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CENTRAL PROJECT
MANAGEMENT
AGENCY

Fellowships to Belarusian lecturers, scientists, and PhD students at EU higher education and research institutions

EU4Belarus SALT

Questions and Answers

Question 1:

- a) *Can I apply to the programme if I have a Belarusian citizenship, but have not been politically persecuted?*
- b) *Are there any special provisions in this programme for applicants with disabilities?*

Answer 1 a:

- a) In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:
- be a natural person and
 - be a citizen of the Republic of Belarus and
 - reside in an EU member state or one of the Eastern partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) and
 - be current or former lecturer or scientist at a higher education institution or a research institution in Belarus, or a PhD student and
 - demonstrate that the applicant has been under threats, actual persecution /repression, or risks of threatening, persecution, repressions on political grounds (based on official protocols or other documents, such as reference letters issued by independent civil society organisations, human rights activists, members of Coordination Committee, etc.) and
 - be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action, not acting as an intermediary.

All the conditions must be met.

Answer 1 b:

- b) There are no special provisions in this programme for applicants with disabilities.

Question 2

What do I do if links to documents in the Submittable form do not open?

Answer 2

As the first measure to correct this we recommend using/trying a different Internet browser. One of the documents, namely the Budget, that is requested to be downloaded, filled in and uploaded back to the Submittable application form can be found on the Programme webpage. The only two documents which are embedded in the model Application form are the Declaration by the applicant and the Checklist for the full application form.

For your convenience, we include the links here:

Declaration >>> www.cpva.lt/data/public/uploads/2023/04/declaration_by_applicant.docx

Check-list>>> www.cpva.lt/data/public/uploads/2023/04/fellowships_checklist_upd.docx

Question 3

There is a risk statement made by Cara (the Council for At-Risk Academics) on February 16, 2022. It is suitable for the current “Fellowships to support to Belarusian lecturers, scientists, and PhD students under EU4Belarus- SALT” programme call?

Answer 3

Under the EU4Belarus programme “Fellowships to support to Belarusian lecturers, scientists, and PhD students under EU4Belarus- SALT” one of eligibility criteria is “to demonstrate that the applicant has been under threats, actual persecution /repression, or risks of threatening, persecution, repressions on political grounds (based on official protocols or other documents, such as reference letters issued by independent civil society organisations, human rights activists, members of Coordination Committee, etc.)”.

When the application is submitted, the Selection Committee will evaluate each application individually in its entirety considering all the documents and letters presented. It is not possible to make this assessment in advance.

Question 4

a) I have no documents to confirm the facts of repressions on political grounds except the evidence of my colleagues and the dean, who have already left the country. As the Belarusian authorities do not give the documents they have drawn up to me. Will the written evidence of my colleagues, who already live outside Belarus, be enough to confirm the pressure on me?

b) Is it possible to include the purchase of a laptop in the budget, as I will be moving to another country to work in case my application will be successful? I have a desktop computer; I will not be able to take it with me.

Answer 4

a) Under EU4Belarus- SALT programme one of eligibility criteria for fellowships is “to demonstrate that the applicant has been under threats, actual persecution /repression, or risks of threatening, persecution, repressions on political grounds (based on official protocols **or other documents, such as reference letters issued by independent civil society organisations, human rights activists, members of Coordination Committee, etc.**). Confirmation of what is described in the application is required. It is best if such approval comes from the groups listed. However, during the evaluation, it will be decided whether there is enough evidence to confirm if the person meets this criterion.

b) There is no special provision for any purchases or additional costs apart from the:

- Monthly fellowship (individual support grant) of EUR 1,860 for a maximum of 6 months;
- Annual round travel costs maximum EUR 275 for international trip to/from a city/country of residence and a city/ country of the host institution (the venue of the activity). Travel allowance shall be calculated as per Erasmus+ Distance calculator <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator>.

Question 5

I wonder if a fellowship could be arranged in more than one host institution (i.e. 3 months + 3 months) in

a) one EU member state?

b) more than one EU member state?

Answer 5

As long as the fellowship project happens in the EU member state, there is no limitation as to how to structure the action. However, please remember that the evaluation committee will assess the application according to the criteria provided in the Section “2.3 Evaluation and Selection of applications” in the

Guidelines for grant applicants: <https://www.cpva.lt/en/international-cooperation/calls-for-proposals/884/k80>

Question 6

What obligations must the applicant fulfill upon receiving a grant?

