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## **Central Project Management Agency (Lithuania)**

### **EU4BELARUS:**

## **SUPPORT FOR ADVANCED LEARNING AND TRAINING (SALT III)**

### **Cost of living scholarship scheme for Master students Guidelines for applicants**

Deadline for submission of applications:

**30 June 2025 at 23:59 EET/UTC+ 2**

**Reference: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/444-419/PC-26461**





## 1. How to apply

<b>1. General Information about the Programme</b>	<p>In response to the political crisis following the presidential elections in Belarus, the European Union adopted the special measure “EU4Belarus: Solidarity with the People of Belarus” in December 2020 (hereinafter – EU4Belarus). Its overall objective is to contribute towards reinforcing resilience to achieve civic empowerment and sustainable economic growth in Belarus.</p> <p>As a part of the special measure, the separate programme “Support to Advanced Learning and Training” (hereinafter – SALT III) concerns the implementation of one of the special measure’s components targeting youth and education. SALT III continues the support provided by the EU4Belarus previous two programmes SALT and SALT II (hereinafter – SALT I and SALT II). Like the predecessor two SALT programmes SALT III provides support for a specifically designed scholarship/stipend scheme for Belarusian students who have been affected, persecuted or threatened by political regime.</p> <p>The scholarship/stipend scheme under the SALT III programme is administered by Central Project Management Agency (hereinafter – CPVA), based in Vilnius, Lithuania, and implemented in collaboration with Contact Points of the participating Member States (hereinafter - CP) and the Clearing House formed as a consortium of Belarusian Civil Society Organisations (hereinafter – CH).</p>
<b>2. Conditions and Scope of the Scholarship / Stipend</b>	<p>Complementing to offers by the EU member states, specifically Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland, to cover tuition costs, the scholarship scheme supports Belarusian students with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Monthly stipend to a master's degree student in a fixed amount of 550 EUR to cover living costs for studies in Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. It is to be paid for one academic year (for actual study period during the academic year): up to 10 monthly instalments per academic year at an educational institution.</li><li>- The number of scholarship months may be reduced in the case of double funding when more than one support channel from the European Union or other sources is used by the students in the same academic year for the same purpose, e.g. Erasmus+ programme, etc.</li></ul>



<b>3. Indicative budget of the call</b>	<p>The indicative budget is EUR 853 000.</p> <p>The indicative number of supported Master students: 150.</p> <p>If the funds allocated for this call for applications cannot be used due to insufficient number or quality of applications received, the CPVA reserves the right to allocate the remaining funds to extend master's studies for an additional academic year to the awarded applicants.</p>
<b>4. Eligibility and Selection Criteria</b>	<p>Eligible for the scholarship are Belarusian students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Be present or former citizen of Belarus<sup>1</sup>.</li><li>- Have undergraduate degree (bachelor).</li><li>- Have been expelled from a university in Belarus, threatened or persecuted on political grounds and have started or applied for full-time postgraduate study (master) programmes at universities in Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania, or Poland no earlier than the 2020/2021 academic year.</li><li>- Have a conditional or unconditional acceptance letter or have been already studying at postgraduate study (master) programme in a university based in Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania or Poland for the academic year 2025/2026.</li><li>- Have demonstrated personal motivation and capacity to start or continue and complete master's studies.</li></ul>
<b>5. Application Process</b>	<p>The application for the scholarship shall be submitted by filling in an online form published on the EU4Belarus website <a href="https://eu4belarus.info/">https://eu4belarus.info/</a> and CPVA website <a href="https://cpva.lt/en/calls-for-proposals">https://cpva.lt/en/calls-for-proposals</a> by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 23:59 EET/UTC+2 (Vilnius time).</p> <p>The applicants are requested to submit with the application documentary evidence proving compliance with the eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Evidence of persecution by the Belarusian authorities on political grounds; if unavailable, recommendation letter or further references to confirm the act of persecution.</li><li>- Conditional or unconditional acceptance at the university in one of the participating countries, Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania, or Poland. If neither available, correspondence with the university of choice.</li></ul>

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants, who lost or renounced their Belarusian citizenship after August 2020, or do not have valid Belarusian passport at the time of Application submission, must present documental evidence of valid Belarusian citizenship at the time of August 2020.



