

Think Tank

Young Professional Development Program

for MA and PhD Graduates

Call for Applications

Deadline: 01 August 2016

Supported by the Think Tank Fund for Wider Europe, a program of the Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE), Group for Legal and Political Studies (GLPS) announces this Call for Applications under the Think Tank Young Professional Development Program for MA and PhD graduates who graduated with a PhD, LLM or MA degree in the social sciences and humanities from high-quality universities in the OECD countries in the past two years.

What is the Think Tank Young Professional Development Program?

The Think Tank Young Professional Development Program intends to attract recent graduates of MA and PhD programs in the social sciences and humanities to selected think tanks in the Western Balkans and post-Soviet space, giving them an opportunity to gain first-hand policy research and advocacy experience at a renowned think tank in the region.

The program is designed to benefit both young returning professionals and their host organizations. It enables participating think tanks to recruit young researchers originally from the region who recently graduated from universities in the OECD countries. The length of the program is six months, starting in November 2016. At the end of the program, both the Research Fellow and the host organization are expected to submit a final report regarding their activities during the fellowship.

Who can apply?

Eligible candidates must fulfill **ALL** of the following requirements:

- Have graduated in the past two years with a PhD, LLM or MA degree in the social sciences and humanities from universities in the [OECD countries](#).
- Be a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo.
- Applicants should be between 23 and 35 years of age at the time of application.
- Applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English and Albanian language.
- Applicants must be ready to return to Kosovo and reside in Prishtina, while working at GLPS during the internship period.

What is expected from the selected young professional and the hosting think tank?

Throughout this period, the young professionals are expected to engage in ongoing policy research projects and develop concrete policy products in agreement with the hosting organization. The policy product(s) can be one or more of the following:

- A full research or baseline study (young researchers are expected to formulate clear tangible outcomes at the end of the study/survey);
- Policy papers, briefs, or newsletters;
- An organized event or conference (young researchers should contribute to thematic development of an event organized within the program term);
- Any other policy-related product or activity that benefits both the individual and the hosting organization (e.g. designing and hosting policy blogs).

Potential research topics

Government Transparency and Accountability

The Research Fellow is expected to have a sound knowledge of the public procurement and policy legal standards, as prescribed in Kosovo's Law on Public Procurement, and the overall anti-corruption legislative and institutional package in Kosovo, adding to this the new reforms on the judiciary and prosecution with regard to fight against corruption, money laundering and organized crime, and to engage with policy stakeholders to advocate the policy solutions deriving from our policy research in this field. The Research Fellow should be able to engage with primary and secondary sources of research, both in terms of data and qualitative assessments of corruptive procedures and practices and to find gaps and propose policy mechanisms to surpass current deficiencies in the anti-corruption policy, and to competently advocate such policy findings with media and other civic stakeholders.

Rule of Law Sector, with emphasis on Financing of Political Parties

Undertake evidenced-informed and problem-oriented policy research in the field of judicial performance and reform in the context of Kosovo's EC Feasibility Study for Kosovo, including assessments of the law-enforcement mechanisms, as to discuss the criteria and standards being implemented in Kosovo's rule-of-law landscape, paying special attention to the financing of political parties and the overall lack of policy that controls the partisan influence over rule-of-law institutions and behavior. The Research Fellow is expected to monitor the judicial, prosecutorial and rule-of-law mechanisms/institutions, to oversee the implications arising from the lack of implementation of legislation in the field of financing of political parties, declaration of assets and conflict of interest, and to engage with the parliamentary committees to support an engaged oversight on the implementation of the legislation in the field.

Business Environment and Econometrics Field of Study

The Research Fellow will engage with businesses and governmental stakeholders responsible for business policy to hit upon specific policy solutions that would support the improvement of business environment and the flow of foreign direct investments, paying special attention to the improvement of FDI incentives and increase of human capital capacities in the domestic market. The Research Fellow will also engage with media to advocate the concerns of the business sector from the perspective of policy gaps, and to galvanize their voice with the ministerial policy-makers both in the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Finances.

How to apply?

All interested candidates are required to submit their CV and a Motivation/Cover Letter not later than **1st of August 2016**, at Ms. Njomza Arifi, by emailing at: njomza.arifi@legalpoliticalstudies.org.

All applications must be submitted in English language.

We will consider ALL the potential candidates that turn to us. Short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview by Group for Legal and Political Studies.

Any other form of contacting for the purpose of this Call will not be accepted.