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CENTRAL PROJECT
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**Fellowships to Belarusian lecturers, scientists, and PhD students
at EU higher education and research institutions 2024
EU4Belarus - SALT II**

Questions and Answers

Question 1:

Do I understand correctly that under the current call the location of the fellowship could be any EU country/city, including the current place of residence of the applicant?

Answer 1

Yes, the fellowship call allows for a fellowship in any EU country/city, including the applicant's current place of residence.

However, the fellowship call has a requirement of institutional mobility. According to the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2), applicants may not receive grant assistance for “*fellowships at the same higher education institution or research centre where an applicant has been an employee, a doctoral student, or a research fellow (regardless of its funding source) since August 2020.*” Therefore, if you plan to apply for a fellowship in your current place of residence, you must not have had any prior working or academic relationship with the proposed host institution since August 2020.

Question 2:

- a) *Can the National Museum in Warsaw be the host organization?***
- b) *Can I, living in Poland, apply to a Polish institution?***

Answer 2

- a) The Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2) require that actions take place “*in one of the accredited European higher education institutions and/or research institutions with an evidence-based track of academic history in the EU member states.*” If the National Museum has a research centre or a research department, which would meet the aforementioned requirements, it could potentially qualify as a host institution.
- b) Yes, it is not necessary to move to a different city/country for this fellowship call. Please look at the response to Q1 for more information.

Question 3:

I had to leave Belarus and am currently staying in Warsaw. Would selecting a host institution located in Warsaw conflict with the conditions of this call for proposals?

Answer 3

In short, if you live in Warsaw, a host institution in Warsaw is eligible as long as you have not had a prior working or academic relationship with that institution. You would not be eligible for the fellowship if you are or were an academic employee or had a fellowship in such a host institution. Please see the response to Q1 for more information.

Question 4:

I am currently finishing my work within the framework of the Fellowship „Support for Advanced Learning and Training – EU4Belarus-SALT II”. It ends in January 2025. In this regard, I have a question - can I apply for the next SALT competition?

Answer 4:

The Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2) state that applicants are not eligible for “a second or subsequent Fellowship from “Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT II)” Action for the same recipient.” Unfortunately, if your current fellowship is under the SALT II programme, you cannot apply for the current fellowship call. However, you may be eligible for the upcoming academic research grant call under the SALT III programme. Please monitor the website www.EU4Belarus/info for new announcements.

Question 5:

- a) I am currently residing in Switzerland. Would it be possible for me to apply? I left Belarus in May 2021, and I resided in different EU countries (Germany, Hungary, and Lithuania) from May 2021 until August 2024, when I moved to Switzerland. I would arrange that for the time of the scholarship I would be affiliated with an university in Germany.***
- b) Would it be in order if a German civil society organization (German Society for Eastern European Study, or DGO) would assess my level of a threat by the Belarusian regime? I relied on their expertise in this area already, and it would be easier for me to organize.***
- c) Right now, I am looking for a possibility to draft an English version of my book, which was published this year in German. It means, this would be not original research per se. At the same time, it won't be a simple translation of the German original, since for my book to appear with a reputable publishing house in UK or US, major revisions in terms of its content and style are required. Would such a project be eligible for funding within your program?***

Answer 5:

- a) According to the Corrigendum published on the CPVA [website](#), the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2) require that applicants must “*reside in an EU member state, a member of the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom or one of the Eastern partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)*”. As a result, if your current place of residence is Switzerland, you are eligible to apply. Please also keep in mind the additional eligibility requirements that require the fellowship to take place in person in European higher education institutions and/or research institutions with an evidence-based track of academic history in the EU member states.
- b) The Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.2.1) outline that “*If evidence of persecution by the Belarusian authorities on the political grounds is unavailable, letters of reference confirming the fact of dismissal, persecution/threat of repressions on political grounds provided by organisations and/or representatives of civil society (e.g., human rights organizations, representatives of democratic political institutions, diaspora organisations etc.) may be accepted.*” You may submit a recommendation letter from a civil society organisation with your supporting documents. Any and all supporting documents, which would confirm any facts of persecution by the Belarusian authorities in any available language (English, Belarusian, Russian, Lithuanian, etc.) can be submitted and would be analyzed by CPVA and external assessors to confirm the compliance with the requirements, listed in the Guidelines. Whether the letter alone is enough will be determined by the Selection Committee during the eligibility check based on its content. The contracting authority is not in a position to provide a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants at this stage.
- c) You can find eligible types of activities outlined in the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2). It depends on how you plan and present your action as a project of academic exchange and collaboration, how you raise goals and measure incremental achievements. You would still need to have an affiliation with a host institution which would invite you, support your selected topic, defined efforts and intended deliverables, and have a colleague there who would serve in a supervisory role and would be able to sign your reports. Lastly, the fellowship covers the livelihood costs of the fellow, and therefore is not defined as “funding for a project”. While the applicant’s own expenses (usage of received funding) would not be monitored and checked, the fellowship funding is subject to the host institution’s signed confirmation that the applicant is performing the fellowship as defined in the invitation letter. The contracting authority is not in a position to provide a prior opinion on the evaluation of applications.

