

## **VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Cultural Mediator - Contingency Roster**

*In 2013, over 42,000 persons arrived by sea to Italy, marking the second largest mixed migratory flow of the past ten years. Nationals from Syria and Eritrea made up for more than half of the total sea arrivals in 2013, indicative of an increasing number of persons in need of international protection among those arriving in mixed migratory movements by sea. Against this background, the Italian Ministry of Interior decided to authorize the tenth phase of the Praesidium project in 2015.*

*In the first 9 months of 2014, the numbers of sea arrivals sharply increased up to 135,000, and projections indicate that this trend might continue in 2015. Nationals from Syria, Somalia and Eritrea continue to represent the largest groups. In particular, as the situation in Syria does not improve and the routes through Turkey, Egypt and Libya remain open, a surge in arrivals of Syrian nationals is expected in the coming months. Against this background, the Italian Ministry of Interior decided to authorize the tenth phase of the Praesidium project in 2015.*

*UNHCR hence intends to establish a roster comprised of qualified field workers in order to respond to possible emerging protection needs in areas of sea arrivals (Apulia, Calabria and Sicily).*

#### **Major Duties and Responsibilities:**

- a) organize, directly or in support of the UNHCR Legal Associate/other UNHCR staff, information and counseling sessions (individual and in groups) envisaged for the potential asylum seekers arriving via sea to Lampedusa and Sicily and provide interpretation from the language of the potential asylum seekers into Italian and vice-versa;
- b) secure mutual understanding between the UNHCR Legal Associate/other UNHCR staff and the potential asylum seekers, ensuring that main diversities as regards culture, traditions, religion, age, gender and other diversities are given adequate attention and consideration in order to build necessary trust with the beneficiaries and maximize the effect of the counseling/information activity;
- c) ensure that the overall cultural mediation activity is always carried out in close co-ordination and co-operation with the UNHCR Legal Associate/other UNHCR staff and the competent authorities, in an appropriate manner, taking into account the multicultural environment and the fact that potential asylum seekers may have been victims of trauma/torture or might otherwise be particularly vulnerable;
- d) translate from Italian into the language of the potential asylum seekers the information prepared by UNHCR for dissemination among potential asylum seekers, as well as any other information material necessary to duly inform potential asylum seekers on their rights and obligations in Italy and the European Union;
- e) identify, directly or in support of the UNHCR Legal Associate/other UNHCR staff, and at need also local authorities, vulnerable individuals and potential asylum seekers with special needs;
- f) ensure, directly or in support of the UNHCR Legal Associate/other UNHCR staff, that those who intend to apply for asylum are admitted to the asylum procedure;
- g) be available to support, as appropriate, the staff of IOM, the Red Cross and Save the Children when specific language skills are required in a given situation, in a team spirit and flexible approach and for the ultimate interest of the migrants/potential asylum seekers;

- h) undertake necessary UNHCR training;
- i) respect the confidentiality of any sensitive information and adhere to the UNHCR Code of Conduct;
- j) carry out any other related service, as required.

**Qualifications Required:**

- Good knowledge of the Italian asylum procedure
- At least 5 years experience in interpretation/cultural mediation
- Good communication skills
- Team working skills
- Languages: Speak, read and write in English and Italian, and one or more of the following languages: Arabic, Somali, Tigrinya, Amharic

**Starting Date:** January 2015

**Envisaged Duration:** 6 months

**Envisaged Duty Stations:** Apulia, Calabria or Sicily

**Remuneration:** UNOPS Individual Contractor Agreement (ICA) terms and conditions

**How to Apply:** Interested candidates are invited to fill in the Personal History Form (P.11) which can be downloaded at [www.unhcr.org/recruit/p11new.doc](http://www.unhcr.org/recruit/p11new.doc) and send by e-mail the duly completed form, together with a motivation letter, both in English, to [itarovacancies@unhcr.org](mailto:itarovacancies@unhcr.org). Please specify the job title in the subject line.

**Closing Date for Applications:** 7 November 2014

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Please note that:

- ≡ There is no automatic notification service for confirming receipt of applications.
- ≡ Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- ≡ Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview.