

Call for applications: Fellowship at the European Policy Centre

The European Policy Centre (CEP) is launching a call for young professionals in the fields of social sciences and humanities for a six month, full-time, Research Fellowship, as a part of the *Think Tank Young Professional Development Program*. The Research Fellow will, under the guidance of an experienced mentor, have the opportunity to be involved in CEP's research activities during their time with the organization. The funding for the fellowship is provided by the Think Tank Fund for Wider Europe, a program of the Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE).

The following sections contain detailed information regarding the program, eligibility requirements, the application procedure, as well as the deadlines:

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If you have any additional questions, please contact Dragana Bajić via e-mail (dragana.bajic@cep.org.rs) or phone (011 2659 491; 064 215 12 18).

What is the *Think Tank Young Professional Development Program*?

The *Think Tank Young Professional Development Program* intends to attract young professionals from the Western Balkan and post-Soviet region, who recently graduated from universities in the OECD countries with an MA or a PhD in the social sciences and humanities, and who wish to return to their region of origin. The program is financed by the Think Tank Fund for Wider Europe, a part of the Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE).

The program is designed to benefit both young returning professionals and their host organizations. It enables renowned regional think tanks to recruit highly qualified, talented, young professionals. At the same time, the Research Fellow will have the opportunity to gain invaluable, first-hand policy research and advocacy experience, as well as the chance to write and publish different types of research documents. In addition, the Research Fellow will be able to further develop their research, analytical and communication skills as a part of CEP's team, under the guidance of experienced staff members. The length of the program is six months, dependent upon the chosen research topic, 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?

The applicants must fulfil **all** of the following criteria:

- They are a citizen or resident of one of the following states: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro
- They acquired an MA, an LLM or a PhD
 - 1) In the last two years, and at the latest by the beginning of the program (November 2016)
 - 2) In the field of social sciences relevant to the offered positions (political science, European studies, economics, law, environmental studies etc.)
 - 3) At a university in one of the [OECD member countries](#)
- They are between 23 and 35 years of age at the time of the application
- They possess excellent written and verbal communication skills in both Serbian and English
- They have the ability to return to Serbia, reside in Belgrade and work in CEP during the whole predicted fellowship period (6 months)

Additional requirements:

- A demonstrated interest in one of the offered fields of research (see below), evidenced by prior academic or professional experience
- Good knowledge of research methods used in social sciences
- Excellent research, analytical and writing skills
- Advance knowledge of Microsoft Office package (Word and Excel in particular)

Expected tasks and responsibilities

The chosen candidate will be offered the position of a full-time researcher at CEP for a period of six months, with the possibility of employment after the fellowship period ends. The Research Fellow will work in the offices of CEP, as an integral part of the think-tank's team. During this period, they will develop their own research project, in addition to taking part in CEP's current research activities. The working tasks will include: developing research methodology, conducting desk and field research, assisting the senior researchers in developing policy products, attending regular team meetings, data visualisation, participating in dissemination of the research, and other.

Under the guidance of the designated mentor, the Research Fellow will have the opportunity to write and publish policy research papers:

1. **Policy study** – a 50-70 page document that integrates and reports the findings of the previously performed desk and field research, in accordance with the highest methodological standards. A policy study also analyses the current state of public policy in the area of interest, and develops policy options and recommendations for the improvement and resolution of potential problems.
2. **Policy brief** – summarizes the most important and striking findings of the research in an attractive four-pager format. Its aim is to reach the attention of the wider public, present them with specific policy problems and solutions, and incite them to read the entire policy study.
3. **“CEP Insight”** – short analytical pieces on various topics within CEP's scope of work, that acts as a starting point for discussion regarding current developments and problems within a specific policy area.

