



Call for applications: Grants for university teams from the South Caucasus and Central Asia

The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs is pleased to announce a new project supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: 'Research Beyond the Ivory Tower: Policy and Communications Training for University Teams'.

Aim and content

The aim of the project is to increase the capacity of **university professionals** to participate in and set the agenda for public debate. The project will award research grants (100,000 NOK) to selected research teams and sponsor the participation of these teams in three rounds of training/networking events.

Research teams will consist of

- a university lecturer as project leader and
- up to three others (including at least one advanced graduate student/PhD student).

Team members should all be based in the region. The selected teams will be assigned a project mentor who will be involved throughout the project.

The project includes a six-day advanced training workshop in Oslo in late January 2014, short mid-term meetings in Tbilisi and Almaty in June 2014 and a concluding final workshop in Oslo in January 2015. Participation in the workshops is *mandatory*. Please do not apply if foreseeable work or personal commitments may prevent you from attending (there will be a new call in March 2015).

Relevant research topics

The research grant is to be used to carry out rigorous and policy relevant original research on a proposed topic related to policy challenges facing participants' home countries including but not limited to:

- human rights and democracy (including nationalism, inter-ethnic relations, gender, human trafficking and civil society development)
- sustainable development and climate
- energy governance and policy (petroleum and renewable)
- relations between Eurasian countries regionally and to international actors and regimes.

Progress plan

Selected applicants must submit the results of this research in the form of a 15-20-page scientific article (max. 8,000 words) and a 4-5 page long policy brief (max. 2,000 words) in either English or Russian. Deadlines are as follows:

- 1 October 2014: project teams submit finalized article and brief to the project organizers for review.
- By 15 November 2014: Project mentors provide feedback on submitted texts.
- By 15 December 2014: Launch of policy briefs in individual countries by participating project teams
- 31 December 2014: Deadline for submitting revised articles to peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Eligibility

The project will involve up to 10 research teams from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In addition,



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individual applications from Turkmenistan will be accepted. We strongly encourage female researchers to apply.

Selection will be based on quality and policy-relevance of the proposed research project, quality and composition of the research team and the clear identification of realistic yet ambitious project aims that match the funds allotted.

Application process

To apply for the project, team leaders should fill out the application form (below) in either English or Russian. Application materials should be sent as one integrated word or PDF document (including CVs). The actual application, including research question, methodology, plan of work (milestones), and projected budget must not exceed two pages, the individual CVs of the team members not more than one page each.

All applications submitted by **28 October 2013** will be considered. Late applications and applications longer than two pages (excluding CVs) will not be considered.

Please note: This is a two-step application process. The most promising teams will be contacted with details about the second stage, where they will be asked to submit a longer project description, relevant publications by the project team and a more detailed budget, as well as a letter of support from their home institution.

Applications and any queries as well as all project related correspondence should be sent to NUPI at bit@nupi.no.

Application forms are downloadable from:

<http://english.nupi.no/Activities/Projects/Research-Beyond-the-Ivory-Tower-Policy-and-Communications-Training-for-University-Teams>