



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of actions from the general budget of the European Union in the field of
academic education and research on humanitarian action.**

(ECHO/NOH/BUD/2010/01000)

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on the financing of actions from the general budget of the European Union in the field of academic education and research on humanitarian action.

(ECHO/NOH/BUD/2010/01000)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid¹, and in particular Article 4 and Article 15(3) thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) It is appropriate to finance high quality European education and professional qualifications on humanitarian action that can impact policy and practice, and ultimately may result in saving lives while ensuring that people live in dignity;
- (2) The overall objective of the "Network on Humanitarian Action" (NOHA) is to provide quality European education in the humanitarian field, combining elements of teaching, training and research. It provides a sixteen-month multidisciplinary post-graduate diploma designed to promote greater professionalism among humanitarian workers and involves several participating universities;
- (3) The Commission, Council and European Parliament agreed in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid² that the promotion of training activities should be part of an overall approach to reinforcing global aid. The Consensus Action Plan³ commits the European Union to the "*reinforcement of EU training provision for humanitarian professionals and other actors linked to the humanitarian response*";
- (4) Actions supported by this Decision will be implemented by key research institutes and European universities which are members of the NOHA Network. Therefore the European Commission should implement the budget by direct centralised management;
- (5) The provision of academic research on key humanitarian issues and studies should be financed under this Decision for a period of 12 months, in line with the academic year.
- (6) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 500,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide the added value that such academic resources should deliver to the humanitarian aid environment. The

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p.1

² OJ C 2008/025/01 of 30.1.2008

³ SEC(2008)1991, 29.5.2008

activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation;

- (7) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁴, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002⁵, and Article 15 of the internal rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union⁶;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 500,000 to provide academic education and research on humanitarian aid by using budget article 23 02 01 of the 2010 general budget of the European Union.

2. In accordance with Article 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the principal objective of this Decision is:

- To provide high quality European education and professional qualifications on humanitarian action that impact on humanitarian aid policy and practice.

The actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:

- To support NOHA's Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action with a view to use its academic platform and educational resources for facilitating access to training in donors' best practices and for awareness raising activities, and to promote research on key humanitarian issues.

The full amount of this Decision is allocated to this specific objective.

Article 2

1. The period for the implementation of the actions financed under this Decision shall start on 1st September 2010 and shall run for 12 months. Eligible expenditure shall be committed during the implementing period of the Decision.

2. The Authorising Officer may extend the duration of the Decision for a maximum of 6 months provided that the total duration of the Decision does not exceed 18 months, in accordance with Article 90.4 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

Article 3

1. In accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules, funds under this Decision may finance actions in full.

2. The Commission shall implement the budget by direct centralised management.

⁴ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1

⁵ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1

⁶ Commission Decision of 5.3.2008, C/2008/773

3. Actions supported by this Decision will be implemented by key research institutes and European universities which are members of the NOHA network.

Article 4

This Decision will take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Peter Zangl
Director-General



Humanitarian Aid Decision 23 02 01

Title: Financing of actions from the general budget of the European Union in the field of academic education and research on humanitarian action.

Description: Provision of quality European education, professional qualifications and research on humanitarian action that impact on humanitarian policy and practice.

Location of action: European Union

Amount of Decision: EUR 500,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/NOH/BUD/2010/01000

Supporting document

1 Humanitarian context, needs and risks

1.1 Situation and context

The Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA) is the first network of universities at European level that provides education (teaching and research) and training in humanitarian action. It has maintained a strong relationship with the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) since its inception in 1994. While NOHA continues to produce 140 Masters graduates each year, its value to DG ECHO aims to increasingly shift to the provision of other educational products and to a much more results-oriented approach focusing on added value for the humanitarian aid environment.

In a parallel development over the last three years, the European Union developed a vision of its humanitarian agenda and priorities which came into focus in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid¹. In that document, the Member States and the partners of the European Commission agreed that the promotion of training activities should be part of an overall approach to reinforce global aid. Moreover, the Action Plan² of the Consensus commits the European Union to the "*reinforcement of EU training provision for humanitarian professionals and other actors linked to the humanitarian response...*" to contribute to an "*improved ... response to humanitarian*

¹ Joint Statement by the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission, (OJ C 25, 30.1.2008, p.1)

² SEC(2008)1991, 29.5.2008.

crises" and to achieve improved accountability to aid recipients. DG ECHO is committed to the implementation of those principles which underpin the vision of the European Union.

The relationship of DG ECHO with NOHA was modified to reflect this evolution of the EU humanitarian agenda. From focusing on a multi-disciplinary postgraduate diploma in the humanitarian field it has shifted to an approach whereby the Network should bring value to the humanitarian community by functioning as an educational platform, providing access to training and informing the humanitarian debate and policy formulation in the European Union and in DG ECHO, in particular.

This new financing proposal foresees the continuation of DG ECHO's support to NOHA's Joint Master's Programme. This is NOHA's mainstay and represents around 80% including administrative costs of the proposed total amount. This funding round also foresees support for short courses designed for humanitarian professionals, awareness raising seminars and on-line learning which are expected to form a dynamic educational platform. Finally, NOHA's academic community is expected to contribute research actively to inform DG ECHO's debate on issues identified as priorities.

1.2 Identified needs

The main challenges that NOHA has been faced with in the last three years remain largely:

- Repositioning itself for greater involvement in humanitarian policy debate;
- Providing refresher courses for experienced humanitarian actors;
- Enhancing its research capacity;
- Improving co-ordination and management;
- Managing its enlargement among the EU-27.

