



Florence, 14 July 2020

## VACANCY NOTICE for a RESEARCH ASSISTANT

The EUI has a vacancy for a Research Assistant in the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.

**Reference number:** V/RA/RSC/29/2020 (please quote in all correspondence)

<b>Department:</b>	Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies
<b>Length of contract and % of full-time:</b>	Starting on 1 October 2020 or soon after, for 3.5 months at 100% time
<b>Salary indication:</b>	Approx. €2000 per month.  More information about conditions of employment is available <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Director of project:</b>	Prof. Brigid Laffan / Dr Luigi Achilli
<b>Title of project:</b>	<p>MAPS – Migrants And People Smugglers: A Comparative Study of Smuggling Networks in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Central American corridors</p> <p>To what extent is human smuggling a criminal enterprise driven by solidarity and cooperation? This is the question that my project “MAPS – Migrants And People Smugglers” addresses through a comparative study – of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Central American smuggling corridors. Having almost concluded my research in the Eastern Mediterranean corridor, the project will concentrate almost exclusively on the Central American route in order to identify similarities and differences in the organizational structures of smuggling networks, the smuggler-migrant relationship, and the profile of the facilitators. MAPS seeks to make a contribution to studies on Human Smuggling and Irregular Migration, where there is a keen interest in – yet still insufficient knowledge about – the interaction between migrants and facilitators and where criminological perspectives still dominate the debate. MAPS adopts a critical perspective and departs from the idea that smugglers obey only to a profit making logic. Inviting instead for a more complex understanding of their roles, it argues that human smuggling is embedded within ethnic networks and local</p>

	economies, which are grounded on deep notions of solidarity and reciprocity. By expanding current knowledge around smuggling and its related policies, the project also aims to provide an empirical platform for policy engagement.
<b>Job description:</b>	<p>Working under supervision of Dr Luigi Achilli, the selected candidate will have to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transcribe recorded interviews (Arabic → English; Italian → English; Italian → English).</li> <li>• Support the PI in monitoring and analysing migration flows and trends in the MENA region, with an emphasis on the Middle East (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, other GCC countries, Iran, Iraq and Yemen).</li> <li>• Assist the PI with follow-up interviews and secure access to new contacts (migrants, humanitarian actors, local authorities) in the region (especially Jordan)</li> </ul>
<b>Place of work:</b>	Preferably Jordan, Lebanon will be acceptable
<b>Qualifications:</b>	<p><b>Essential:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MA in social sciences (Middle East studies, International Relations, Social Anthropology, or related disciplines)</li> <li>• Analytical skills and capacity to assess the quality and relevance of information.</li> <li>• Long experience in field research in Middle Eastern and North African issues – preferably in Jordan and/or Lebanon</li> <li>• Excellent knowledge of the region, especially Jordan, Lebanon, and/or Lebanon</li> <li>• Excellent Arabic, English, and Italian writing and speaking skills</li> <li>• Autonomous, organised, sense of initiative</li> </ul> <p><b>Desirable:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience working with displaced communities – possibly Palestinians and Syrians</li> <li>• Knowledge of Italian</li> </ul>
<b>Languages:</b>	English, Arabic, Italian
<b>Contact details</b>	For more information contact <a href="mailto:Joanna.wielgo@eui.eu">Joanna.wielgo@eui.eu</a>
<b>Deadline</b>	The closing date for applications is <b>30 July 2020 at midnight (Florence time)</b>
<b>How to apply</b>	Fill in the <a href="#">online application form</a> and upload documents as requested