Offered positions

1. Research Fellow in internal markets and competitiveness policy

This programme area focuses on the preconditions for Serbia's integration into the EU internal market and competitiveness related requirements, with the objective of contributing to the development of a well-regulated free market economy in Serbia, marked by a competitive market and highly protected consumers. The Serbian economy still suffers from the legacy of the previous system and the centrally planned economy, with an underdeveloped culture of competition and a pervasive public sector which suffocates private initiative and investment. Market distortions are present and often ignored by policy makers, which seriously thwarts Serbia's efforts to integrate into the EU Single Market. Within this programme area, CEP recently implemented the [Competition Policy in Serbia – what is the problem?](#) project, and, as a result of its research, published [a policy study of the same name](#).

The Research Fellow, under the guidance of the proposed mentor who has had rich professional experience in the mentioned matters, will have an opportunity to participate in CEP activities with regards to consumer competition and the free movement of good policies, inter alia through the coordination of the two working groups of the National Convention on the EU: WG 1 on the free movement of goods and WG 2 on the consumer and health protection.

2. Research Fellow in regional policy, energy and environment

Areas of Regional Policy, Energy, and Environment are analysed from the perspective of their potential impact on the improvement of economic and social cohesion in Serbia, on the one hand, and their contribution to cohesion between Serbia and the EU, that is, closing of the existing development gap, on the other. CEP has recently participated in a number of research projects, the results of which can be found in the following publications: [Protected Areas in Vojvodina: Status and Funding in the Context of European Integration](#) and [Implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment in Serbia in the EU Integration Context: Current State and Recommendations](#).

The numerous challenges identified with regards to Serbia's state of alignment with the EU's environmental and energy policies represent an opportunity for a Research Fellow to engage and help CEP to further expand its activities in this program area. The Research Fellow would focus on identifying the problems in the implementation of environment, energy and regional policies in Serbia, with the aim of providing policy options for the betterment of specific individual issues that are of importance for all relevant stakeholders.

3. Research Fellow in the area of European Union

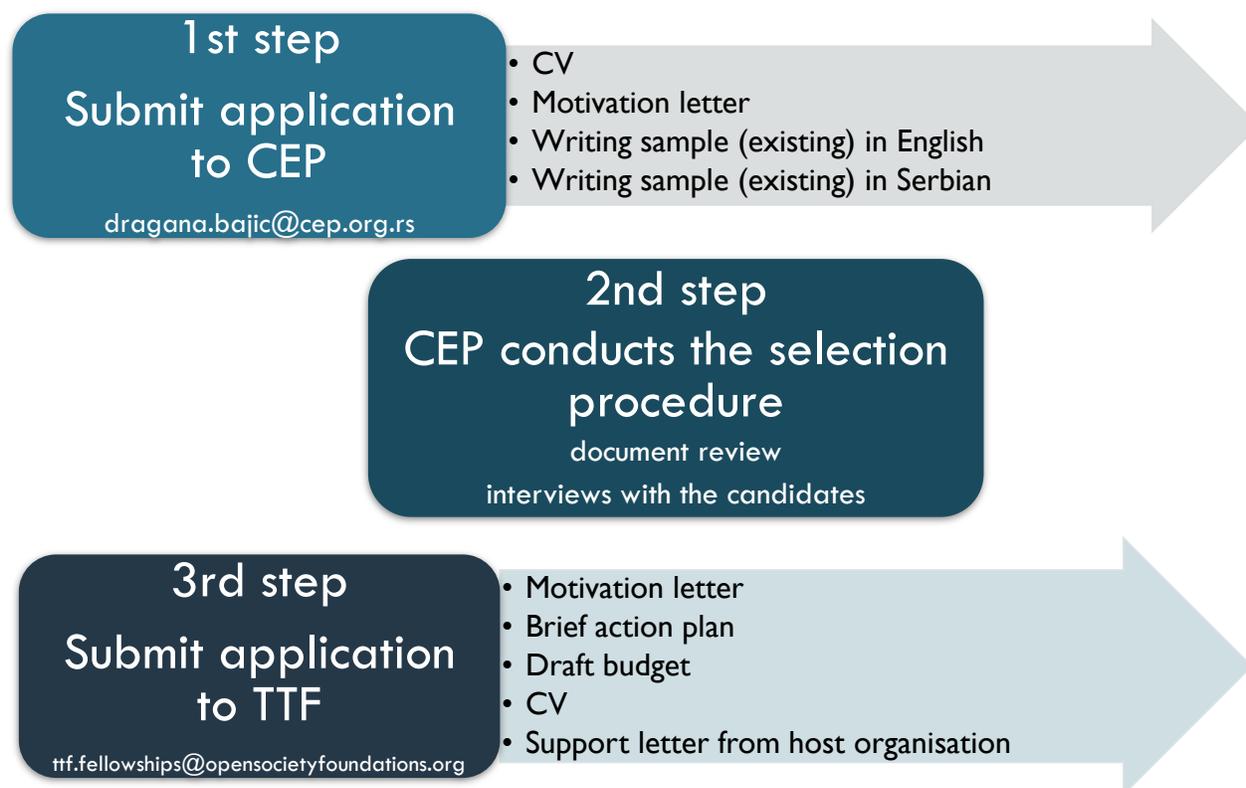
Work within the newly established programme area - Europe&us - focuses on the monitoring of Serbia's EU accession process, research and analysis of the ongoing issues and problems within the EU and its institutional setup, and their influence on Serbia and its accession. Through Europe&us, CEP also seeks to envisage Serbia as an EU member state, and to encourage thinking about Serbia's place and position in the EU institutions and politics. Europe&us seeks to grasp a wider picture of Serbia's EU path and analyse the transformations of the Union, with the rationale that Serbian public needs to know how the EU is evolving in order to understand what Serbia is becoming a part of. Research in this recently formed programme area has so far resulted in a number of short analytical pieces – [CEP Insight](#), as well as the [Progress Shown, Challenges Still Ahead](#), a document that analyses the European Commission's Country Report for Serbia for 2015.

