

Call for (junior) researcher on Italian migration policy

What assumptions drive policy decisions on migration? Do you wonder what role expert knowledge plays in them? Are you interested in Italian migration policy and speak Italian? If so, then this flexible (junior) researcher position starting in May within the PACES project might be for you!

What you will do

Immigration policy remains a hot topic in politics at local, national, European and international levels. When designing policies, policymakers inevitably rely on assumptions about how migrants behave and how they will react to specific policy measures, but also sometimes mobilize research insights on the effectiveness of immigration policies and migration decision-making. When does scientific evidence make it into policy - and when not? And to what extent do policymakers' assumptions about migrant behavior integrate scientific knowledge over time?

To answer these questions, we analyse immigration policy reforms in the Netherlands, Austria and Italy – and you would be responsible for leading the work on the Italian case study. By analyzing legal and policy documents related to immigration reforms, and interviewing relevant policymakers, we will study to what extent evidence on migrants' decision-making and (past) migration policy effectiveness is integrated into policy design.

This research is part of the large, EU-funded PACES project led by Simona Vezzoli at the Institute for Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague between March 2023 and June 2026. Leiden University is one of the 13 PACES project partners across Europe, with Katharina Natter (Institute for Political Science) responsible for conducting the research on migration policy. If selected, you will be part of a group of enthusiastic researchers and like-minded researchers/research assistants and gain research experience in a large EU-funded project working on a highly policy-relevant issue.

Your tasks and responsibilities

- Systematically track Italian policy changes in three policy areas (counter-smuggling policies, asylum reception in the region policies, attracting essential worker policies) and collect policy documents that outline the rationale behind a particular immigration reform
- Identify and code the assumptions underpinning policy changes across the three policy areas following a specific coding protocol
- Conduct around 10 interviews with Italian policymakers to zoom into the assumptions behind a select number of policy changes
- Analyse the Italian insights from the documents and interviews, write up a report, eventually publish them in the form of a peer-reviewed article (should you be interested in that)
- Contribute to the analysis and writing of the comparative paper, if desirable

The research requires travel to Italy to conduct interviews – fieldwork budget is available.

What you bring

I am looking for an enthusiastic, independent (junior) researcher who will be responsible for conducting the Italian case study starting ideally in May 2024.

Required qualifications

- Master degree related to migration, public administration or political science
- Fluency in both English and Italian
- Experience in researching migration policymaking
- Very good analytical skills and high attention to detail
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, but also interest to work in a team

Desirable qualifications

- Familiarity with collecting policy documents and interviewing key actors in migration policymaking in Italy
- Familiarity with coding in Atlas.ti or another qualitative text analysis software
- Ideally registered/living in the Netherlands

What we offer

- Remuneration is based on your qualifications, ranging between a minimum of €3226 and a maximum of € 4036 gross per month, for a full-time contract of 38 hours.
- Flexible working conditions: The position can be full-time (38h/week, 1fte) for a period of 5 months, or spread out over 8 months (23h/week, 0.6fte) to accommodate candidates' other personal or professional commitments
- Budget of €1500 for fieldwork/doing interviews in Italy

At PACES, we value diversity and welcome all applications – regardless of gender, nationality, ethnicity, social origin, religion/belief, disability, age and sexual orientation and identity. Applicants with a migration background are strongly encouraged to apply.

Preferred start date is in May 2024. The position can be full-time (38h/week, 1fte) for a period of 5 months, or spread out over 8 months (23h/week, 0.6fte) to accommodate candidates' other personal or professional commitments.

Want to apply?

Please send the following information, in one pdf file and with the email subject 'PACES Italy researcher', to Katharina Natter (k.natter@fsw.leidenuniv.nl) by **20 April 2024**:

- Your CV
- A motivation letter (2 pages max.) explaining why you are applying and how you can contribute to the project, especially highlighting your experience and motivation for working on the Italian case study
- A clear indication of your availability and preferred working conditions (earliest starting date, number of hours/week, length of contract)

Applications will be processed immediately after the deadline and shortlisted candidates will be interviewed online at the end of April.