

for themes other than those listed will not be eligible for consideration and will be ruled technically ineligible. No guarantee is made or implied that grants will be awarded in all categories.

For this competition, both single country and multi-country projects are eligible for support. In order to prevent duplication of effort, proposals should reflect an understanding of the work of international agencies so that projects complement—not duplicate—other assistance programs.

Two-way exchanges will be given the highest priority. Applicants should carefully review the following recommendations for proposals in Central and Eastern European countries.

To be eligible for a grant award under this competition, the proposed professional training and exchange projects must address one of the following specific themes, which are listed below in two categories—Country Specific Programs and Regional Programs.

Country Specific

Library Exchange (Bulgaria only).

Judicial Reform Project (Macedonia only).

Mayors and Local Leaders Exchange (Kosovo only).

Regional Programs

Media Training (Regional Program for Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina and Bulgaria and Croatia and Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro).

Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (Regional Program for Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina and Bulgaria and Croatia and Kosovo and Macedonia and Romania and Serbia and Montenegro).

Anti-corruption and Ethics (Regional program for Latvia and Lithuania and Estonia).

Country Specific (Single Country Projects Only)

Library Exchange

Bulgaria—Single country project only.—ECA is interested in proposals that will enhance institutional relationships between U.S. and Bulgarian libraries. Projects should focus on the practical use of new technologies and the provision of library services for citizens. The exchange should examine the operation of resource centers/small libraries, including strategic planning, traditional and electronic collection development, cooperative management of information resources, public-oriented services, outreach, and marketing techniques. The Union of Librarians and Information Services Officers (the

Bulgarian library association) should serve as the in-country partner organization and should assist in the recruitment and selection of participants as well as provide logistical support for any in-country activities. Activities may include training-of-trainers sessions, in-country workshops, initiatives to create professional networks or professional associations, and communication through the Internet or regularly published newsletters. Projects should also take into account the need for ongoing sharing of information, training, and concrete plans for sustainability.

Project funding: The total funding available for the Bulgaria library exchanges is approximately \$200,000. The Bureau anticipates awarding one grant under this theme.

Judicial Reform

Macedonia—Single country projects only.—Judicial reform has become increasingly important in Macedonia as the government, legal professionals, and concerned citizens recognize the need for a modern, efficient court system to keep pace with the social, economic, and political changes in their country. Legal experts note that courts in Macedonia are overburdened, inefficient, and unresponsive to citizens.

This program should focus on judges and prosecutors in the Macedonian legal system. The primary aim of the program will be to establish a series of trainings, seminars and on-the-job programs in Macedonia. These programs should aim to strengthen the functions of prosecutors and judges; encourage continual reform of practices; and solidify ethical standards. ECA envisions a mix of U.S.-based trainers and Macedonian-based staff coordinating the program. Another important component of the program will be the inclusion of an established Macedonian partner organization. The hope would be that the Macedonian organization would develop its own programming and could continue to work with judges and prosecutors on its own after the grant program. A U.S. based train-the-trainers component could be included for this purpose. Coordination with the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Skopje during the program is essential.

Project funding: The total funding available for the Macedonia judicial reform project is approximately \$200,000. The Bureau anticipates awarding one grant under this theme.

Mayors and Local Leaders Exchange

Kosovo—Single country projects only.—ECA is seeking proposals to conduct an exchange program for mayors and local leaders from Kosovo. This project will support the development of the local government sector and should be designed to offer practical, hands-on experiences for the participants. Topics to be addressed during the project should include financial management, the implementation of national policies at the local level, economic development, infrastructure support and strategic planning.

The project should consist of the following elements:

- The recruitment and selection of approximately ten participants from Kosovo;
- A U.S. component that would include a three- to five-day program in Washington, DC, where participants would be introduced to the U.S. system of government and meet with elected officials and representatives of local and regional government associations and a two- to three-week program in small- to medium-sized U.S. cities.
- In-country workshops and/or consultations that reach out to a wider audience and provide substantive follow-up to the U.S.-based visits.
- Materials development.

Participants should include both elected leaders and civil servants working at the local level. Organizations should demonstrate their ability to recruit and select candidates for participation in the program and describe how these activities will be carried out. Applicants should also identify an in-country partner institution or institutions. The partner(s) should be responsible for assisting in the recruitment and selection of participants and for providing logistical support for any in-country activities.

The proposal submitted by your organization must demonstrate how these activities/objectives will be met. Your proposal narrative should also provide detailed information on major program activities to be undertaken. Applicants should have an understanding of the current situation of Kosovo, and be willing to cooperate with Kosovo-based international organizations as well as the U.S. Office in Pristina.

This office is interested in proposals that enhance institutional relationships and offer practical information to individuals to assist them with their professional responsibilities. The projects should also take into account the need for ongoing sharing of