

# Researcher Recruitment: Bulgaria

## SOS Children's Villages: Evaluation

### Background

The Research Base is an international research consultancy based in the United Kingdom. We provide research, market intelligence and evaluation services to a range of clients operating in the fields of education and skills, third sector/international development and business. Our clients consist of education providers, national and international charities, governments and multinational businesses. For further information, please visit: <http://www.theresearchbase.com/>

We are currently carrying out an evaluation on behalf of **SOS Children's Villages** in Bulgaria (as well as Hungary). The SOS Children's Villages programme recently moved its foster family programme from Dren to the Pernik region and to Sofia. It was hoped that the move would instigate positive changes to the lives of the children, improving social integration, access to community services and contact with original families. It was also hoped to enhance the programme delivery by improving efficiency, foster parent recruitment and local collaboration, and reducing costs. We will be conducting desk research and analysis, but require assistance from local researchers to deliver a series of in-country interviews and face-to-face surveys with programme participants (children, young people and families) in Pernik and Sofia and other community stakeholders.

### Roles & Responsibilities

We require two local researchers (one male; one female) to work with us, delivering interviews and primary research in Bulgaria. Face-to-face training will be provided to the selected researchers by The Research Base in early February 2016.

Researchers will then carry out interviews with a range of stakeholders over a six week period, beginning immediately after the training. These interviews will seek to gain a qualitative perspective on the programme, obtaining perceptions of impact, as well as answers to questions around effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and sustainability.

Once trained and conducting interviews, researchers will be required to report daily to The Research Base, providing recordings of any interviews and allowing any questions to be answered and issues to be raised. As well as being remunerated at competitive rates (see below), researchers will receive a letter of recommendation from The Research Base, following successful delivery of the project, to facilitate future employment.

### Researcher Specification

As capacity development is a central part of this project, we aim to provide training and support to researchers who will benefit from early career experience and training opportunities. Training and support will be provided by The Research Base and this is an opportunity for trainee researchers to get hands-on experience of data collection and fieldwork. The table below clarifies the applicant requirements, including both essential and desirable criteria.

## Local Researcher Criteria

### Essential

- University qualification.
- Currently studying for postgraduate qualification or completed postgraduate qualification in social science within last three years.
- Experience in conducting qualitative interviews.
- Experience in delivering reports written to a high standard.
- An understanding of research ethics.
- Fluency in English and relevant local language(s).
- Access to a laptop or computer with internet access; and access to a recording device or suitable computer application with which to record interviews.
- Availability for the full period of the research.

### Desirable

- Experience in conducting research with children and young people.
- Experience in undertaking monitoring and evaluation.
- Experience in translation of data from/into local languages from/into English.
- Ability to demonstrate local knowledge and understanding.
- Knowledge of SOS Children's Villages or other similar programmes.

## Remuneration

Researchers will be remunerated at GBP 100 per day. Each day is equal to eight hours and a total of 4.5 days will be required from each researcher. This will comprise:

- 1.5 days (up to 12 hours) in early February (dates are to be confirmed but are likely to be the week commencing 6th February).
- Up to 3 days (24 hours) in the six weeks following.

Researchers will be required to generate an invoice on completion of the interviews and provision of acceptable data. Invoice templates will be provided on request and invoices will be paid by international bank transfer within 30 days of receipt.

## To Apply

Please email your CV and a cover letter of no more than one page of A4, as well as the names and contact details of two referees - either at your university or from previous employers, to [info@theresearchbase.com](mailto:info@theresearchbase.com) by **21:00 BST on Thursday, 12th January 2017**.

Please state the project reference in the email heading: **SOS003 Bulgaria**

Please also confirm in your application that you will have access to a laptop and recording device.

Selected researchers will be interviewed by **Skype** the week commencing **16th January 2017** and should, therefore, have access to an appropriate device at that time.