<b>6. Questions regarding the scholarship /stipend scheme</b>	For questions and consultations related to the guidelines for applicants and scholarship/stipend scheme implementation, please contact by email: <a href="mailto:EU4Belarus@cpva.lt">EU4Belarus@cpva.lt</a> .
<b>7. Career guidance and consultations</b>	For career consultations and guidance please, contact the HelpDesk by email: <a href="mailto:scholarship@eu4belarus.info">scholarship@eu4belarus.info</a>
<b>8. Complaints</b>	Any complaints can be submitted to the CPVA during the submission period by e-mail: <a href="mailto:EU4Belarus@cpva.lt">EU4Belarus@cpva.lt</a> .
<b>9. Transfer and processing of personal data (GDPR)<sup>2</sup></b>	Any personal data related to this support scheme, including its implementation, provided by the applicant shall be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. Such data shall be processed solely for the purposes of the assessing and processing of applications, management and monitoring of the scholarships, and collection of feedback about the cost-of-living student scholarship scheme.

## II. Evaluation of applications

<b>1. Decisions on Evaluation of Applications</b>	<p>Applications for scholarship will be assessed based on the information provided in the application form and additional evidence. The Selection Committee, involving 1 member from CH and 2 members from CPVA, makes decision upon the assessment results in the meetings. Decisions are recorded in the Minutes of the meeting. Independent external experts as observers may take part in the Selection Committee meetings without voting right.</p> <p>Tentatively, information about the results of the call will be released by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025.</p> <p>The scholarship award will be transmitted to the CPs in Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland, for the arrangement of financial transfers of the scholarships.</p>
<b>2. Selection of applications</b>	<p>The selection of scholarships for students for the academic year 2025/2026 is carried out in three stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Stage I: Assessment of the applicants' eligibility (political vulnerability; compliance of information provided in applications).</li></ul>

