



GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA



ESF+.02.236 - Building blocks for a more equitable health system for migrants Call for a Service Contract for a Researcher/s

Internal reference – ESF+.02.236.01

03/11/2025	Publication of Call
24/11/2025	Closing Date of Submission for Call

Section A – Instructions

1. Responses to this Call for a Service Contract are to be submitted by email on mark@jrsmalta.org.
2. All submissions will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

Section B – General Information

1. General Background

JRS Malta is launching a Call for a Service Contract for the provision of research studies into the lived experiences of asylum seekers and the legal and policy framework regulating access to healthcare for different categories of migrants.

The Contracting Authority (CA) is JRS Malta; VO 0064.

2. Purpose of the Call

This task is part of the ESF+ (European Social Fund Plus) Project – ESF+.02.236 - *Building blocks for a more equitable health system for migrants* - which is being co-funded by the European Union.

“Building blocks for a more equitable health system for migrants” is a three-year project co-funded by the European Union which JRS Malta is implementing in partnership with Bridges2Health&Rights, Richmond Foundation and Migrant Women Association Malta.

This project will contribute to the understanding of the factors impacting the health status of asylum seekers, particularly those experiencing serious or chronic physical or mental health issues, their health needs, and the challenges they face to access healthcare, through:

- Research into asylum seekers’ lived experience and the experience of healthcare providers, and the legal and policy framework regulating access to healthcare for different categories of migrants.

- Recommendations for improved access to healthcare/a more equitable and accessible health system based on the outcome of the research, in consultation with service providers, medical professionals, civil society, and asylum seekers.
- Networking and engagement between policy makers, civil society, and asylum seekers, in both public and private for a, to raise awareness on the difficulties faced by asylum seekers when accessing healthcare and push for systemic change/a more equitable and accessible health system.
- Raising awareness of the health needs of asylum seekers and the barriers they face to access healthcare highlighted by the research, through training and capacity-building for health and social care professionals providing services with state agencies/institutions and NGOs.
- Working with migrant communities to tackle some of the barriers to access healthcare through outreach and information provision.

Increasingly over the last few years, JRS Malta has been working with very vulnerable people, many of whom are suffering from chronic physical or mental health conditions. Whilst having been supporting people of different legal statuses to navigate the health system and access healthcare for a number of years as a form of service provision, legal, policy and other contextual changes have led to a need for a coordinated project that looks in-depth at the barriers faced by asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants in accessing healthcare services. The aim is to do this by broadening our networks of partners and allies, contributing to research in this area to address information and knowledge gaps, and by capacity building within the healthcare sector and increasing knowledge of rights and other health promotion strategies among migrant populations.

The outcomes of the research will also contribute to the develop of recommendations for a more accessible and human rights centred approach to healthcare provision for migrants, which will be shared with policymakers and other stakeholders in the healthcare field, as well as healthcare to improve the overall accessibility and relevance of integration services for this category of young migrants.

Section C – Terms of Reference

1. Composition of research and tasks

Given the multifaceted nature of this research project, all members of the research team will be accountable to and work under the supervision of the Research and Advocacy Coordinator to incorporate all aspects of the research into a comprehensive and substantive report, including the desk research and the qualitative and quantitative analysis.

This call for researcher/s consists of the following duties:

1. To carry out research focusing on reviewing the legal and policy rules regulating asylum seekers' access to healthcare and the relevant human rights framework.
 - Design research plan and timeline for estimated completion.
 - Collect data through desk research to review existing work on this topic covering Malta and an extensive and thorough review of law and policy (including international, EU and European-level, and national) and relevant institutional

- frameworks, with a focus on legal analysis.
- If deemed necessary or due to information gaps, conduct interviews with stakeholders (non-government and government) and interviews and/or informal conversations with JRS staff members.
 - Analyse and write-up collected data.
 - Work with the other members of the research team to include the analysis in a final report.
 - Contribute to the development of recommendations on improved access to healthcare and a more equitable and accessible health system in collaboration with the research and project team, based on the different components of the research and the project.
2. To perform out an in-depth qualitative study on the lived experience of asylum seekers living with serious or chronic medical or mental illness, through one-to-one interviews with 10-15 asylum seekers and service providers.
- Design research plan and data-collection tools (information sheets, consent forms etc) and timeline for estimated completion.
 - Conduct one-to-one interviews and/or focus groups with asylum seekers and migrants living with serious or chronic medical or mental illness with different legal statuses that have had experience of accessing (or not being able to access) healthcare services in Malta.
 - Analyse data collected
 - Draft (lead author) comprehensive and substantive report incorporating all three components of the research.
 - Contribute to the development of recommendations on improved access to healthcare and a more equitable and accessible health system in collaboration with the research and project team, based on the different components of the research and the project.

For both tasks, the Researcher/s will provide monthly progress reports to the Project Leader.

Interested candidates may apply expressing suitable qualifications and experience for either task 1 or task 2 or both tasks 1 and 2 together.

2. Budget

The selected candidates of this Call for Researcher/s shall be paid at the rate of €27 per hour under a contract for service.

3. Payment Terms

The CA shall issue a payment against timesheets and reports following the approval by the CA of the final report for each lot respectively.

4. Duration of contract

The duration of contract shall be of five months from the last signature on contract for task 1 and seven months from the last signature on contract for task 2.

The final reports for both tasks 1 and 2 must be submitted by no later than one (1) month before the end of the contract. This timeline ensures that the JRS has sufficient time to review the reports thoroughly and, if necessary, request and implement any required changes before the contract closure.

The final reports will be considered as closed when endorsed by JRS.

5. Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights

JRS retains all rights to any information, data and documentation provided by JRS and/or produced by the Researcher. The Researcher shall not use, reuse, or distribute the data or any of its derivatives in any way or manner other than for the sole purpose of executing this Contract. The research studies shall be the exclusive property of JRS, and no part can be copied or used without prior authorization from JRS.

Section D – Eligibility and Selection Process

1. Eligibility Criteria:

Researcher/s must:

- Hold a recognised degree at MQF Level 7 / EQF Level 7 in Social Sciences or related field (subject to a minimum of 90 ECTS/ECVET credits)
- Have a minimum of 2 years of experience in research and policy analysis (to provide testimonial/s)
- Be based in Malta, for interviews and research activities
- Provide a copy of an updated Europass Curriculum Vitae;
- Provide a copy of the ID Card/Residence Permit (as applicable);
- Provide a copy of qualifications and testimonials for experience;
- Provide a covering letter outlining their approach to the research;
- Provide a police conduct certificate issued by the Criminal Records Office or other competent authority not earlier than one (1) month from the date of application; and
- Provide a sample of previous research work

Given that task 2 includes one-to-one interviews with 10-15 asylum seekers and service provider, the Researcher/s applying for this task must have the following:

- Have experience working on at least one (1) research project which involved conducting and analysing qualitative research interviews (to provide testimonial/s)
- Have experience working on at least one (1) research project involving people from a migrant background and/or research experience with vulnerable people. (to provide testimonial/s)

Qualifications and experience claimed must be supported by certificates and/or testimonials respectively.

2. Selection Process

Candidates will be required to attend an interview before a final decision is taken.

3. Submission

The above mentioned documents should be submitted by not later than 24th November, to the JRS Operations Manager on mark@jrsmalta.org. Late submissions will not be considered.

More information about JRS and its projects is available at www.jrsmalta.org.



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