Answer 6

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:

- be a natural person and
- be a citizen of the Republic of Belarus and
- reside in an EU member state or one of the Eastern partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) and
- be current or former lecturer or scientist at a higher education institution or a research institution in Belarus, or a PhD student and
- demonstrate that the applicant has been under threats, actual persecution /repression, or risks of threatening, persecution, repressions on political grounds (based on official protocols or other documents, such as reference letters issued by independent civil society organisations, human rights activists, members of Coordination Committee, etc.) and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action, not acting as an intermediary.

Please see the Guidelines for grant applicants for more information:

<https://www.cpva.lt/en/international-cooperation/calls-for-proposals/884/k80>

If the application is successful and the applicant gets a decision to receive a grant, he/she then will communicate with the CPMA and will have to sign the Standard grant contract. All terms and conditions will be stipulated in the Special conditions and annexes of the grant contract. The templates of this document and the following annexes could be found on the right hand side of the webpage:

<https://www.cpva.lt/en/international-cooperation/calls-for-proposals/884/k80>

Among other conditions, the fellowship receiver will have to submit the financial and narrative reports (signed by the supervisor of the fellowship at the host institution), and reflect the achievements against the goals set for the fellowship period.

Question 7

Are there any restrictions or requirements related to the applicant's place of residence after receiving the grant?

Answer 7

After receiving the grant, i.e. after having signed the Standard grant agreement, the fellow has to implement the planned fellowship at the host institution indicated in the grant agreement signed, which has to be in the EU member state country.

There is **no** restriction of the fellow's place of residence after the Fellowship is over and all the obligations stipulated in the grant contract are met.

Question 8

Can I apply for a grant in the following situation: as an ex-associate professor at X University and an independent literary researcher, I am collaborating with colleagues from the Y University who would like to invite me to an internship, which is important for working on a doctoral dissertation, a scientific the professor of this university will be the consultant. Colleagues from Y are ready to make an official paper, as the conditions of the grant require, i.e. to apply as an inviting organization, however, the university does not have the possibility to finance the project. In this case, can I submit documents for a grant for full financing from EU4Belarus SALT, and is there a special application form that must be provided by the inviting organization?

Answer 8

Fellowships to Belarusian Lecturers, Scientists, and PhD Students at EU Higher Education and Research Institutions under the EU4Belarus SALT is an individual fellowship grant. You can submit your application for research work which leads towards your doctoral dissertation. However, there is no special provision to pay any overheads to the inviting organization, if this is your question. Under the Standard grant contract all funds will go to the fellowship receiver that is to your account.

The eligible direct costs may include only the following:

- Monthly fellowship (individual support grant) of EUR 1,860 for a maximum of 6 months;
- Annual round travel costs maximum EUR 275 for international trip to/from a city/country of residence and a city/ country of the host institution (the venue of the activity). Travel allowance shall be calculated as per Erasmus+ Distance calculator <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator>

There is no special form for the inviting organization. The invitation letter may be in free form, but should come on a letterhead of the university, properly signed, should clearly indicate your name and the period of stay, as well as what tasks/work you will be doing.

Question 9

I am a doctoral student at X University. I have a letter of support from X organization in Lithuania in Lithuanian language, which I received when I applied for a visa.

1. Can I use it as confirmation of the repressions against me? Do I need to translate this letter into English?

2.1. If I understand correctly, the host organization for this project cannot be the university where I am currently studying?

2.2. If not, can one of the Polish Universities be the host?

3. What report do they have to provide as a host on the results of my internship?

Answer 9

1. The requirement for the language of the documents submitted with the application is that they should be in one of the official languages of the European Union.

Where these documents are in an official language of the European Union other than English, it is strongly recommended, in order to facilitate the evaluation, to provide a translation of the relevant parts of the documents, proving the applicant's eligibility, into English or Russian.

2.1. As indicated in the Guidelines for grant applicants, applicants may NOT request grant assistance for: fellowships at the same higher education institution or research centre where an applicant has been employed or was a doctoral student in the past 12 months.

