**Position: Social Scientist**

**Contract duration**: 09 to 10 months (renewable)

**Location**: Athens - Greece / Thessaloniki - Greece

**Starting Date**: ASAP

**Status:** Full Time

**SolidarityNow**

SolidarityNow (SN) was founded in 2013 upon an initiative of the Open Society Foundations (OSF). SN is a network of people and organizations working together to alleviate the suffering of those worst affected by the socio-economic crisis. Until now SN has supported and funded over 70 projects around Greece in the areas of legal, medical, psycho-social support, education and culture, job-creation amongst others. SN’s initial intervention took place in the wider area of Thessaloniki and Athens through Solidarity Centers; these are “one stop shops”, hosting a variety of civil society organizations and covering a wide range of relief and context-related services and actions (i.e. medical aid, legal and psycho-social support, employability support, human rights monitoring, promotion, protection and advocacy). SN is also greatly involved in the recent emergency response related to refugees and migrants arriving in the country. During summer 2015, SN was the only donor that allocated a total of more than 6 million euros for a blend of projects raising from emergency response to medium and longer term concepts as migrants’ integration and anti-trafficking.

**Programme Context**

Since Greece’s entry points became the playing field of a refugee crisis, SN has been intervening by supporting a number of state and non-state actors on the ground in the Dodecanese and North-Eastern Aegean islands that are most under pressure (Lesvos, Kos, Chios, Leros, Tilos), as well as Athens, Thessaloniki and the Northern Greek borders. The support offered ranges from psycho-social support to People on the Move, distribution of NFIs, short term accommodation or shelter, supporting the national asylum service and the first reception center, and reinforcing the protection of vulnerable groups amongst others.

Athens and Thessaloniki represent the two urban points of transit in Greece in the refugee crisis; recently, they have also become the two main locations for temporary accommodation. At the moment, 32,000 people are stranded in Greece while the FYROM border remains marginally open.

SN recently applied to a relevant UNHCR Call for Proposals and got funded in order to implement a hosting scheme in support of asylum seekers and people eligible to participate into the relocation procedure.

The overall objective of the proposed intervention –i.e. the Solidarity Now Hosting scheme project- is to contribute to the planned increase of accommodation for asylum seekers (including Relocation) and to the establishment of 20,000 reception places, as per occupancy rate.

The specific objective of the project is to create 700 places of temporary accommodation for asylum seekers (including Relocation), 600 in Athens/Attica area and 100 in Thessaloniki & surrounding municipalities’ area.

The project seeks to encourage and engage local civilians and settled migrants legally residing in Greece in a practical demonstration of “solidarity in action” By opening up their homes to the target group in the shape of an innovative hosting scheme and thus ensuring the dignified accommodation of vulnerable people for a time-bound period.

**Job purpose**

The post holder will be part of a wide multi-disciplinary team, in charge of assessing and managing the needs of third country nationals at the field level. (S)he will be available to work on evening shifts and/or weekends on a rotating basis. (S)he will be performing vigorous and solid field/street-work being the front liner of the project and the focal point of communications between the hosting and hosted populations. The ideal candidate possesses strong communication skills, is proactive and has an ability to troubleshoot, foresee, manage and mitigate tensions. (S)he is focused to the solution rather than the problem. (S)he has the ability to clearly and concisely report on the work performed. (S)he is organized, has stamina and the ability to perform under stressful conditions. (S)he has an easy-going, friendly personality and does not hesitate to establish and maintain contact. (S)he is resourceful and a smooth operator. The position requires a high level of personal integrity, basic diplomacy and courtesy manners and a high level of cultural awareness & sensitivity.

**Hierarchy and Reporting lines**

The Social Scientist reports to his/her Team leader (accommodation supervisor) and the Program Manager. (S)he is an integral part of the SN Athens or Thessaloniki field team.

**Main Duties & Responsibilities**

* Focal point of communication and exchange between (a cluster of) hosting and hosted populations;
* Directly supports and coaches beneficiaries through the usage of simple communication and moral uplifting techniques;
* Assesses and addresses social needs of the beneficiaries, identifies and follows up cases that require special care;
* Performs case management in cooperation with other project staff and potentially SN partners involved in services provision;
* Cooperates with interpreters where needed for the provision of her/his services;
* Closely cooperates with other team members, passing on the information and expressing the need of action clearly and concisely;
* Keeps social register files and statistical records of the caseload and services’ provision;
* Performs social work duties and undertakes procedures implementation when referral(s) to other services are required;
* Regular and ad hoc reporting and fact finding.

**Qualifications & skills**

**Required**

* University degree from an accredited academic in Humanities or Social Sciences;
* Experience in social work within the civil society sector, preferably working with vulnerable groups and refugees/migrants;
* Ability to work on own initiative and as part of a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary team;
* Ability to organize and prioritize workload, using initiative when appropriate;
* Confidence with IT tools and software;
* Ability to work unsupervised and at flexible working schedules;
* Ability to troubleshoot and ease potential tensions between the project’s beneficiaries;
* Ability to perform fact finding tasks; clearly articulate results in a fair and balanced way;
* Strong communication skills;
* Basic knowledge of humanitarian sector and stakeholders in Athens and Thessaloniki;
* Previous experience in street-work and/or a job entailing direct contact and exchange with groups of beneficiaries, clients, students etc.;

**Desired**

* Understanding and speaking of Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi, Pashtu or Urdu;
* Awareness of the cultural background of Arabic speaking and Asian (i.e. Afghani, Pakistani, Iranian) populations, in the context of the current people on the move emergency.

If you are interested in applying, please fill send your CV and motivation letter to recruitment@solidaritynow.org by March 16th, 2016 (EOB), mentioning in the email subject “Social Scientist\_Athens” or “Social Scientist\_Thessaloniki” (depending the location of your choice). If you speak one of the languages referred in the desired qualifications section, please indicate this too at the subject of your email e.g. “SocialScientist\_Athens\_Arabic” etc.

SN is an equal opportunity employer. Persons with disabilities and from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

Due to the urgency of recruitment, SN reserves the right to complete the process even before the deadline for CV submissions.