



The voice of blind and partially sighted people in Europe

Job Description

Job title: Advocacy Officer

Employer: European Blind Union (EBU)

Sector: not for profit

Location: EBU Brussels Office, Belgium (with flexibility, after the trial period, for some home-based work)

Type of contract: full time (38 hours/week) and open-ended contract under Belgian law subject to a 6-month trial period

Reports to: Advocacy Director (based in Paris)

Job overview/main mission:

The Advocacy Officer will be the EBU's primary representative in Brussels, strengthening the organisation's liaison with EU institutions, international agencies, and relevant NGOs. The Advocacy Officer will work closely with the Advocacy Director (based in Paris), gradually gaining autonomy in monitoring EU policy developments and representing EBU in advocacy activities.

Responsibilities and duties:

Advocacy

- Participate in the development and implementation of EBU's advocacy strategies, in line with the organisation's priorities.
- Represent EBU in lobbying meetings, events, and working groups with EU institutions, international agencies, and NGOs.
- Monitor EU policy and legislative developments relevant to the rights and inclusion of blind and partially sighted persons.
- Contribute to internal and external communication on advocacy activities.

Liaison and Networking

- Act as the primary point of contact for EBU in Brussels, fostering relationships with EU officials, MEPs, and other stakeholders.
- Support and collaborate with EBU member organisations and external partners to coordinate advocacy efforts.
- Facilitate the use of the Brussels office for EBU staff, representatives, and members traveling to Brussels.

Reporting and Coordination

- Report regularly to the Advocacy Director on EU developments, meetings, and advocacy opportunities.
- Support the preparation of advocacy materials (e.g., policy briefs, position papers, statements, presentations).
- Travel occasionally to the EBU Secretariat in Paris and other European locations for meetings, events, or training.

Long-Term Development

The Advocacy Officer is expected to progressively gain autonomy in policy monitoring and lobbying. In the mid-term, the role will contribute to the strategic planning of EBU's advocacy work and play an active part in campaigning.

Qualifications and competencies required:

Essential

- Education: Degree in Political Science, International Relations, Law, Human Rights, or a related field.
- Experience: At least 3 years of experience in advocacy, lobbying, or policy work, preferably within the EU context or the disability rights sector.
- Languages: Fluency in English (EBU's working language); knowledge of French or other EU languages is an asset.
- Skills:
 - Strong understanding of EU institutions, decision-making processes, and advocacy strategies.
 - Excellent communication, negotiation, and networking skills.
 - Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
 - Commonly used IT skills.
- Commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities and the values of EBU, preferably through personal or lived experience with blindness or partial sight.

Desirable

- Experience working with NGOs, disability organisations, or EU or other relevant international institutions.
- Knowledge of accessibility standards, CRPD (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), and EU disability policies.
- Familiarity with project management, campaigning tools, and social media communications.
 - **European Blind Union**
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