

Eurasia Programme Seed Money 2015



1 INVITATION

The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education («SIU») is pleased to invite Norwegian institutions of higher education to apply for seed money, to fund preparatory visits and development of project proposals for long-term projects in the Eurasia Programme.

The Programme is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the period 2015 to 2020.

The Programme supports collaboration projects with higher education institutions in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. If other aspects of competing applications are considered equal, preference may be given to projects including partners in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia.

The overall objective of the Programme is to contribute to renewal and internationalisation of higher education in the cooperating countries, as a means to provide a basis for political and economic reforms, stimulate to a sustainable development, increase the level of education in the population and increase respect for human rights.

This call is open for short-term preparatory visits and development of project proposals. **Applications for seed money are accepted from the date of announcement to 1 September 2015.** Activities must take place in the period from the day of funding allocation to 26 October 2015.

The aim of the call is to improve the quality of applications for Eurasia long-term project cooperation with a project period from 1 March 2016 to 31 December 2019. **The final deadline for submitting long-term applications is Monday 26 October, at 15:00 Norwegian time (CET).**

Below you will find more information on the primary focus of the Programme, eligibility requirements and selection criteria, and an outline of the administrative process of project selection under the Programme.

2 MAIN OBJECTIVE AND FUNDING FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAMME

2.1 The primary objectives of the Programme

The primary objectives of the Programme are to contribute to:

- development of strong and lasting institutional partnerships through academic collaboration between higher education institutions in Norway and the cooperating countries;
- regional collaboration between higher education institutions in the cooperating countries;
- development and implementation of study programmes that are considered relevant to the needs in the cooperating countries, i.a. for the labour market;
- more research-based and internationally oriented education at the institutions in the cooperating countries, promoting a high level of student activity;
- improved links between higher education and the public and private sectors in the cooperating countries;
- improvements in university management, including implementation of reforms related to the Bologna process;
- more awareness, interest and knowledge about the cooperating countries at Norwegian institutions of higher education;
- increased mobility of students and staff between the cooperating countries and Norway.

2.2 Individual project funding and primary project focus

Projects may be awarded up to NOK 100 000. The main purpose is to fund visits between the partner institutions, to facilitate the preparation of high-quality project proposals for Eurasia long-term collaboration.

For priorities and requirements for Eurasia long-term project proposals, please see the Eurasia Call for proposals 2015.

Salary and salary compensation may constitute a maximum of 25 per cent of the total project budget, including social costs, but no additional overhead. Projects may include an administrative overhead cost of up to 7 per cent of the total budget, reflecting increased administrative expenses resulting from the project.

A total of NOK 1 500 000 is available in the call.

3 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

3.1 Formal eligibility requirements

In order to be eligible, applications must meet the following criteria:

- **The applicant** must be an accredited Norwegian institution for higher education, or an institution with accredited higher education programmes.
- **The main partner** must be an accredited institution for higher education in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Institutions in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan may be included as network partners only. The main partner institution must provide education programmes at a level equivalent to that offered at the Norwegian applicant institution.
- **Applications** must be written in the English language and be submitted fully completed, through [SIU's online platform for applications and reporting](#) (Espresso), latest within the call's final deadline.
- **The project activities** described in the application must be implemented between the date of funding acceptance and 26 October 2015.

Please note that failure to meet the above criteria will lead to rejection of the application.

3.2 Project selection criteria

The eligible applications' relative strength will be assessed on the degree to which they are deemed able to meet the following selection criteria:

- The likelihood that the seed money project will provide a project proposal which has a reasonable chance to get funding for a Eurasia long-term project;
- The degree to which implementation of the seed money activities will increase the likelihood of a project proposal which has a reasonable chance to get funding for a Eurasia long-term project. Partners who already have a history of collaboration must demonstrate clearly what will be the additional value of getting seed money funding, and why these activities could not be expected to have been carried out as part of previous project collaboration.
- The overall clarity, completeness and quality of the project description, including the quality of the project structure, alignment of proposed activities with budget allocations, demonstration of cost-efficiency, and identification and mitigation of potential risk factors.

Please note that these criteria correspond to various compulsory fields in the online Espresso application form, and that the application's ability to meet these relative criteria will be

assessed on the basis of the description provided in each such field. The project budget included in the application form should only include funds applied for through SIU.

In order to ensure coherence in the description of your project, please carefully read the relevant help texts in the online application form. Remaining questions may be directed to SIU.

4 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

4.1 Assessment of applications and response to applicants

Each application will be assessed by SIU on the basis of its individual merits with regard to the general selection criteria set out above item 3.2.

Allocation of support is dependent on the availability of funds at the time of application.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the application process no later than 14 days after submission of an eligible application.

4.2 Contracts and reporting obligations

Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Support from SIU, including Terms and Conditions.

SIU will pay out an amount covering the reported expenditures upon approval of the project final report and final accounts for the Project. No funds will be paid out in advance.

The Institution in Norway shall latest within 15 November 2015 provide SIU with a final project report and final accounts for the Project. The final project report shall include a description of the Project Results together with an assessment of the overall success of the Project. The Institution in Norway must, to the extent necessary, consult all involved partners in order to prepare complete reports. The report shall be delivered via SIU's online system "Espresso" (<http://espresso.siu.no>).

4.3 Contact information

For further information on the Programme or how to apply, please contact **SIU** via e-mail (eurasia@siu.no).