Question 6:

Can I apply for the "Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT II)" programme if I already have Polish citizenship? I also have Belarusian citizenship.

Answer 6:

According to the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.1), the applicants must “be a citizen of the Republic of Belarus” with possible exemptions. Dual citizenships are not prohibited. As long as you have Belarusian citizenship, your Polish citizenship does not affect your application.

Question 7:

Please clarify, in this call for a grant program, a necessary condition is also moving to another city where the inviting university is located? Or can the inviting university be located in the same city where I live? Thank you.

Answer 7:

In short, moving to another city is not a mandatory requirement for this call but institutional mobility is required. Limitations apply, if you had an academic or employment relationship with the university in the same city as you live in prior to the planned fellowship. Please see the response to Q1 for more information.

Question 8:

The question concerns the Letter of Invitation. In the Guidelines for Applicants Section 2.2.1 point 2, it states 'This should include confirmation to support the visa process'. I have a category C visa issued by the German consulate. It expires at the end of June 2026. The host university is not located in Germany. Please clarify: should the host organisation prepare a temporary residence permit in this case or should a category D visa be obtained before the start of the internship? Should these nuances be described in the Letter of Invitation? Thank you in advance for your reply.

Answer 8:

If you do not currently hold a visa to stay in the EU, in the Letter of Invitation the host institution should confirm its support for your visa process, as this is a common basis for granting a visa. If you already hold an EU visa, which extends for the full period of fellowship and is not impacted by change of your residence country, this is not applicable to you. Regardless, the host institution may include a brief acknowledgment of your current visa status instead of supporting the visa process. However, please note that the contracting authority cannot advise on the specific category or type of visa required, as this depends on the regulations of the country where the host institution is located. We recommend that you contact your host institution or the relevant authorities to confirm whether your existing visa will suffice or if you need to apply for a different visa.

Question 9:

Good afternoon, I am currently completing research on the topic of "Anthropology of Occupation" under the EU4Belarus – SALT II program (ending on 01.01.2025). Can I submit a new application for the competition if the proposed research topic will significantly differ from the previous one?

Answer 9:

The Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2) state that applicants are not eligible for “a second or subsequent Fellowship from “Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT II)” Action for the same recipient.” Unfortunately, if your current fellowship is under the SALT II

programme, you are not eligible to participate in the current call regardless of any other criteria (e.g. different topic, different time periods, etc.). However, you may be eligible for the new [Academic Research Project Grants](#) call under the SALT III programme. Please monitor the website www.EU4Belarus/info for new announcements.

Question 10:

I work part-time as an adjunct at the university. Can I participate in the program?

Answer 10:

You cannot apply for a fellowship with a host institution if you have a working relationship with it. Please see the response to Q1 for more information.

Question 11:

I would like to clarify one of the conditions mentioned in the grant description: "Applicants may not receive grant assistance for fellowships at the same higher education institution or research centre where an applicant has been an employee, a doctoral student, or a research fellow (regardless of its funding source) since August 2020." After relocating from Belarus to Poland in 2024, I continued working on my project as an independent researcher. A month ago, I received the status of an "affiliated researcher" ("badacz afiliowany") at a university. However, I am not an employee of the university, a doctoral student, or a member of any department. Furthermore, my research does not have any sources of funding. At present, my affiliation with the university is essentially limited to access to library resources. Could you clarify if my status as an affiliated researcher would be considered a barrier to applying for the grant if this university is listed as the host institution?

