CeSPI
Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale

SEENET Programme: A trans-local network for the cooperation between Italy and South East Europe

Call for applications

Background

In the framework of the SEENET Programme financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and 7 Italian Regions[1], CeSPI (www.cespi.it) is in charge, on behalf of the Region Tuscany, of coordinating the research component, aiming at facilitating the achievement of SEENET's objectives by partner organizations and the adoption of models of local development and effective and democratic governance in South East Europe (SEE) partner territories.

SEENET aims at facilitating the dialogue among countries and local authorities from Italy and SEE for an effective local development of involved territories and for long-term partnerships at regional level and with the Italian system of decentralized cooperation.

Through the establishment of a research network composed by CeSPI (coordinating organisation) and 7 research organisations from SEE countries, activities will be oriented to the analysis and systematization of governance experiences for local development carried out in partner territories, with a special focus on decentralised cooperation activities implemented through the SEENET Programme.

Eligibility conditions

The call for application is open to public and private research organisations ("host institutions") legally established in Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia with demonstrated capabilities in conducting policy-oriented research on democratic governance and local development in SEE, on decentralized and international cooperation as well as on European enlargement issues.

Major duties and responsibilities of host institutions

Host institutions are responsible for:
1. Ensuring the overall quality of work carried out by their researchers and the respect of timing;
2. Corresponding the remuneration to the researchers and for paying income tax and national insurance contributions (or equivalent);

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[1] Tuscany (leader), Emilia Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Marche, Piedmont, Veneto, Autonomous Province of Trento. Italian partners are: ALDA, ANCI, CeSPI, ERVET, INFORMEST, Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso, Ucodep. Partners from South East Europe are 47 local authorities: Cantons of Herzegovina-Neretva, Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zenica-Doboj; Autonomous Province of Vojvodina; Region of Istria; District of Shkoder; Counties of Dubrovnik-Neretva, Osijek-Baranja, Vukovar-Srijem; Cities of Kragujevac, Mostar, Nis, Novi Sad, Pazin, Rovinj, Sarajevo, Skopje, Varazdin; Municipalities of Brtonigla, Budva, Elbasan, Hadzici, Kotor, Kraljevo, Lazarevac (Belgrade), Livno, Nevesinje, Niksic, Pale, Pancevo, Peje/Pec, Prijedor, Prishtine/Pristina, Sanski Most, Shkoder, Smederevo, Stari Grad (Sarajevo), Travnik, Trebinje, Trnovo (Federation of Bosnia Herzegvina), Trnovo (Republika Srpska), Tuzla, Vlore, Vozdovac (Belgrade), Zavidovici, Zenica.

3. Providing researchers with all the facilities needed to carry out the activities such as personal computers, telephone line, Internet etc.
4. Providing CeSPI with timely and accurate documents supporting reimbursable expenses incurred by the researchers in the course of their research activities;
5. Disseminating reports and materials produced by the research network through their websites and mailing lists.

Major duties and responsibilities of researchers

The 7 researchers will be integrated in a research network coordinated by CeSPI and will be required to conduct desk and field analysis on one selected territory (see below) and to draft reports. They will also be asked to participate in coordination meetings in Italy or in other SEE countries.

Following a methodology shared among the research network and mainly based on the stakeholder analysis, the researchers will observe the political influence and different positions and perspectives of key stakeholders (mostly decentralized and international cooperation related) with respect to local development and local governance dynamics, in the light of the European enlargement process.

In concrete, the work will be articulated into the following phases:
1. Mapping and description of political, social and economic context in the selected territory and first identification of key stakeholders (desk analysis);
2. Accurate identification of key stakeholders, their profile and map of available resources for local development (field analysis mainly though interviews and focus groups);
3. Analysis and systematization of the political, social and economic influence of key stakeholders, of their interests, perspectives and interrelations, with particular emphasis on strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats for local democratic governance and development of selected territories, and taking into consideration decentralized and international cooperation activities as well as the European enlargement process (analytical phase).

Upon reimburse of the expenses incurred, researchers will travel to the selected territories for making interviews (at least 20 every six months) and focus groups (when needed). They will also be requested to attend at least one coordination meeting each year in Italy or in SEE countries. The first coordination meeting is scheduled in June 2010 and will be held in Rome.

Qualifications required
1. High proficiency of written and oral English and local language as mother tongue are essential;
2. University degree in Economics, Social or Political Science or related disciplines;
3. Previous research activities on decentralized and international cooperation, local governance and/or decentralization issues;
4. Sound knowledge of regional, national and local contexts relevant to research activities;
5. Working understanding and experience of relevant EU enlargement and regional policies will be an asset;
6. Ability to work in a team and in a multi-cultural environment;
7. Communication and reporting skills;
8. IT skills: Microsoft Office, Power Point, Internet.

Outputs needed

Each researcher will produce:
1. 5 evolving reports over the 30 months of activities (one every 6 months) on key stakeholders and available resources for local governance and development, with particular attention to decentralized and international cooperation initiatives and to IPA opportunities;

2. 1 report of systematization on local governance and development experiences related to decentralized and international cooperation in the framework of the European enlargement process, as a contribution to the policy paper that will be drafted by CeSPI at the end of the research period.
3. Synthetic minutes of the interviews/focus groups carried out.

Territories included

Each researcher will deal with one territory, to be indicated in the application and to be chosen among the following:

Country	Territory
Albania	1. Region of Shkodër
Bosnia Herzegovina	2. Municipality of Travnik
	3. Municipality of Trebinje
Croatia	4. Region of Istria
Kosovo	5. Municipality of Pejë/Peć
Montenegro	6. Municipality of Budva
Serbia	7. Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Only one choice is allowed, except for Bosnia Herzegovina, where host institutions are invited to select both territories. In this latter case, host institutions have to present in their application two CVs and to clearly associate one researcher to one territory, according to specific competences. Such double applications will be considered as two separate applications, the success of one researcher not entailing the success of the other.

Duration of the contract

30 months

Timing

The 5 evolving reports will be delivered according to the following schedule:
November 2010, April 2011, October 2011, April 2012, October 2012.
In order to allow an effective coordination by CeSPI, an outline should be delivered two months before each deadline, and a first draft one month before.
The report of systematization on local governance and development experiences as a contribution to the policy paper should be delivered by September 2012.
At least one coordination meeting each year is foreseen, and the first one will be held in June 2010 in Rome. All researchers will be requested to participate.

Starting date

Successful applicants will be expected to commence their work in June 2010.

Remuneration

Each hosting institutions will be granted 10.000 Euros for the entire duration of the contract, to be paid after every six months of collaboration, after delivery of expected outputs and administrative documents.

How to apply

Interested organizations are invited to submit their application by the **28th of May 2010** to the following e-mail address:
marta.piccarozzi@cespi.it

Applications have to be written in English.
Please state "SEENET application" as the subject in all correspondence.

There is no application form. In order to be considered, the application must contain the following information:
1. Full name and legal address of the applicant (host institution);
2. Name, position and contacts of a responsible person within the host institution;
3. The selected territory (or two territories in case of Bosnia Herzegovina) among those above listed;
4. Expertise of the host institutions relevant to the topics of this call or application (max 500 words);
5. List of available facilities for the researcher (max 250 words);
6. Curriculum vitae (or CVs in case of Bosnia Herzegovina) of the researcher (max 4 pages);
7. List of relevant publications (max 2 pages).

The inclusion of one or more copies of previous papers on topics relevant to this call of application will be an asset.

The selection will be concluded by 15^h of June 2010. Only successful applicants will be contacted.