

## **From Burundi to Brussels and Lesotho: My JPD experience**

*"The JPD experience is one of the most significant professional and personal experiences of my life and has opened many future possibilities."*

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Country: Luxembourg

JPD experience: Bujumbura (9 months), Brussels (2 months), Maseru (7 months)



*Seb delivering welcome remarks at the EU Delegation HIV/AIDS Awareness Day*

**When I applied for the Junior Professional in Delegations (JPD) programme with the European Union, I was looking for a new experience for my CV but in the end I got much more than I had hoped for. The JPD experience is one of the most significant professional and personal experiences of my life and has opened many future possibilities.**

As a JPD for the EEAS, I work in the Political Section contributing to the analysis, monitoring and reporting on the overall situation and development in a country and supporting the Press and Information section. The work is very diverse and ranges from political monitoring, human rights to climate change. A great deal of my time is spent in meetings and

networking with government officials, civil society and other institutions on the ground.

I got selected to work at the EU Delegation in Burundi supporting the Political Advisor. However, after nine months I was evacuated due to the deteriorating security situation. Back in Brussels I was fortunate enough to work together with the Burundi desk officer on the ongoing crisis. After two months in headquarters I took the decision to go back into a delegation as that is essentially the objective of a JPD – to work in a delegation. I had the choice to go to Lesotho, another small landlocked nation with a troubled political history.

The EU Delegation in Lesotho is small but implements very interesting projects in the water, energy and governance sectors. My political work in the delegation consisted mainly of following and analyzing current events in the country as well as in the region. The country itself has beautiful landscapes with amazing mountain ranges, accessible on horses, and the friendliest people in the world.

To sum up, the JPD experience has given me so much more than I hoped for; the experience of working in three different countries, meeting new people but also acquiring a new set of skills I never anticipated acquiring while studying.



*Seb as part of the EU team at the Corporate Challenge*