

Traineeship Programme 2021-2022

Research & Data Unit

(R&D)

Description of the Unit

What the Unit does

The Research & Data Unit is responsible for collecting and analysing data and evidence, and reporting the findings, about the situation of fundamental rights in the EU – ranging across subjects as diverse as artificial intelligence and data protection, through to the experiences of various social groups with respect to equality of treatment in different areas of life (to name but a few). The Unit is responsible for all stages of research development and implementation, including legal analysis, fieldwork data collection, through to report drafting.

The Unit's evidence and analysis, which is presented through reports, legal opinions and interactive data tools, provides the EU's key institutions – the Commission, Parliament and Council – as well as EU Member States with the information they need to help inform legislative processes, policies and courses of action to address on-going and urgent fundamental rights concerns. In its work, the Unit also engages with relevant Council of Europe and UN expert bodies, and its research evidence (for example, comparative legal analysis), and technical research expertise (for example, in the field of survey data collection), is also used by key international organisations, civil society and academia – to name just some of those who use FRA outputs.

Who we are looking for

The Unit undertakes research and data collection that includes large-scale surveys, desk research, in-depth social-legal analysis, and legal opinions on draft EU law. The Unit is comprised of experts who are mainly drawn from the social sciences, statistics and law. To this end, we are looking to recruit trainees with diverse skillsets and areas of expertise with respect to the areas of work outlined below.

The Unit also welcomes applications from candidates who have undertaken part of their education and/or work experience in the area of quantitative data analysis.

The Research & Data Unit is responsible for two Agency-wide Programmes:

- **Fair and Equal Societies:**

The programme 'Fair and Equal Societies' is guided from within the Research and Data Unit and draws on relevant expertise from across the

Agency. The programme serves to support delivery of the Agency's statutory obligations and thematic commitments in the areas of equality and non-discrimination, and in relation to combating racism, xenophobia and related intolerance. Within its work, the programme sets out to mainstream gender, disability & the rights of the child.

At present the programme is working, at different stages, on the following large-scale surveys:

- The Roma survey 2020
- The EU survey on immigrants and descendants of immigrants
- Other surveys in the area of discrimination as well as bias-motivated harassment and violence

In addition, the Research and Data Unit is responsible for a survey of the general population – the subject matter of which covers all areas of the Agency's substantive work and is not limited to a single programme:

- The Fundamental Rights Survey

Accompanying the surveys, the Programme is engaged in work that serves to underpin the policy and societal relevance of its research and data outputs. This also includes earlier research undertaken by FRA, such as the EU-wide Violence against Women survey, FRA's Antisemitism survey and the European Union Minorities and Discrimination survey (EU-MIDIS, EU-MIDIS II).

- **Just, Digital and Secure Societies:**

The programme 'Just, Digital and Secure Societies' is guided from within the Research and Data Unit and draws on relevant expertise from across the Agency. The programme serves to support delivery of the Agency's statutory obligations and thematic commitments in the areas of access to justice, victims of crime, judicial cooperation, security and information society, including the field of artificial intelligence. Within its work, the programme sets out to mainstream gender, disability & the rights of the child.

The Programme is engaged at various stages in the following projects and related activities, amongst others:

- Artificial intelligence, big data and fundamental rights; Online content moderation; Information society, and respect for private life and personal data; Handbook on cybercrime; Access to justice and judicial cooperation; Victims of crime; Justice for and security of citizens; Impact of counter-terrorism legislation on fundamental rights; Criminal detention; and Procedural rights of defendants.

In addition to the above, the Unit also provides substantive research for other projects that do not come under the two above programmes. For example, within the Migration and Asylum programme, the Research Unit

undertakes research on severe labour exploitation, and also on long-term responses to the 2015 migration crisis.

The Unit also hosts the 'FRANET' team, which is responsible for the EU-wide FRA network of researchers that undertake data collection and analysis for the Agency across its areas of work.

Which tasks are expected in this unit?

- Background desk (& legal) research for specific projects in the Agency's work-programme.
- Assisting in the development and oversight of research data collection, encompassing several Member States.
- Review of reports and fieldwork research material on the situation of fundamental rights in different Member States, aligned to specific projects.
- Contribution to drafting reports on different fundamental rights issues and related legal analysis.
- Fact checking for specific projects/reports.
- Organisational tasks, such as support with expert meetings, drafting of minutes.
- Other tasks related to the work of the Unit and the two thematic programmes situated in the Unit.

*If you have a background in survey research, quantitative data, and statistical analysis, we would especially welcome your application in the **Research & Data** unit. Please mention this very clearly in your application.*

For trainees with a background in survey research, quantitative data, and statistical analysis – tasks include:

- In-depth work on quantitative survey development, fieldwork application, quality control and data analysis; specifically:
- Quantitative data analysis, with experience in using any of the following - SPSS, STATA, R and/or Excel.
- Descriptive analysis of quantitative data (descriptive statistics).
- Advanced statistical analysis – where relevant and depending on experience.
- Visual presentation of quantitative research results (e.g. figures, graphs, maps).
- Contribution to drafting reports based on quantitative research results.
- Innovative application of quantitative data and analysis to fundamental rights issues.