

# Open City Fellowship: Guidelines (Brussels)

## **Purpose and Priorities of the Open City Fellowship**

The Open City Fellowship is a new program supporting the leadership of refugees and migrants in policy development that directly impacts the inclusion and wellbeing of these communities, with a focus on urban integration. In this first year, the Open Society Foundations will offer five Open City fellowships. One fellow will be based in Brussels with the European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), there may be scope for an additional fellow in Brussels. Four fellowships will involve collaborations with four partner cities: Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, and Berlin – all members of the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees of the Urban Agenda for the EU.

Migration has preoccupied policy makers and administrations, and prompted enormous policy reform, yet refugees and migrants are themselves often excluded from this policy debate and formulation, particularly those in more recent refugee and migrant populations.

The Open City Fellowship responds to this need by creating platforms for refugees and migrants with demonstrated track records of working for refugee or migrant communities. The aim is to improve integration through stronger participation of and consultation with refugee and migrant communities. In addition it will provide training and professional development for the fellows. Over time, our ambition is that Open City Fellows will become a cohort of experienced and recognized leaders who represent refugee and migrant communities, benefitting the individual fellows and the community more broadly.

## **Structure of the Open City Fellowship**

The Open City Fellowship will be between 12 and 18 months in duration.

Open City fellows will engage in the following initiatives:

- **Collaborate with a host:** Fellows will collaborate with their designated host. In Brussels this will include but may not be limited to the European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE). Each fellow will collaborate with the fellowship host to create a project that reflects the expertise and experience of the fellows, as well as the needs of the fellowship host. This might include, for example: a review or assessment of existing policy, consultation on prospective policies, or designing and leading engagement from affected communities – all with a view to improving refugee or migrant related policies.
- **Participate on the European Migrant Advisory Board:** Fellows will automatically become members of the new European Migrant Advisory Board, which is an initiative of the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees of the Urban Agenda for the EU. The Partnership is made up of experts from EU member states, the European Commission, cities, EUROCITIES and NGOs. The European Migrant Advisory Board will advise the Partnership and its members with the goal of developing and launching policies and initiatives that are successful in addressing the inclusion of migrants and refugees and that will be well received and utilized by the beneficiaries. To ensure that it has maximum impact, the Advisory Board will be involved from the earliest stages of policymaking.

- Being a member of the European Migrant Advisory Board will provide fellows with the opportunity to advise the Partnership and its members on existing policy, propose ways to improve refugees and migrant policy, and expand their network at the EU level.

The main tasks of the **European Migrant Advisory Board** will be to:

- Provide advice on the actions of the Partnership;
- Provide advice for the members of the Partnership;
- Participate in ad hoc consultations of the European Commission, in particular of Directorate General Home & Migration;
- Participate in designing the pilot year of the European Migrant Advisory Board and evaluate its first year.

(The European Migrant Advisory Board will have additional members that are based in the Partnership cities and/or countries but who are not Open City Fellows.)

- **Propose an Independent Project:** Fellows have the option of proposing an independent project that aims to improve refugee and migrant integration policy or practice at the city or regional level. “Integration” is broadly defined and for example may involve social, political, or economic dimensions. Independent projects require prior approval by OSF and depending on the project, may require prior approval from the partner as well. The independent project could comprise up to one third of the fellowship. Fellows will be encouraged to continue to work closely with their partner, as well as existing leaders in the field, such as community groups, organizations, or associations.

The fellow will receive a competitive salary according to the standards of the city and experience of the fellow. For further details please contact [opencity@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:opencity@opensocietyfoundations.org) or ECRE, [cwoollard@ecre.org](mailto:cwoollard@ecre.org)

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Candidates should have a refugee background, for example, with the legal status of asylum-seeker or refugee or otherwise in a situation of forced displacement.

### **Experience and skills**

- Experience working for a government or multilateral institution or significant experience in advocacy targeting policy-makers (within civil society or as a lobbyist)
- Strong research and analytical skills
- The ability to prepare rigorous, clear, succinct written analysis, including providing advice and actionable recommendations to policy-makers
- Good knowledge of international relations and European policies and practice on refugee protection, migration and related issues
- Direct experience in programme management or operations for civil society, governmental or inter-governmental organisations
- Fluency in written and spoken English is essential. Knowledge of other languages is a strong advantage, especially: French, German, Turkish or Arabic.

- Persuasion, negotiation and diplomacy skills
- Public speaking and presentation skills
- The ability to communicate with, inspire and mobilise civil society, including ECRE members and refugee advocates
- Experience of and ability to organise advocacy events
- Respectful and positive attitude and ability to contribute to ECRE's overall work, and specifically to changes aimed at strengthening its advocacy
- Ability to lead junior staff
- Independence and ability to use initiative while contributing to overall organisational objectives

### **Ineligibility Criteria**

Full-time students will not be eligible.

### **Selection Process**

Selection of the Open City Fellows is based on the applicant's credentials and his/her fit with the overall fellowship objective of supporting promising leaders in the refugee and migrant communities in Europe.

The application and fellowship selection schedule is as follows:

- Application closes: September 15, 2017 [23:59 UTC]
- Finalist Interviews: October 2017
- Fellowships begin: November 2017

Each application will be reviewed. Finalists will be interviewed by an international selection committee in the city where the fellowship will take place.

Applicants must submit their applications using our online application, available at <http://opencityfellowship.submittable.com/submit>

For more information, please contact us at [opencity@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:opencity@opensocietyfoundations.org)