

will help create a more legitimate market in Russia. Continuous communication, mentoring, and consultations between overseas participants and trainers/mentors, should be described in detail and conducted throughout the life of the grant. Proposals dealing with law enforcement or travel for law enforcement officials are outside the purview of this topic and will not be considered. Proposals must indicate a practical and sophisticated knowledge of the political and legislative environment in Russia.

Preference will be given to projects that do not exceed \$150,000.

The contact for this topic is Henry Scott, (202) 619-5327, hscott@pd.state.gov.

Role of Free Press in a Modern Market Economy

Single Country Projects for Russia Only

In modern market economies, consumers and investors rely on a free press to alert them to opportunities, warn them of potential fraud, and inform them of the consequences of their purchases. In Russia, official pressure and sponsorship of news reports diminishes the media's value as a source of objective information. As a result, consumers and investors have difficulty making informed choices about contracts or other transactions, particularly in the absence of effective regulation. The Bureau is interested in proposals that would increase appreciation of a free, objective press among regional government officials in Russia. Proposals should target regional government leaders, either elected officials or civil servants or a combination of both, for participation in the program. Proposals should demonstrate the applicant's understanding of the importance that Russian regional governments place on economic development, and recruitment and training components should appeal to this priority.

Activities must include both a U.S.-based training program(s) and in-country activities. U.S.-based programs should include sessions to introduce participants to the role of the independent media in the U.S. and its relationship with the government. The U.S. program should include a combination of meetings, lectures, interactive sessions, visits to relevant institutions and organizations, and individual meetings. The Bureau encourages applicants to enlist experienced U.S. politicians in the stateside program who can emphasize the benefits of a free press to Russian

officials in a credible manner. In-country activities may include workshops and seminars that complement the information and training presented to participants in the United States. Applicants must work closely with the Public Affairs Section in Moscow to coordinate all activities, including participant selection.

Preference will be given to projects that do not exceed \$150,000.

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Diplomatic Training

Single Country Projects for Tajikistan Only

The Bureau is seeking proposals that will offer training to representatives of Tajikistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Programs will offer training and assistance to the Tajik MFA to help create a professional Tajik foreign service that can effectively represent the country abroad.

Tajik diplomats, including deputy chiefs of mission and other senior, mid-level and junior officials, should be trained in the essentials of foreign policy formulation and the functions of an embassy. Training will be based on courses offered to U.S. diplomats and will incorporate such practical and substantive themes as: International politics (including international organizations and lending institutions); the structure and operation of an embassy; professional ethics; management skills; analytical reporting; negotiation skills; media relations and public diplomacy; trade promotion; communication with the host government (including need for local language training); management of VIP visits; and other relevant topics.

The program should include in-country training as well as training in the United States. Program activity may incorporate training-of-trainers, workshops, internships and site visits and should reflect a practical understanding of the current political, economic and social climate in Tajikistan. Training should balance formal presentations, discussions and group exercises and should be targeted at diplomats with a wide range of experience, including some who are new to the profession. The Tajik MFA will nominate participants. The U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe will make final participant selection. Applicants are required to work closely with the Public Affairs Section in Dushanbe during all program planning and implementation. Language issues must also be addressed throughout the proposal.

The total funding available for Diplomatic Training in Tajikistan is \$250,000.

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Partnerships for Internet-Based Media Outlets

Single Country Projects for Ukraine Only

While the importance of the Internet in Ukraine as a source of news and information is growing, Internet-based media outlets there still face significant challenges in terms of their legal status as "legitimate" media outlets and their level of journalistic and management expertise. In order for Internet-based outlets in Ukraine to survive, they need to become viable businesses, as well as credible sources of news and information. The Bureau is seeking proposals for programs that would foster long-term relationships between U.S. Internet-based media outlets and independent, Internet-based media outlets in Ukraine. Within the framework of these partnerships, Ukrainian media professionals would learn how their U.S. partners deal with issues such as management of operations, ethical concerns, and how to operate under existing U.S. legislation governing Internet activities.

Applicants should propose a minimum of two partnerships to be developed. Each Ukrainian media outlet should be matched with an appropriate U.S. media outlet for partnership activities. The names of potential outlets, both in the U.S. and Ukraine, should be provided. Applicants should explain how partnerships will be structured and what activities they will include. Applicants should propose a combination of trips to the U.S. for Ukrainian participants, trips to Ukraine for U.S. participants, and on-going activities and virtual interaction throughout the grant period. While U.S. visits for Ukrainian participants should include consultations, workshops, and interactive meetings, they may also include hands-on internships and/or job shadowing experiences that will build professional expertise and strengthen links between the two partners. Under program activities, applicants should address the following topics: Use of the Internet as a news tool; Web design for Internet-based news services; business and management practices for Internet-based management; journalistic ethics; and licensing and legal issues for Internet-based news outlets. The proposal should identify the individuals who will be responsible for the