

EUR/ACE Democracy Outreach/Alumni Fund

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Office of the Coordinator for U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (EUR/ACE) announces new guidelines for the FSA and SEED-funded Democracy Outreach/Alumni Program. This program will allow posts to provide expanded support for USG alumni activities and to reach out to related groups. Each year FSA funds are allotted to post with other public diplomacy post-administered funds, while SEED funds are available from a regional account. The SEED regional funds will be held by EUR/ACE and will be allocated to post as individual awards are approved by EUR/ACE and EUR/PPD. For FSA projects, all program expenditures must be approved by EUR/ACE and SCA/PPD. For SEED projects, all expenditures must be approved by EUR/ACE and EUR/PPD, prior to obligation.

The EUR/ACE Democracy Outreach/Alumni Fund is used to maintain U.S. contact with alumni and encourage networking among alumni and their colleagues in fields that promote democratic advancement and economic reform. The program allows posts to (1) provide grants to indigenous organizations that have USG alumni as members or to individual alumni for activities that support democratic advancement and economic reform; or (2) directly program alumni and democracy activities/events through the Embassy. Alumni and recipients of all USG-funded exchange and training programs, including past participants of post-administered programs such as Democracy Commission, ECA, USAID, USDA Cochran and FEP exchanges, Department of Commerce SABIT trainings, and those of other implementers, as well as other target groups with an alumni connection are eligible. The program will be administered directly by Public Affairs Offices with oversight and technical review from SCA/PPD.

ECA Alumni Support: The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) will continue to support the alumni website, alumni.state.gov, and will offer training courses for alumni coordinators and other interested FSOs and FSNs. Post is encouraged to support alumni registration for the site. ECA is also involved in reviewing alumni proposals to EUR/ACE as necessary.

Purpose

The purposes for the EUR/ACE Democracy Outreach/Alumni Fund are to provide alumni with networking opportunities; to further the professional development of alumni and their colleagues; to foster posts' engagement with alumni; to multiply our investment in alumni by assisting them to implement and disseminate the concepts learned during exchange programs; and to maintain contact with alumni to enable long term evaluations of exchange programs. Funds may be used for the following:

- To initiate a public or community service program;
- To provide support for alumni association events;
- To organize training programs or conferences for professional colleagues and/or other alumni;
- For travel grants of Eurasian citizens within Europe and Eurasia, including for regional alumni events;
- To provide cost-sharing for international travel to U.S.;
- To provide continued funding for existing alumni centers, and minimal start-up costs for alumni associations;
- To organize and plan networking events;
- To develop and publish curricula, textbooks, or related reference or educational materials;
- To publish public information pamphlets or brochures on topics that further USG assistance goals; and
- To conduct other projects that support democratic and economic reform initiatives.

Food and refreshments costs for conferences and networking events are allowable up to 10% of the total project costs. Cost sharing with recipient alumni organizations is strongly encouraged. Materials published under these grants must be reviewed and approved by the Embassy prior to dissemination.

Reporting

Posts will maintain separate cuff records of obligation of FSA or SEED funds and provide regular reporting of events to EUR/ACE and the appropriate PPD office.

REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

All activities must be approved by EUR/ACE; activities/projects with program costs over \$3,000 should be reviewed and approved by EUR/ACE and EUR/PPD or SCA/PPD for SEED and FSA funding respectively. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis for Eurasian posts. EUR/ACE will issue a call for SEED proposals twice each fiscal year. No funds may be obligated without approval by EUR/ACE. Applications and proposals should be sent to EUR/ACE Renata Dogan.

The Application

A template developed by EUR/ACE for this proposal summary is available. EUR/ACE will email the template to all posts in November. Proposals should be two pages maximum, and include:

- Executive Summary of Project
- Background/Description of Individual/Organization
- Program Goals and Description
- Post Justification
- Detailed Budget
- Project Dates
- Description of previous alumni or other USG grants

Program Coordination

Public Affairs Officers should make a concerted effort to reach out to other USG agencies, other posts in region, and implementers in program planning and advertisement of grant opportunities. EUR/ACE encourages regional programming among posts, especially in the Balkans, in so far as the SEED and FSA restrictions allow.

Program Flexibility

EUR/ACE is not setting a strict upper limit on grant amounts, but advises that grants of \$3,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for organizations should be viewed as a rule-of-thumb limit. Post may set further limits or set further criteria at its discretion.

Please consult with the EUR/ACE, EUR/PPD, or SCA/PPD regarding any special initiatives or circumstances involving Democracy Outreach funds. We would like to be as responsive as possible to post needs. We are also open to post comments and suggestions about the program and its administration.

Keep in Mind

EUR/ACE strongly encourages post to submit proposals for winter and spring activities.

Please contact Tyra Bailey in SCA/PPD, Renata Dogan in EUR/PPD and/or Dean Fischer in EUR/ACE with any questions or concerns regarding the program. Thanks and regards. EUR/ACE.