This position would allow the Research Fellow to, within the context of Serbia's accession process, generate discussion regarding topics that are highly relevant for both the current EU member states as well as for Serbia, while insufficiently debated in the Serbian public sphere. Furthermore, the Fellow will conduct research regarding current challenges within EU and their implications for Serbia's

accession efforts. The research will be used as a basis for policy options and recommendations, aimed at both European and Serbian decision makers, that will be published in different written formats.

Application procedure and necessary documents

The application procedure for the *Think Tank Young Professional Development Program* has a number of steps.



The first step in the application process is the submission of the candidate's application to the European Policy Centre. The applicants should send their **CV**, a **motivation letter** (in which they should list the reasons for applying, their skills and qualifications, and the offered position that they are interested in), as well as **two different writing samples** (one in English, one in Serbian). The writing samples can be in any format (essays, articles, policy briefs, reports etc), and can be published and/or unpublished. It would be appreciated if they are related to the programme area that the candidate is interested in.

The documents should be sent to Dragana Bajić (dragana.bajic@cep.org.rs).

Once the applications have been received, CEP will conduct a selection process and organize interviews with selected candidates. Only one of the candidates will have the opportunity to submit an application to TTF together with CEP (3rd step of the application process).

Amount of the award

The approximate amount of the monthly award will be \$760 (gross).

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting the application to CEP is **July 25, 2016, at 23.59h**

After the selection process with CEP, the deadline for submitting the application to TTF is **August 22.**

About the European Policy Centre (CEP)

CEP is a non-governmental, non-profit, independent think tank, established by a group of experts in the fields of EU Law, EU Affairs, Economics and Public Administration Reform. The overall aim is to support the enhancement of the policymaking environment in Serbia, by making it more open, inclusive, evidence-based, and essentially EU accession driven. As a prospective EU Member State, Serbia is in need of research centres which can offer specialised knowledge from different European Union policy areas and are able to present high quality public policy alternatives, grounded in comprehensive research endeavours. The most important features of CEP include the knowledge and experience of the legal harmonisation process and the workings of Serbian public administration, as well as commitment by its members to put their expertise at disposal of the intensified upcoming phase of Serbia's EU accession.

For more information about CEP, its team, projects, programme areas, achievements and other activities please refer to the [Cep: Marketplace of Ideas for Better Policymaking in Serbia](#) booklet.