

Managing Director of the SOS MEDITERRANEE Operations gGmbH

(based in Berlin, Germany)

Context

SOS MEDITERRANEE is a European association for rescue at sea founded in 2015 by a group of European citizens who were facing the tragedy in the Mediterranean and saw a lack of adequate rescue capacity. The International network of SOS MEDITERRANEE is composed of three national associations (Germany, France, Italy) which share the same mandate: to save persons in distress at sea, to protect and assist them, to testify about the realities and the many faces of migration.

SOS MEDITERRANEE Operations gGmbH (a non-profit limited liability company) has been set up to charter a ship, the Aquarius, which has performed Search and Rescue (SAR) operations since February 2016 on the deadliest route in the world, in the Mediterranean off the Libyan coasts. The ship operates in partnership with Médecins Sans Frontières and has been able to rescue more than 20 000 persons since 2016.

The SOS MEDITERRANEE network is now recruiting a new Managing Director for SOS MEDITERRANEE Operations gGmbH, also referred to as a Director of Operations.

Position

The Director of Operations is responsible for the strategic management and implementation of our humanitarian SAR mission. He/she is the overall responsible for activities related to operational security, communications, logistics, human resources and finance. He/she takes initiative and manages the response, observation, adaptation, monitoring and evaluation of a humanitarian SAR project with some of these activities delegated to or shared with the national associations of the SOS MEDITERRANEE international network. He/she contributes to the development of our strategic organisational vision.

Main responsibilities & activities

Humanitarian SAR project management

- Participates in initiating, preparing and deciding on the development of a short term and long-term strategy for our humanitarian SAR project.
- Recruits, contracts and manages the SAR team (including managing briefings and de-briefings)
- Supervises and manages technical and logistical needs for the SAR operations
- Responsible for security management including performing risk analyses, planning response capacity and initiates critical incident response if/when these occur
- Responsible that the SOS MEDITERRANEE communications strategy is in place and is implemented
- Represents SOS MEDITERRANEE on agreed platforms, e.g. regarding operational/SAR matters, coordination with other NGOs, relations with authorities, in coordination with the SOS MEDITERRANEE international network
- Develops and maintains an external network outside maritime operations with the aim of improving contextual understanding, maximizing access opportunities and public communications

Specific duties linked to chartering a ship

- Supervises the charter negotiation, signs and implements the charter contract
- Executes the legal and overall responsibilities as contracting charterer
- Manages the collaboration with the ship-owner including:
 - safety and security rules (CSO)
 - ship schedule
 - incident investigation and risk assessment
 - fuel and other purchases
 - establishing links between the SOS MEDITERRANEE quality management system and the ship owner's quality management system

Office management

- Manages the non-profit limited liability company
- Recruits, contracts and manages the office team
- Prepares the company's budgets
- Assigns and supervises financial and personnel accounting

Relations with the SOS MEDITERRANEE international network

- Maintains close cooperation with SOS MED International Steering Committee and its member associations
- Reports to the shareholders and the International Steering Committee (according to a contract between the gGmbH and the associations)
- Represents SOS MED Operations in SOS MEDITERRANEE International Steering Committee and Sub-committees

Job qualifications and requirements

- **At least five years of work experience in the management of complex projects in the humanitarian or social or community sector**
- **Knowledge and understanding of ship management structures and practices, charter parties and related issues are an advantage**
- An active network within SAR-community and SAR-related parties are an advantage
- Knowledge of the humanitarian work field and/or experienced in working within associations
- Committed to the vision, mission and values of SOS MEDITERRANEE
- Sound teamwork experience, proven management skills
- Fluency in English and German, both verbally and in writing
- Knowledge of French and/or Italian are an advantage
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Readiness to take decisions and responsibilities
- Good reporting ability
- Familiarity with MS Office and skilled in the use of ICT

Conditions

- Fixed-term contract until 31.12.2017, with the possibility of extension
- Starting date: as soon as possible
- Berlin-based post
- Europe-wide travel
- Annual gross starting salary: between € 50,000 to € 60,000 according to experience

Please send your application (CV and cover letter) in English no later than 10.08.2017 via email to jobs.berlin@sosmediterranee.org and put "Application Director of Operations" as the subject of the email. Please note that your application will be shared with SOS MEDITERRANEE staff in the three associations in Germany, France and Italy.