

Call for applications:

History writing and nation-building in Central Asia

The project 'History writing and nation-building in Central Asia' is aimed at developing research and publishing skills among OSCE Academy alumni and is part of the broader ongoing cooperation between the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). The project team will consist of a project leader from NUPI (Helge Blakkisrud) and one alumnus from each of the five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Project outline

The project is made up of two parts. During the first part (September 2014-July 2015), the selected participants will co-author articles on a self-chosen theme (to be further developed in cooperation with the project leader) related to nation-building in Central-Asia. In the second part (September 2015-July 2016), the participants will contribute a book chapter on aspects of nation-building strategies as reflected in history textbooks currently in use in primary and/or secondary education in their respective countries. These are to be published in an edited book on the role of history education in nation-building strategies in Central Asia.

Duration

The project will start up in September 2014 with a kick-off workshop in Bishkek. The first part (research and writing up of articles) will be completed by the end of July 2015. The second phase (contributing to the edited volume) will start in September 2015 and run until end of July 2016, although a capstone conference, where the outcome of the research will be presented will take place in late fall 2016. Participation in the second part of the project depends on successful delivery of the expected output in phase 1. In addition to research and writing, the participants have to commit to taking part in one workshop/seminar per year (tentatively two in Bishkek and one in Oslo). Travel expenses will be covered by the project.

Output

For the project as a whole: 5 articles to be submitted to international peer-reviewed journals and an edited book published by a well-established international publisher.

Value of grant

Each individual grant is 58,000 Norwegian kroner (NOK) (currently equivalent to app. 9,800 USD - note that exact grant amounts in other currencies than NOK may change due to variations in exchange rates). The grant will be split in two equal parts across the two phases of the project.

Eligibility and selection criteria

The grant is open for alumni of the OSCE Academy MA in politics only (including the class of 2013–2014, but also all previous years). The applicant must speak the state language in the country s/he will cover as part of the project. In addition we will take into consideration

- Formal qualifications beyond the OSCE Academy MA
- Command of English as well official state language in country in question

Contents of applications

- Short cover letter explaining why the candidate believes s/he is suited to receive the grant
- CV (max 2 pages)
- Preliminary ideas for topic of the co-authored article (max 400 words)
- Two texts written by the applicant in English

Submission of applications

Deadline: 20 June 2014

All applications should be submitted electronically to kfj@nupi.no PDF files are preferred.

For further information contact project leader Helge Blakkisrud (hb@nupi.no) or project coordinator Kristin Fjaestad (kfj@nupi.no)