

Research Fellow Position – Project “Equal Partnerships – African Intermediary Cities as Actors and Partners in Urban Migration Governance”

The Centre for Human Rights Erlangen-Nuremberg (CHREN) of the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg is seeking to hire a research fellow (TV-L E 13, 60%) for a duration of two years within the project “Equal Partnerships – African Intermediary Cities as Actors and Partners in Urban Migration Governance.” The start date is between 1st November 2021 and 1st January 2022 depending on the successful candidate’s availability. The position is based in Erlangen and allows the option to pursue academic qualifications, in particular but not limited to a PhD. Applications will be accepted until 15th September 2021.

Project

The project explores the opportunities and challenges of collaborative, urban migration governance in African intermediary cities in cooperation with the German Development Institute, the social enterprise Samuel Hall and the city network United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa). Through participatory research and dialogue formats, the project will bring together local, national and international actors to develop practical impulses and policy recommendations for equal partnerships of urban migration governance in African intermediary cities. The project is supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Background

A rising number of migrants and refugees settle, either temporarily or permanently, in African intermediary cities, which are thereby becoming central spaces for climate-related migration, conflict migration and rural-urban movements. Developing local strategies to address urban migration and displacement proves challenging to these cities, as national or international actors holding official mandates for migration and displacement rarely consider local authorities as (equal) partners. This lack of recognition and cooperation seriously affects local authorities’ capacities to shape context-specific approaches urgently needed to address the rising urbanization of migration and displacement in sustainable ways. Recognizing that mixed migration could contribute to urban social and economic development if local authorities had the means and partners to promote inclusive and cross-sectorial approaches, a number of African local authorities aim to develop partnerships with local, national and international actors. At the same time, there is a growing interest among international organizations and civil society actors to explore possibilities for collaboration with local authorities through evidence-based research. With this project, we strive to bring actors from different levels of governance together to develop ideas for equal partnerships of urban migration governance with the potential of closing gaps between (inter)national strategies and local realities.

In April 2022, the project will organize an international workshop at the ninth Africities Summit in Kisumu, placing equal partnerships for urban migration governance high on the agenda. The workshop will be thematically situated at the interface of the Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees and the African Local Migration Charter. Guided by central workshop conclusions, the project team will engage in participatory field research with six city partners in North, West and East Africa. This research will focus on factors that hinder, encourage or motivate local authorities to engage on questions of migration and displacement. Moreover, it will juxtapose perspectives on partnership opportunities held by local, national and international stakeholders operating in these cities and explore practical potentials and limits of equal cooperation strategies. Each research phase will conclude with the organization of a local workshop to validate findings and co-shape city-specific and transferable/scalable recommendations.

In cooperation with a colleague based at the CHREN and the project partners the research fellow will:

- Advance the development of a joint research framework in cooperation with the project partners
- Develop a mapping of actors and practices of urban migration governance in African secondary cities
- Conduct field research in approximately two African secondary cities (approximately 4 weeks per field research phase in cooperation with another colleague)
- Co-organize an international workshop at the Africities Summit in April 2022

- Co-organize local workshops in various African intermediary cities
- Co-organize workshops in Germany
- Compose policy papers, blog posts and academic journal articles
- Coordinate the creation of an explanatory video presenting the project findings and policy recommendations
- Present project findings and policy recommendations during international conferences and workshops
- Assume responsibility for the communication with the project partners and the organization of project sessions
- Coordinate communication with city representatives

We are looking for a candidate with:

- University degree (at least Master or equivalent) in sociology, political sciences, International Relations, African studies or a related field
- Excellent knowledge of migration and displacement movements and governance (policies, institutions, etc.) on the African continent, in particular with regard to rural-urban migration, mixed migration, climate-related migration, conflict-related migration
- Experience with the organization of workshops aiming to develop and disseminate knowledge and good practice
- Proven ability to quickly analyze complex material, making it intelligible to experts and non-experts in written and oral form
- Excellent communication and moderation skills in the interaction with different target groups
- Team player with a strong interest in international and interdisciplinary cooperation
- Fluency in English (written and oral expression), good/very good knowledge of French and/or Arabic would be highly appreciated
- Experience with qualitative research would be a plus
- Work/research/study experience in African countries would be a plus, in particular practical experience working in the area of urban migration/displacement
- Willingness to travel within and beyond Europe, in particular Africa

The Friedrich-Alexander-University is dedicated to ensuring equal career opportunities to women. We therefore explicitly encourage women to apply.

Applicants with a disability within the sense of the German Disabilities Act (Schwerbehindertengesetz) who have the required professional/academic qualification and personal skills and capabilities shall be given preferential consideration.

For further Information please contact: Prof. Dr. Petra Bendel, Phone: 09131-8522368, email: petra.bendel@fau.de

Applications should include a cover letter, a CV, relevant certificates and ideally also a recent sample of written work. Applications are to be submitted in English and sent as email attachments (one or two attachments with a total maximum size of 15 MB) until September 15, 2021 to: Prof. Dr. Petra Bendel, Institute of Political Science, Research on Migration, Displacement and Integration, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Bismarckstr. 1, 91054 Erlangen, Germany.