



The EUI has an open vacancy for a

Research Fellow in the

Florence School of Transnational Governance

Florence, 29 July 2025

Reference: V/RF/STG/9/2025

Who we are

The **European University Institute** (EUI) at a glance:

- an **international organisation** set up in 1972;
- a research university focusing exclusively on **postgraduate**, **doctoral** and **post-doctoral studies**, and advanced research;
- located in the hills overlooking the city of Florence, Italy.

The Institute also hosts the Historical Archives of the European Union.

The [Florence School of Transnational Governance](#) (STG), founded in 2017 at the European University Institute, is a global hub for teaching, training, and research in governance beyond national borders. In the cradle of the Renaissance, we provide a dynamic platform where leaders from policymaking, business, civil society, media, and academia connect. We welcome independent minds, thinkers, and doers, offering world-class expertise from leading scholars and policymakers. Committed to innovation and inclusivity, we equip future and current leaders with the tools to tackle today's most pressing global challenges. We believe public policy should bring out the best in people.

Employment details

Contract type Full-time (30/30, 40 hours/week)

Length of contract 3 years, start date: 1 February 2026

Pending the final budgetary approval by the European Research Council, This contract may be further renewed (several times and conditional to the availability of funds), leading to an extension of the period of service up to a total of 5 years, including the first contract period.

Salary indication and grade

Grade: CDR3 step 1

The basic net monthly salary after taxes is approximately 3,620 Euro, plus allowances if applicable.

More information about conditions of employment is available [here](#).

Place of work

Florence, Italy

About the project

Project Director

Professor Michael W. Bauer

Project details

The European Research Council Advanced Grant project LIBRAD how populist regional governments across the EU reshape executive governance to implement illiberal policy changes. By covertly manipulating the machinery of government, these actors erode pluralistic norms, reduce accountability, and politicize the civil service in service of their illiberal agendas. Focusing empirically on subnational governance in EU member states and analysing executive transformations in a selected subsample, LIBRAD examines the conditions under which bureaucrats comply with or resist illiberal demands. The project combines theory testing on the effects of populist rule with theory development, offering a novel interactionist explanation of bureaucratic behaviour.

This position focuses on designing, implementing, and analysing large-scale civil service and civil society surveys across 50 EU regions. It contributes to the LIBRAD project's empirical investigation of how bureaucrats respond to illiberal demands under populist governance, using both quantitative (including conjoint experiments) and qualitative methods (semi-structured interviews).

Job description

The research fellow will carry out research work in an independent manner and collaborate on the research work of the project.

Main tasks include:

- Designing and implementing two large-scale online surveys (targeting administrative elites and civil society representatives in 50 European regions);
- Conducting a conjoint experiment within the elite survey to identify drivers of resistance vs. compliance with illiberal demands;
- Managing sampling design, ethics protocols, and access negotiations with regional authorities;
- Supervising subcontracted survey implementation (e.g. with YouGov or equivalent);
- Leading semi-structured interview fieldwork in migration governance (up to 120 interviews);
- Conducting quantitative (e.g. regression, multilevel modeling, factor analysis) and qualitative (e.g. process tracing) analyses;
- Publishing peer-reviewed papers on interactionist bureaucratic ethics and executive transformation.

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications and Experience

Essential:

- PhD in public administration, economics, political science, sociology or public policy with a quantitative orientation;
- Demonstrated experience in survey methodology, experimental survey design (especially conjoint analysis), elite sampling, and public sector research;
- Proven knowledge of democratic backsliding, civil service ethics, and administrative reform in EU member states;
- Advanced proven proficiency in quantitative data analysis (e.g., R, Stata) and experience with qualitative fieldwork (semi-structured interviews);
- Proven experience in working independently on mixed-methods research projects in sensitive political contexts;
- Excellent communication and coordination skills across multilingual and multi-stakeholder settings acquired through previous experience.

Desirable:

- Prior work on civil service motivation, ethics, or bureaucratic decision-making;
- Fluency in one or more EU languages relevant to fieldwork (e.g., Italian, French, Polish, Hungarian);
- Demonstrated experience in liaising with public administrations or professional polling organisations;
- Proven knowledge of GDPR and ethical research practices in politically sensitive environments.

Languages

Excellent knowledge of English, both spoken and written ([CEFR](#) level: C1 or above). Knowledge of other languages constitutes an advantage.

How to apply

Deadline

The closing date for applications is **30 September 2025** at midnight (Florence time)

Contact details

For more information contact Peter Ivanov (peter.ivanov@eui.eu).

How to apply

Fill in the [online application form](#) and upload documents as requested.

Please also indicate three referees who may be contacted by the Project Director.

Data Protection

The purpose of processing the data submitted by candidates is to manage their application in view of a possible pre-selection and recruitment by the EUI. The information candidates provide in their application form is collected for the purpose of the selection procedure. The EUI will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by its Data Protection Policy ([President's Decision No. 10/2019 of 18 February 2019 regarding Data Protection at the EUI](#)).

Equal opportunities

The European University Institute applies a policy of equal opportunities, which, in accordance with Article 1d of its Staff Regulations, prohibits discrimination on any grounds such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation. Any reference in this notice to a person of the male sex must be deemed also to constitute a reference to a person of the female sex.