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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.