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CENTRAL PROJECT
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AGENCY

**Fellowships to Belarusian lecturers, scientists, and PhD students
at EU higher education and research institutions
EU4Belarus SALT II**

Questions and Answers

Question 1:

Am I correct in understanding that only a university can be used for an internship? For example, I work in a Lithuanian NGO and I can apply for an internship in a Polish university? Including if I am a doctoral student at this university?

Answer 1:

The answer to your question is in the title of the action: *Fellowships to Belarusian lecturers, scientists, and PhD students at EU higher education and research institutions under the Programme support to advanced learning and training (EU4Belarus SALT II)*. Your host institution has to be a higher education institution or a research centre. A Polish university can be your host.

Section 2.1.2. The *Guidelines for applicants* states:

The following types of action are ineligible, applicants may **NOT** receive grant assistance for:

- actions concerned only with participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, and congresses.
- actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses.
- 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 and/or** at the institution of current employment.
- multiple fellowship awards at the same time.

This is a mobility action. You cannot receive a Fellowship to stay at the university where you are a PhD student.

Question 2

I work in a Belarusian NGO in Vilnius, which was liquidated in Belarus and was recognised as extremist. Can I apply from my NGO to one of the European universities for an internship?

Answer 2

Pls. see the answer to Q1.

Any action planned has to be negotiated with the potential host.

Question 3

If I am a doctoral student at a Polish university, can I apply for an internship at my own university?

Answer 3

Please see the answer to Q1.

Question 4

In the last rejection I was told that I did not have enough "persecution", which was extremely unpleasant to hear. I have international protection status in Poland, is this a sufficient argument?

Answer 4

Section 2.1.1. Eligibility of applicants states that applicants must:

- demonstrate that the applicant has been under threats, suffered from actual persecution /repression, or risks of threatening, persecution, repressions on political grounds (based on official protocols or other documents).

If evidence of persecution by the Belarusian authorities on the political grounds is unavailable, letters of reference confirming the fact of dismissal, prosecution/threat of repressions on political grounds provided by organisations and/or representatives of civil society (e.g., human rights organizations, diaspora organisations etc.) can be provided.

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 important to provide evidence of dismissal, persecution or risks of persecution by the Belarusian authorities on the political grounds. It is not possible to make this assessment in advance.

Question 5

As part of this programme I also plan to participate in a summer school in Oxford, but they have not opened enrolment there yet. How do I indicate this in my application and budget?

Answer 5

The design of the project is entirely the responsibility of the applicant and have to be discussed and approved by the host university. 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/k82>

In terms of budget calculation, the eligible direct costs may include only the following:

- Daily fellowship (individual support grant) of EUR 62 for a maximum 310 days (no more than 10 months)

This allowance has to cover all needs during the implementation of the Fellowship project.

Question 6

In the line "Location(s) of the action: specify country and the institution where the action takes place" should it be one country and the university or can it be all countries and institutions visited?

Answer 6

As long as the fellowship project happens in the EU member state, there is no limitation on how to structure the action. However, the multiple locations that you plan to visit have to make perfect sense in terms of the project design.

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/k82>

Question 7

My application was not successful in the first EU4Belarus SALT Fellowship competition, but it is on the reserve list, which is valid until December 31, 2023...

I would be grateful if you could provide me with information on whether these two competitions are connected or if participation in the new competition requires a new application for EU4Belarus SALT II.

Answer 7

The two EU4Belarus SALT and SALT II Fellowships are separate competitions and are funded by two separate EU programmes. If you were unsuccessful in the first competition, you can apply to the second. The "reserve" status will expire on the 31st of December 2023.

If by that time, your first application under SALT, which is on the reserve list, receives nomination for an award (as additional funding becomes available), but you have submitted the application to the second competition under SALT II, you will have to choose which application you would like to move forward with. Remember that at this time your second application will be in the process of selection.

In the Guidelines for applicants, section 2.1.2 Eligible actions states:

- The following types of action are ineligible, applicants **may NOT** receive grant assistance for:
- actions concerned only with participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, and congresses.
- actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses.
- 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 and/or at the institution of current employment.
- **multiple fellowship awards at the same time.**

Question 8

I would also like to clarify the information on "Annex III: Budget (Excel format)" - On the main page this excel table (if you download it) is encrypted.

If the same table is downloaded from the section "The link to the submission is SUBMIT APPLICATION", the tables are different.

Could you please clarify what the difference is and where can I find the final document?

Answer 8

This is a very valid point and CPMA staff is grateful for this observation.

Currently, the links are corrected, and the Submittable application contains a valid link.

<https://www.cpva.lt/en/international-cooperation/calls-for-proposals/884/k82>

Question 9

I did not find information about the requirements for host institutions (as far as I understood there should be a host institution). For example, I live in Lithuania - does it mean that the host institution must be in another country, not in Lithuania? Is it a mandatory requirement that I should not have any official relationships with the host institution at the moment of proposal submission?

Answer 9

Part of the answer is in Q1. There is no requirement for the host university/research center to be in a different country than your country of residence. But it cannot be 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** and/or at the institution of current employment.

You have to be in contact with your host institution, because one of the requirements for the application is an Invitation letter from your host university/research center.

Question 10

Could you indicate universities (e.g. in Poland) to apply for the fellowship in the field of International Business?

Answer 10

On page 7 of the Guidelines for applicants under Section 2.1.2. "Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made" you will find:

Types of activity

- fellowship actions for academic exchange at higher education institutions to improve professional experience in the field of interest, as well as collaborate with academic colleagues, develop a course or curriculum, teach, or give guest lectures and presentations.
- fellowship actions for research in a specific field at a higher education institution or a research centre, including time in libraries and archives, field work (data collection); this may include international collaboration leading to peer reviewed articles.
- fellowship actions for non-paid internships at a higher education institution or a research centre.