2.2. Universities or research institutions in the EU countries can serve as Fellowship hosts (including Poland).

3. At the end of the fellowship, the fellowship receiver, not the host institution, will have to submit a Final Narrative report (Annex V of the Standard grant agreement). You can find this document here:

<https://www.cpva.lt/en/international-cooperation/calls-for-proposals/884/k80>). The Final Narrative report must be approved by the supervisor of the host institution of the fellowship project.

Question 10

Will the recommendation letter from a public organization that focuses on personal situations be enough to confirm the fact of repressions? Is the letter from human rights organization only acceptable?

Answer 10

Under EU4Belarus- SALT programme one of eligibility criteria for fellowships is “to demonstrate that the applicant has been under threats, actual persecution /repression, or risks of threatening, persecution, repressions on political grounds (based on official protocols or other documents, such as reference letters issued by independent civil society organisations, human rights activists, members of Coordination

Committee, etc.). Confirmation of what is described in the application is required. It is best if such approval comes from the groups listed. However, only during the evaluation, it will be decided whether there is enough evidence to confirm if the person meets this criterion.

Question 11

I am a researcher from Belarus currently working and residing in Poland.

I have just found out about the program EU4Belarus SALT and am interested in applying.

I am just wondering if I meet all the eligibility criteria described in the requirements for applicants.

It is told on the Program's website that evidence of political persecution by the Belarusian authorities should be provided. I don't have such proof of "official", or formal persecution since in my case it was mostly about informal pressure...

Instead, I can provide evidence of my participation in the protest movement, my activity on social media, and my condemnation of the falsification of the results of the 2020 elections, the suppression of civic activity, mass repressions, and later - drawing Belarus into the war of Russia against Ukraine.

...Does it make sense for me to apply, given the circumstances I have now?

Answer 11

Please look at the response to Q4 a).

Question 12

How should the Declaration by the applicant be completed if the activities planned by the applicant have no other sources of funding? What should I write instead of "<list source and amount and indicate status (i.e. applied for or awarded)>"?

Answer 12

If there are no other sources involved, you could write "none" or leave it as it is.

Question 13

Where can I find the contents of Section 2.6.10.1 of the practical guide referred to in the Declaration by the applicant?

Answer 13

In the ePRAG under Basic rules you can find a section of 2.6.10.1.1. EXCLUSION CRITERIA FROM PARTICIPATION IN PROCUREMENT AND GRANT PROCEDURES

<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/2.+Basic+rules>

Question 14

- a) **Is it possible to submit an account opened by another person, not the applicant, and change the account in case of receiving a grant later?**
- b) **Is it possible to provide a PayPal account opened in Europe instead of a European bank account?**

Answer 14

- a) No, it is not possible to submit an account in another person's name.
- b) The accounts presented should be in the format of IBAN.

Question 15

Is it possible to apply planning to write an article to a peer reviewed journal and not planning any other activities?

Answer 15

It depends on how you plan and present your action as a project, how you raise goals and measure incremental achievements. You would still need to have an affiliation with a host institution who would invite you and have a colleague there who would serve in a supervisory role and would be able to sign off your reports.

For further ideas on how to construct your application, please take a look at the *Guidelines for applicants'* section 2.3 EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS. You will see what evaluation parameters will be applied by the Selection Committee.

Question 16

In the absence of a visa, it is not possible to open an account at a European bank. Is it possible to submit an account statement in August in case of receiving a grant?

Answer 16

There is a special waiver to submit a FIF together with the application form for applicants residing in Belarus. This question will be discussed at the time of signing the contract, if successful.

Please see note to correction- **Corrigendum** to the Guidelines for applicants on the webpage:

<https://www.cpva.lt/en/international-cooperation/calls-for-proposals/884/k80>

Question 17

- 1. I am an art historian, Ph.D. My inviting organization could be the Museum X in Y country. Please tell me what kind of scholarship result is needed. Will my internship in the art department of the Museum be enough? Or will I have to provide, for example, the materials of a scientific article?**
- 2. I have a multiple entry Schengen visa. With this visa, I can stay in the Schengen countries for 90 days in half a year. Until the start of the scholarship, I can spend part of these days. How should I proceed in this case? Is it possible to apply for a national visa of the country in which the host organization is located (the country is part of the Schengen)?**
- 3. I live in Belarus. I do not have a bank account in the countries of the European Union. Will I be able to receive funds to the account of a relative who lives in the European Union?**
- 4. Will I receive funds for travel, rent, and other expenses at the start of the scholarship? Will I receive all the requested money at the beginning of the internship, or will I receive some of it as a result of the scholarship?**

