintaining contacts, as necessary, with relevant governmental officials, international organizations and institutions as well as with specialized NGOs and the OSCE field presences, on issues of relevance to RFOM's mandate;

9. Representing the Office at seminars, conferences and meetings, including delivering statements, papers and speeches reflecting the position of the RFOM with regard to freedom of expression and free media;

10. In close contact with the public outreach colleagues, planning and organizing public relations activities to better promote understanding of the RFOM's aims and activities, including maintaining close contacts with OSCE missions;

11. Co-ordinating and managing relevant financial activities (project proposals, auditing of activities, budget contributions, evaluation, reporting, etc.);

12. Performing other related duties as assigned.

For more detailed information on the structure and work of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, please see https://www.osce.org/representative-on-freedom-of-media

Necessary Qualifications

- Second-level university degree in political science, media studies, history, law, journalism or another related field;
- A minimum of eight years of progressively responsible experience, including practical experience in the field of media, media freedom advocacy, human rights or related experience within the OSCE or another international organization;
- Experience in programme management, including finance, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation/controlling and reporting;
- Professional fluency in English with excellent drafting and communication skills; knowledge of other OSCE working languages, particularly Russian, French and/or German, would be an asset;
- Ability to work in a deadline-driven environment; demonstrated attention to detail;
- Demonstrated gender awareness and sensitivity, and an ability to integrate a gender perspective into tasks and activities;
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with people of different nationalities, religions and cultural backgrounds, while maintaining impartiality and objectivity;
- Ability to operate Windows applications including word processing and email.

If you wish to apply for this position, please use the OSCE’s online application link found under https://jobs.osce.org/vacancies.

The OSCE retains the discretion to re-advertise the vacancy, to cancel the recruitment, to offer an appointment at a lower grade or to offer an appointment with a modified job description or for a different duration.
Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Please note that vacancies in the OSCE are open for competition only amongst nationals of participating States, please see https://www.osce.org/participating-states

The OSCE is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages the nomination of qualified female and male candidates from all religious, ethnic and social backgrounds.

Please be aware that the OSCE does not request payment at any stage of the application and review process.

Please apply to your relevant authorities several days prior to the deadline expiration to ensure timely processing of your application. Delayed nominations will not be considered.