Answer 11:

Based on the information you provided, your status as an "affiliated researcher" does not appear to fall under the eligibility restrictions listed in the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2). The restriction applies to a fixed-list of positions - *employees, doctoral students, or research fellows* at the host institution since August 2020. Since your role as an affiliated researcher is not included in these categories, you are likely eligible to apply. However, the contracting authority is not in a position to provide final confirmation on the eligibility of applications, as final decisions will depend on the evaluation process. We recommend that you provide the details about your situation that you listed here in your application.

Additionally, if the contracting authority or external assessors determine that your proposed research project is a continuation of work already initiated before signing the fellowship contract (e.g., research linked to your current affiliation with the university), this could lead to the rejection of your application.

If possible, it would be helpful if the host institution could confirm in their invitation letter that you have not held a formal position (employee, research fellow or doctoral student) with the institution

and that your proposed research project is dependent on the granting of fellowship and not your status of affiliated research.

Question 12:

I work at a university in Poland. Can I participate in the program while continuing to work at this university? If so, can the invitation be from another Polish university in another city?

Answer 12:

You cannot apply for a fellowship with a host institution if you have a working relationship with it. However, a different host institution in Poland or also in the same city could be eligible. Please see the response to Q1 for more information.

Question 13:

I would like to clarify, whether the deadline for applying for the program "Fellowships to Belarusian lecturers, scientists, and PhD students at EU higher education and research institutions 2024" has actually been extended? Since in the letter I see the deadline is January 15, 2025, but in the Guidelines for Applicants is "valid until: September 27, 2024". Thank you very much for your clarifications!

Answer 13:

The deadline to apply for this fellowship call is January 15, 2025, as also indicated in the Guidelines for Applicants. You may be referring to the previous Fellowship call from SALT I programme which had a deadline for September 27, 2024. Please refer to the CPVA [website](#) for the latest updated information about the current call under SALT II programme.

Question 14:

I'd like to ask for a clarification about this statement: "for applicants who had a fellowship in EU4Belarus SALT, their object of study must possess a clear distinct difference from the previous grant". If I had my previous fellowship EU4Belarus SALT researching romans of one writer, can I apply for EU4Belarus- SALT II with the research project about the romans of the same writer, but different aspect of the study?

Answer 14:

Based on the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2), the key criterion is that the research funded by the different fellowship grants must be different from each other. It can be acceptable if your proposed research project represents a new phase or builds upon your earlier research. It depends on how you describe your research object in your application. For example, when a second fellowship builds on the results of the first one, and a clear separation of efforts and results of the first and second fellowships is presented.

If the contracting authority or external assessors identify a risk of double funding (i.e., using the second fellowship to cover efforts or results already funded by the first), they may ask for additional clarification or reject the application outright. Please note that the contracting authority cannot provide prior opinion on the acceptance of your application, as this will depend on the evaluation process.

Questions 15:

The University that I am applying to for the internship issued me the letter of invitation signed by the person concerned in electronic form with digital signature according to their Regulation and EU 910/2014. So there is no paper version and it's not with the relevant university letterhead. Is it alright?

Answer 15:

There is no fixed form or template for the letter of invitation. Ideally, the letter should include the duration of your stay, research topic, types of activities you are to perform, host department, and clearly visible signatures, names and titles of the people who sign it. An electronic version with a digital signature is acceptable.

Question 16:

- a) The guidelines state: ‘Applicants may NOT receive grant assistance for (...) multiple EU-funded fellowship awards at the same time (or overlapping partial periods).’ Does this restriction apply to the grant within the ‘Community Building Initiatives under EU4Belarus Support to Advanced Learning and Training (SALT) programme’? (Right now, I am preselected within this programme.) If so, is it possible to avoid overlapping by planning the start of the new fellowship after the formal end of the initiative? (For example, the activity within the ‘Community Building Initiatives’ ends in July 2024; I indicate August 2024 as the start of a fellowship project. Would this be acceptable in terms of eligibility?**
- b) How recent must the ‘Financial Identification Form’ be? Is it acceptable if it is dated September 20, 2024? (In my bank, the confirmation of the FIF is on a paid basis, so I would like to avoid paying again if it is not strictly necessary.)**
- c) Just to make sure: does the ‘requirement of institutional mobility’ apply only to the period after 2020? If I was employed by an institution from 2013 to 2016, is there no problem if it is the host institution for this fellowship?**