Answer 17

1. Firstly, the Call invites applications to have a Fellowships at EU higher education or research institutions. It would be advisable to verify if the Museum has a research department and engages in research activity to qualify for an inviting institution. The output of your Fellowship/internship depends on your description of the goals that you set up for your stay in the application proposal.
2. The contracting authority CPMA cannot provide advice regarding visas. It is the task of an applicant to find out these details individually.
3. Please see the answer to Q14 and Q16.
4. Payment of the Fellowship will be made at the end of each month spent after submitting confirmation of stay from the host institution (Annex VII). You will have to pre-advance your first month.

There are model documents on the webpage: please see the payment conditions in Standard grant contract (Special conditions) and Annex II.

Please also see answer to Q8 (the allocated amount of 1860 EUR per month will have to cover all the expenses needed, plus one time return international travel allowance received at the end of the Fellowship).

Question 18

Can I combine work at the faculty of the University of X with the realization of the grant - at the same time as fulfilling the duty of conducting lectures?

I could plan the implementation of the grant "Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus - SALT)" for a period between January and July 2024. In the 2nd semester, I have minimal responsibilities in terms of giving lectures - once every 2 weeks, on weekends. The rest of the time I could devote to work within the framework of the grant."

Answer 18

Unfortunately, Fellowship cannot happen at the same university where the applicant is employed: Guidelines for applicants, point 2.1.2.: "fellowships at the same higher education institution or research centre where an applicant has been employed or was a doctoral student in the past 12 months". If your Fellowship will happen at another university in X country and you will manage to combine implementation of the proposal with a few lectures at the University of Y, it is not impossible.

In the Guidelines for applicants, point 2.1.2. states that "Fellowships are expected to start from 1st October 2023 and be completed by 1st August 2024." Any time period of 3-6 months in this span of time is eligible.

Question 19

One of the mandatory requests is a financial identification form (FIF) attached as Annex IV of these guidelines, certified by the bank to which the payments will be made. This bank should be in the country where the applicant resides (in one of the eligible residence countries, outside Belarus). If I am currently in Belarus, what should I do and how can I obtain such a document?

Answer 19

Please see the answer to Q16.

In addition, you may discuss this matter with your host institution to see if they would provide support for you, if your application is successful.

Question 20

Do you plan to organize one more information session? I have a question regarding an Invitation letter. Should it be a letter provided by the professor inviting, or by the Department | signed by Rector (as an official Hosting Agreement)

Answer 20

There will be no more information sessions arranged for this Call.

The invitation letter should be a formal letter on an institutional letterhead with the duration of your stay, host department, and clearly visible signatures, names and titles of the people who sign it. The procedure may vary from institution to institution.

Question 21

1. Can the research centre where I received my research scholarship in the past 12 months be the hosting institution (I has not been employed there and was not a doctoral student)?

2. Is it possible to sent a list of research/scientific/other publications and articles released in the last five years as attached file.

Answer 21

1. It is not entirely clear in what capacity you were related to the centre to answer you more specifically. The general Guidelines for applicants state in 2.1.2.: “fellowships at the same higher education institution or research centre where an applicant has been employed or was a doctoral student in the past 12 months” are not eligible.
2. Yes, it is possible to send the list of publications as a separate file attached to and submitted together with the application form.

Question 22

Can the hosting institution be a research center where the applicant plans to work.

Answer 22

The contracting authority will be signing a contract with successful applicants based on the current information received. It will not be following the employment plans of a scholar after the Fellowship is completed.

Question 23

I have some questions about Annex-b budget as it is not self-explanatory. Where can I find the definitions of Volunteers’ work and In-kind contributions? Is it about my work on the project as a volunteer or is it about seeking some external volunteers who will help me?

Answer 23

While filling in the budget form Annex-B, you have only two categories to fill in- monthly fellowship allowance (6.1) and the international travel cost (2.1). You do not need any other boxes to fill, because only the mentioned two categories are eligible costs for this grant.

Ended on June 19, 2023.