

Job vacancy
**Recruitment of a half-time researcher in the area
of healthcare (m/f/d)**

Deadline for submission: **24 January 2022**

With a view to **permanently** strengthening its multilingual team in Brussels, the European Social Observatory ([OSE](#)) is looking to appoint a **half-time researcher** in the area of **healthcare** (m/f/d).

The European Social Observatory (*Observatoire social européen*, OSE) is a multidisciplinary centre for applied research into the social dimension of European integration. The OSE works in close cooperation with the Belgian and European authorities, as well as with trade union organisations and civil society.

Since 2002, the OSE has been following the impact of the EU on national health systems, and particularly on their social character. The OSE advises the Belgian National Institute of Health and Disability Insurance (NIHDI/[INAMI](#)/RIZIV) on EU policy developments likely to have an impact on healthcare in Belgium. The institute also conducts healthcare-related research in several EU research Framework Programmes and is co-managing the European Social Policy Network ([ESPN](#)).

Key tasks

The successful candidate will be involved in ongoing OSE activities and research on the following topics:

- The scientific underpinning of healthcare-related initiatives developed in the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, which will take place in the first half of 2024.
- Developments in EU policies and law with a potential impact on healthcare systems in general and on the Belgian healthcare system in particular. This may include themes such as European Reference Networks (ERNs) for highly specialised care and rare diseases, the impact of EU economic governance; the EU internal market; EU-level co-operation in the field of healthcare and EU pharmaceutical policies.
- Healthcare policies in European countries, with a focus on the social (protection) dimension. This may include topics such as the establishment of health (care) objectives, resilience of healthcare systems and access to healthcare.

The researcher will be expected to contribute – in close cooperation with an OSE Senior Researcher – to:

- Horizon scanning, to identify new and emerging EU developments with an impact on healthcare. This includes contributing to the 3-monthly health care [newsletter](#) and briefings on specific topics at the request of the Belgian health authorities.
- Designing and implementing research, conducting literature reviews, desk research, fieldwork and reporting.

- Stimulating dialogue among researchers and between the research community and stakeholders by designing and setting up dissemination activities, including high level international conferences on topical developments.
- Developing OSE research and activities related to OSE projects.
- Representing the association at conferences and/or external meetings.

Qualifications required

The candidate must have the following:

- A master's degree in a human sciences discipline (in particular political science, sociology, law, economics, public health and health services, European studies) or in a biomedical discipline.
- A good understanding of healthcare systems in the EU or European social and health policies.
- At least three years of demonstrated relevant professional experience.
- A good knowledge of the Belgian healthcare system.
- Insight into the functioning of the EU institutions.
- Knowledge of qualitative or quantitative research methods.
- Ability to work independently.
- Good summary and drafting as well as presentation skills.
- Readiness to conduct research in a cross-disciplinary perspective.
- Good skills in Microsoft Office.

Language skills:

The candidate must have:

- An excellent knowledge of (spoken and written) French or Dutch (level C2 of the CEFR). A good passive understanding of the other national language (French or Dutch) is an important asset.
- AND**
- A very good knowledge of (spoken and written) English (level C1 of the CEFR).

We are offering:

- A half-time (19h/week) open-ended employment contract under Belgian labour law, ideally to start mid-March 2022. Depending on future research opportunities, the weekly working time may be extended by mutual agreement, in principle as of 2023.
- A salary in line with Belgian university salary scales.
- Reimbursement of transport costs, luncheon vouchers (after six months), ecocheques, hospitalisation insurance and a supplementary pension (group insurance).
- The option to take part in OSE training (e.g. in languages, software, etc.) and to improve skills in research, methodologies, language knowledge, communication and networking.
- A stimulating work environment, conducive to learning, working with experts in European university networks.

Application

Applications should be submitted **in English** and include the following:

- A covering letter giving the candidate's reasons for applying.
- A curriculum vitae (preferably in the Europass CV format).
- A maximum of two reference letters (optional).

OR

The name and recent contact details of two referees who can be contacted and asked to give their opinion of the applicant's suitability for the post.

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Interviews with selected candidates will normally be held in the second half of February 2022. Selected candidates will be asked to write a short-written contribution prior to interview.

Applications should be addressed to Bart Vanhercke, Director and Rita Baeten, Senior Policy analyst

They should be sent to Françoise Verri **by e-mail** (verri@ose.be)

Additional information about the European Social Observatory and its healthcare related activities can be found (in EN and FR) on the OSE website: www.ose.be