The contracting authority shall not engage in facilitation of the fellowship process or placement.

Question 11

If I have now received a scholarship EU4Belarus (SALT) -and am on it, can I apply for the same program next year? Or is this impossible to do, since I have already taken advantage of the capabilities of this program?

Answer 11

It is not impossible. But a few elements in the eligibility requirements have changed. Please make sure that you qualify.

The important thing to keep in mind is that the two fellowships cannot overlap. Pls see p.7 of the Guidelines for applicants.

Please see Q7.

Question 12

Can I take part in the second edition of the EU4Belarus SALT Programme having received a research grant in the first edition? On the moment of the deadline 15.12.2023 I will not have started the realization of my research programme (it lasts 5 months from March 2024).

Answer 12

Please see the answer to Q11.

Question 13

'Fellowships [are not possible] 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' How do you count this 12 months -- from the deadline of the application (i.e. 12 months before 15 Dec 2023), or 12 months before the planned start of the fellowship (i.e. if I start on 1 September 2025, then there should be no employment in this institution 12 months prior to this date, i.e. from 1 Sep 2024).

Answer 13

There should be 12 months before the planned start of the fellowship.

Question 14

Is there a formal prohibition to apply to EU4Belarus SALT II for those people, who applied successfully to EU4Belarus SALT I program?

Answer 14

Please see the answer to Q11.

Question 15

<p>From the guidelines, I understood that ALL costs of the grant should be covered by daily fellowship allowance (62 euros per day). Does it mean that even tickets and other travel expenses should be covered from the daily fellowship? If so, such mobility grant does not have large sense, since there is no 'mobility' here ...</p>
<p>Answer 15 We appreciate your candidness. However, there are no other financial provisions planned except for the daily allowance mentioned. Following previous experience, requests for travel costs have not been frequent.</p>
<p>Question 16 Is it possible to split the fellowship on several periods of staying in the host institute? (not exceeding the maximum period allowed)</p>
<p>Answer 16 The design of the project is entirely the responsibility of the applicant. You will have to present a coherent and well-developed project. Split periods should be logically justified, especially if they demonstrate logical necessity of visits/stays at more than one institution. If you cannot spend extensive time on a fellowship for personal reasons, maybe you should plan for a shorter term. As per Guidelines to applicants (page 6) under the Section 2.1.2. "Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made": "Fellowships may start from April 1, 2024, and be completed by June 30, 2025."</p>
<p>Question 17 How broad is the term "the same higher education institution" in this context? For example, the University of Lille includes different research institutions. In my case, can another research group within UGSF be considered as a different research institution? Or could it be a different research institute within the University of Lille? Or I cannot in principle consider a host institution if it has any relation to the University of Lille.</p>
<p>Answer 17 This is not a straightforward answer. The answer to your question could be best explained by looking at which legal entity employed you for the research period previously. If the University of Lille is considered the same legal entity regardless of its composition of various institutes, then this institution is not a good match for being a host for your Fellowship. Part of the idea behind the Fellowship is that scholars make additional professional contacts, meet new colleagues, and learn in new environments.</p>
<p>Question 18. I am a receiver of the SALT-I grant, at xxx University [...]. Can I apply for a SALT-II, to stay at the same institution (of course, for the period after the current grant, i.e. to start after 16 April, 2024 or later)?</p>
<p>Answer 18 See the answer to Q 11.</p>
<p>Question 19 It is specified that the grant is possible at the former institute of employment after the period of 12 months. Could you please specify how to count these 12 months? For instance, if I was employed at the institution in Poland until 30 May, 2023, does it mean that, if I get the SALT-II grant, I can start the fellowship at this institution sometime after 1 June, 2024?</p>
<p>Answer 19 Please see the answer to Q 13.</p>

Question 20

I have an account with paysera, a Lithuanian bank that has no physical branches. How can I confirm the financial information from the bank? Section: "With an attached statement, the stamp of the bank and the signature of the bank's representative are not required. The signature of the accountholder and the date are ALWAYS mandatory."

Answer 20

Applicants will have to fill in the FIF form (Financial Identification Form), which includes the required bank and account holder information.

If you can get a bank's stamp and signature on the FIF, nothing else will be required.

If the bank does not provide an opportunity to get a signature of representative and stamp, please log into your account, print the page with your name and account number visible and upload the bank statement alongside the FIF.

FIF has to be signed by the accountholder and the bank statement proves that account holder is indeed a customer in an indicated bank. Please make sure that the data on FIF and bank statement match, including the address of the bank branch.

Question 21

In your slides (https://www.cpva.lt/data/public/uploads/2023/11/november_15_fellowships-ii.pdf) and in the Guidelines for applicants you mention a "practical guide" which allegedly can be found online. Then you provide a very strange address (ePRAG - EXACT External Wiki - EN - EC Public Wiki (europa.eu)). europa.eu is a huge website with lots of practical guides. Please provide a direct link to the document.

Answer 21

The Practical Guide is indeed a very large document: ePRAG-EXACT External Wiki -EN -EC Public Wiki (europa.eu)

The most relevant part for you concerns grants:

<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/6.+Grants>

If you wanted to see the list of exclusions mentioned in the presentation, please go to sections 2.6.10.1 in the General rules: <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/2.+Basic+rules#id-2.Basicrules-2.6.10.Exclusion,selectionandawardcriteria>