Answer 16;

- a) The guidelines refer to overlapping **fellowship** awards. Since the community building initiative is not a fellowship grant, it does not affect your eligibility for this fellowship call. Minimizing the risk of potential double funding between the different activities in SALT and SALT II, it is advisable, that the object of the fellowship would be sufficiently different from the topic of the “Community Building Initiatives”.
- b) If you do not want the activities to overlap, you may choose August 2025 as the starting date of your fellowship and propose as such in the application. This would not be an obstacle to

submitting the application and have it reviewed, as long as the proposed completion of the fellowship is no later than August 31, 2026.

- c) The Financial Identification Form (FIF) should be as recent as possible: Please also note that a special paid FIF from the bank is not necessary. Based on the information of footnote 5 of FIF template, you can submit a bank statement (an extract from your e-banking system) confirming your FIF information instead of a bank stamp. Also, if you have questions regarding the form and content of the bank statement, you can submit the pre-filled FIF without the bank stamp or statement, and if the application is recommended for an award of the contract, you would be asked to submit these documents before the contract signature and/or first payment, with consultations from Contracting Authority of what is needed.
- d) Yes, institutional mobility is checked for the period after August 2020. Section 2.1.2. of the Guidelines provides such requirement: *“The following types of action are ineligible, **applicants may NOT receive grant assistance for [...] fellowships at the same higher education institution or research centre where an applicant has been an employee, a doctoral student, or a research fellow (regardless of its funding source) since August 2020**”*. Employment, which was completed before August 2020 is not a factor. Please look at the response to Q1 for more information.

Question 17:

I have a few questions that I hope you can help clarify to determine whether I am eligible to participate in the current competition

- a) *I had a SALT fellowship at the Jagiellonian University, Poland, which ended in August 2024. Would I meet the formal eligibility criteria to apply for the current call?*
- b) *Is there a specific process for submitting an application related to the completion of a dissertation? For instance, do applicants need to provide documentation confirming that they are actively working on their dissertation?*
- c) *What format should the letter from the host institution take?*
- d) *I currently work as a lecturer at EHU. Would it be acceptable for me a university in Lithuania, such as one in Vilnius, as my host institution? I appreciate your time and look forward to your response.*

Answer 17:

- a) Since your previous fellowship was under the SALT action (not SALT II), you are eligible to apply. The Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2) state that applicants are not eligible for *“a second or subsequent Fellowship from “Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT II)” Action for the same recipient.”*
- b) The Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2) define the types of activities allowed under the fellowship which includes research activities (such as working towards a dissertation). Please refer to the response to Q5 c) for more information. There is no need to provide specific documents confirming the dissertation with the application. However, if the applicant is a doctoral student, he/she must apply within this category and provide confirmation about enrolment for doctoral studies. It must be ensured that fellowship

activities are not performed in the same higher education institution where the applicant is a doctoral student.

- c) The Letter of Invitation should be a formal letter, signed by an authorized representative of the institution or its subdivision. There is no fixed form or template for this letter, the host institution is free to develop it in any form. Ideally, the letter should come on an institutional letterhead with the duration of your stay, research topic, types of activities you are to perform, host department, and clearly visible signatures, names and titles of the people who sign it. Please note that the procedure **may vary** from institution to institution.
- d) As long as it is a different institution from the one you have a working relationship, you are eligible to apply. The Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2) define types of ineligible actions whereas “*fellowships at the same higher education institution or research centre where an applicant has been an employee, a doctoral student, or a research fellow (regardless of its funding source) since August 2020*”. Please make sure that this criterion is followed. For further information regarding mobility, please look at the response to Q1.

Question 18:

Part 3.5. contain Applicant's experience and relevant awards (required) and Limit 1000 characters. My publications and achievements exceed the limit by 3 times. What is the right thing to do?

Answer 18:

For the application form, please select the most relevant publications and achievements for the call and your research topic. You can include all your publications in your academic CV.

Ended on December 31, 2024.