<sup>2</sup> General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\) – Legal Text](#)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Stage II: Assessment of the personal motivation and capacity (not applicable to the undergraduates (bachelor) awarded under SALT I and SALT II scholarship programmes).</li><li>- Stage III: Assessment of the applicants' eligibility (admission to the university).</li></ul>																														
2.1. Stage I	<p>The Stage I of the administrative and vulnerability assessment of the applicants' (political vulnerability; compliance of information provided in applications) shall be carried out by the CH. Each criterion shall be scored in line to the Evaluation Grid of Step I. CH may request the applicants for additional information or documents.</p> <p><b>Evaluation grid of Step 1</b></p> <table><tr><th>1. Political vulnerability</th><th>Score (max 6)</th><th>Comments</th></tr><tr><td>1.1 No evidence is provided.</td><td>0</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1.2 Preventative-departure; indirect repression.</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1.3 Administrative penalties; forced departure due to parental repression.</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1.4 Political prisoners/criminally prosecuted/refugees.</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><b>2. Compliance and correctness of information provided in applications (duly filled application)</b></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2.1 Poorly filled out application.</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2.2 Incomplete application.</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2.3 Complete application.</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><b>Total (1+2)</b></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The results of the assessment are presented to the Selection Committee in English:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- List of applications ranked according to the total score received disaggregated to the ones who received scholarship from SALT I and SALT II programmes and to the ones who are newcomers to the SALT programmes.</li><li>- List of applications that do not meet the criteria for political vulnerability.</li><li>- Comments on the scores awarded, as well as comments on any issues raised during the Step I assessment, if any.</li></ul>	1. Political vulnerability	Score (max 6)	Comments	1.1 No evidence is provided.	0		1.2 Preventative-departure; indirect repression.	1		1.3 Administrative penalties; forced departure due to parental repression.	2		1.4 Political prisoners/criminally prosecuted/refugees.	3		<b>2. Compliance and correctness of information provided in applications (duly filled application)</b>			2.1 Poorly filled out application.	1		2.2 Incomplete application.	2		2.3 Complete application.	3		<b>Total (1+2)</b>		
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	<p>The Selection Committee decides which applications advance to Stage II and which are rejected. The applicants who passed Stage I and received scholarship from SALT I and SALT II programmes are passed outright to the Stage III.</p>									
<p><b>2.2. Stage II</b></p> <p><i>Note: This stage is NOT applied to the applicants who received scholarship by SALT I and SALT II programmes.</i></p>	<p>The Stage II aims to assess the personal motivation and capacity of the pre-selected applicants. The Selection Committee will conduct individual interviews online with pre-selected applicants. This stage is NOT applied to the pre-selected applicants who received scholarship from SALT I and SALT II programmes.</p> <p>Preparing and conducting the interview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CH will invite the applicant to an online interview by email and send a link to the interview.</li><li>- The interview with individual candidates shall be held in English/Belarusian/Russian by interviewers appointed from the CH, CPVA or external experts. Interviews shall be scheduled in 20-minute intervals and should last approximately 15 minutes.</li><li>- At least two members of the Selection Committee shall participate in the interview. Members participating in the interview may not represent the same organization or all be independent experts.</li><li>- During the interview, the applicant's motivation is assessed based on responses to the questions under the Evaluation Grid for Step II giving a score for each response.</li><li>- If the applicant does not register within the time specified in the sent link or does not appear for the interview for justified reasons, such candidate may be rejected.</li></ul> <p><b>Evaluation grid of Step II</b></p> <p>Each 5 criteria will be given a score between 0 and 5 as follows: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.</p> <table><tr><th>Criteria</th><th>Score (max score 25)</th><th>Comments</th></tr><tr><td>1. <b>Strength of purpose.</b> Why does the applicant want to study at the chosen university?</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2. <b>Capacity to deliver results.</b> What are the academic interests of the</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table>	Criteria	Score (max score 25)	Comments	1. <b>Strength of purpose.</b> Why does the applicant want to study at the chosen university?	5		2. <b>Capacity to deliver results.</b> What are the academic interests of the	5	
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applicant? Has the applicant demonstrated persistence and conviction in the pursuit of his/her academic, professional, and/or personal goals?		
3. <b>Self-confidence and ability to overcome challenges and seize opportunities.</b> How has the candidate responded to the challenges he/she faces to and how he/she overcomes them?	5	
4. <b>Self-awareness.</b> Is there evidence of a strong desire to contribute to the development of Belarusian society? Is the applicant aware of his/her role in particular activities, society, and impact on other people?	5	
5. <b>Interpersonal skills.</b> Does the applicant demonstrate personal integrity? Does the applicant give evidence during the interview of developed thinking skills and the ability to express thoughts clearly?	5	
<b>Total</b>		

Evaluation form shall be filled in for each applicant by each interviewer. A consolidated evaluation of both interviewers and final comments and recommendations for proceeding with the candidate shall be provided to the CH.

The CH will present to the Selection Committee:

- List of applications ranked by the total score obtained at Step II and sorted by the countries in which the applicant chose to pursue master's studies (Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland) and indicating the year of master's studies and the remaining duration of studies.
- Comments on the scores awarded.

The Selection Committee decides which applications advance to Stage III assessment. If the funding for the applications which passed the Stage II exceeds the available budget for this call, a reserve list of applications is formed maintaining the ranking by the total score obtained at Step II.



	<p>In case the financing becomes available, the Selection Committee may decide to pass the applicant(s) from the reserve list to the Stage III to assess their eligibility to award scholarship.</p>
<b>2.3. Stage III</b>	<p>CPVA carries out the assessment of applicants' conditional or unconditional admission to the master studies at Stage III.</p> <p>The process of assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CPVA verifies that the applicant selected is not subject to the EU restrictive measures on the following website <a href="http://www.sanctionsmap.eu">www.sanctionsmap.eu</a>.</li><li>- CPVA sends the lists of applicants approved by the Selection Committee to the CP in Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland requesting to confirm that the selected applicants are enrolled to universities in the relevant countries.</li><li>- Where the candidates present the conditional acceptance to the university, CPs keeps in contact with the candidates or universities to receive the confirmation of the admission.</li><li>- If the candidate is not admitted to the master studies, CPVA eliminates him/her from the list of awarded applicants.</li><li>- CPVA informs the applicants by email about the results of the assessment.</li></ul>
<b>Extension of scholarship</b>	<p>If funding becomes available, the Selection Committee may decide to award a scholarship for an additional academic year of master's studies to the applicants who have passed stage III.</p>