

campaigns on the issue. Participants may be leaders of NGOs, associations, community leaders, teachers and school administrators and local government officials. Follow-up workshops/on site consultations in the region are encouraged after the U.S.-based training. Programs may focus on developing participants' skills to establish job training programs in the region, but funding may not be used for the establishment or maintenance of victims' assistance centers or equipment for such centers. Successful proposals will offer hands-on training, including shadowing and internship opportunities, as well as the development of public awareness campaigns, action plans, publications, web-based information and/or other products that can be accessed easily by the general public and the respective SEE governments.

(2) Training and exchanges for members of parliament (particularly women members), ministry officials, government press spokespeople and local government officials.

The Bureau welcomes proposals that will encourage members of parliament, ministry officials, government press spokespeople and local government officials to take an active stand against trafficking in the SEE region.

Proposals should focus on how government should enforce and/or improve laws or national action plans against trafficking. Proposals should outline a strategy on how governments in the region can increase information sharing and close down trafficking routes in the region. Proposals should also address specifically how training will encourage cooperative and complementary efforts between the government and NGO community regarding the issue. U.S.-based exchanges and follow-up workshops in the region are strongly encouraged. The Bureau is interested in results-oriented proposals that include regional action planning, publications and other work products that will serve to educate government officials and the general public in the SEE region regarding trafficking.

Project Funding

The total funding available for prevention of trafficking programs is approximately \$500,000. The Bureau anticipates awarding two or three proposals for this competition averaging approximately \$165,000–\$250,000 each.

Anti-Corruption and Ethics

Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia (Multi-Country Project for All Three Countries Only)

The Bureau welcomes proposals for a regional anti-corruption program, designed to improve ethics oversight and management laws and procedures in the Baltic States. The Baltic nations continue to struggle against corruption at various levels of society. Government officials and law enforcement are poorly trained to recognize conflict of interest issues. In addition, ethical codes of conflict and conflict of interest legislation are weak. Unfortunately, influence peddling and conflict of interest can be found at the highest levels. Government employees deal with low salaries; difficult working conditions; lack of support from political leaders and senior administrators; and out-of-date equipment and records.

Citizens have low expectations for government service and can be inclined to view bribes at low levels or embezzlement, conflicts of interest and bribe-taking at high levels as the norm, to be tolerated rather than fought. Education is needed for both the public and civil servants/law enforcement on what each can expect of the other.

Proposals should outline a program that will train both Baltic officials and non-governmental personnel in government ethics issues and their respective roles in guaranteeing adherence to high standards of government ethics. The overall objectives of proposed programs should be to improve ethics oversight and management laws, policies, procedures and institutions in the Baltic states; increase public confidence in governmental institutions by training Baltic officials and non-governmental entities in government ethics issues as well as the role and responsibility of private citizens, the media and the academic community in guaranteeing high standards of government ethics.

Target populations for these programs include: members of Parliament, parliament staff and law enforcement officers responsible for enforcing conflict of interest/corruption legislation, national and municipal officials, government and civics professors from universities, NGO leaders, and media representatives. Proposals should describe a program that engages participants in relevant ethics issues, including the role of public ethics in a democratic society, ethics responsibilities for government officials, and the role of NGOs in

monitoring public ethics and corruption.

ECA is looking for programs that include a mix of participants from different governmental and non-governmental institutions to ensure sharing of diverse experiences and build mutual understanding of common public ethics standards. Travel in both directions, including a hands-on, U.S.-based program with a train-the-trainer component, should be proposed. Continuous communication, mentoring, and consultations between overseas participants and trainers/mentors, should be described in detail and conducted throughout the life of the grant. Overseas, programs should be conducted in the form of short courses and include an appropriate public relations component (developed in coordination with U.S. embassies), to highlight the importance of anti-corruption efforts. Proposals should include a programming element that will bring participants from all three countries together to increase the program's regional impact.

Project funding: The total funding available for prevention of trafficking programs is approximately \$200,000. The Bureau anticipates awarding one grant for this topic.

Overall Budget Guidelines

Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets. Applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

Since Bureau grant assistance constitutes only a portion of total project funding, proposals should list and provide evidence of other anticipated sources of financial and in-kind support. While there is no minimum requirement, applicants are encouraged to provide cost sharing to the fullest extent possible. State Department Review Panels will consider cost sharing seriously when evaluating all proposals.

The following program costs are eligible for funding consideration:

1. *Travel Costs.* International and domestic airfares (per the Fly America Act), transit costs, ground transportation