In view of NOHA's resources and its evolving relationship with DG ECHO, the identified needs that this proposal seeks to address are :

- A growing need for higher educational qualifications specifically suited to addressing complex humanitarian emergencies.
- The need for modular training in the professional community using the resources of NOHA's educational platform.
- To inform the European policy formulation process on some challenges facing the humanitarian community in consultation with DG ECHO.
- To progress awareness of humanitarian stakes among the broader public and of the European Consensus agenda among policy makers.

- 2.3 Target population: Educate and train the humanitarian workers of tomorrow and refresh the knowledge of today's humanitarians. Enlarge the target population to include policy makers and the broader public.

2 Proposed DG ECHO response

2.1 Rationale

The development of higher education in humanitarian action aims to provide greater professionalism among humanitarian aid personnel that is based on solid intellectual foundations, sound principles and best practices. The educational platform constituted by the NOHA network should also inform the humanitarian policy debate through academic research. It should pursue a greater awareness of humanitarian issues among the broader public and policy makers - including encouraging a humanitarian culture where it does not exist yet in the EU.

2.2 Objectives

- Principal objective: To provide high quality European education and professional qualifications on humanitarian action that impact on humanitarian policy and practice, and ultimately result in saving and preserving lives while ensuring that people live with dignity.

- Specific objective:

To support NOHA's Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action with a view to use its academic platform and educational resources for facilitating access to training in donor best practices and awareness raising activities, and to promote research on key humanitarian issues.

2.3 Components

The need for higher education in humanitarian disciplines is addressed by NOHA's Master's in humanitarian aid. The programme spans over 16-months. It comprises disciplines relevant to the practice of humanitarian professions, namely International Law, International Relations, Political Science, Journalism, Mass Media, Medicine, Anthropology, Management, Human Security, Sustainable Development, Peace and Conflict Research.

Students have the possibility to move to different NOHA and Partner universities to do some specialisation and research in the subject(s) of their choice in partial fulfilment of academic requirements. The NOHA Master's is built around five well integrated components: Intensive Programme, Core Course, Orientation Period, Research, and Work Placement. The NOHA core teaching staff delivers the Master's in 9 full member universities. Over 100 teachers back up the core faculty with sound knowledge and teaching experience.

NOHA has produced on average 118 Masters' graduates a year with a recent trend towards 140 laureates per year i.e. over 2000 alumni since 1994-95. The gender balance is 65,51% female against 37,28 male. Applications are in constant rise, notably from non-European countries. NOHA has registered 790 non-European applications for 2010-11. They originate from all continents.

Currently, about 10 NOHA alumni are employed as ECHO field experts. The last figures (2005-2006) available on career developments suggest a number of trends.

NOHA students have sought professional and internship experience overwhelmingly in humanitarian organisations, the world over (NGOs, UN and governmental agencies; and very few commercial entities). Rights protection, notably children's rights, development/poverty eradication and Health are broadly speaking, categories of humanitarian work which seem to have attracted the vast majority of NOHA alumni. University research also stands out as a category *sui generis*. Some NOHA alumni are known to have risen to positions of reasonable responsibility, notably among competent NGOs in the Field.

This proposal envisages to consolidate NOHA's Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action through :

- Establishing think tanks, thus exploiting a rich pool of academic resources. NOHA will present position/research papers on two issues jointly identified with DG ECHO to contribute to the European policy formulation process. Two topics have been provisionally identified e.g. : "The Professionalisation of Humanitarian Workers" and "Rethinking the Global Humanitarian Donor System in the context of the economic downturn";
- Progressing the NOHA Academy by:
 - partnering the University of Lisboa to deliver an advanced course in Public Health;
 - delivering an 'Introductory course on humanitarian action' (the NOHA Fall School) for professionals from local, international and civil society humanitarian organisations based on the core principles of humanitarian aid;
 - organising a seminar in each of the countries that will hold the Presidency of the EU (Belgium and Hungary) to heighten awareness of humanitarian stakes and of the Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.
 - further developing the NOHA electronic learning environment for distance learning (NELINT) including with a view to enable its accessibility to DG ECHO professionals.
- Developing a NOHA research programme by:
 - introducing a NOHA PhD programme and
 - realising a number of flagship projects that resulted from NOHA seed funding programme.
- Supporting progressive integration of new member universities of NOHA

2.4 Complementarity and coordination with other EU services, donors and institutions

In the context of its Erasmus Mundus, NOHA received a grant of EUR 636,600 for the 2009 edition (which covers the academic years 2009 and 2010 and ends on 15/10/2011) and EUR 572,800 for the 2010 edition (which covers the academic years 2010 and 2011 and ends on 30/10/2012).

In 2008, NOHA was granted EUR 476,000 under the heading of Erasmus Mundus Action 3. This convention comes to an end in the autumn 2010.

2.5 Duration

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be 12 months.

Actions funded by this Decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 September 2010. The start date of 1 September 2010 is necessary in order to support preparatory actions at the beginning of the academic year which starts in September with the NOHA Intensive Programme co-organised this year by the Universities of Warsaw and Groningen. Expenditure will cover a full academic year including preparatory actions.

Start Date : 1 September 2010

If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this Decision is suspended due to force majeure or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid actions.

The Commission reserves the right to terminate the agreements signed with the implementing humanitarian organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the Action. In this respect, the procedure established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

3 Evaluation

Under Article 18 of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid the Commission is required to "regularly assess humanitarian aid actions financed by the Union in order to establish whether they have achieved their objectives and to produce guidelines for improving the effectiveness of subsequent actions." These evaluations are structured and organised in overarching and cross cutting issues forming part of DG ECHO's Annual Strategy such as child-related issues, the security of relief workers, respect for human rights, gender. Each year, an indicative Evaluation Programme is established after a consultative process. This programme is flexible and can be adapted to include evaluations not foreseen in the initial programme, in response to particular events or changing circumstances. More information can be obtained at:

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/evaluation/introduction_en.htm.

4 Management Issues

This contribution will be implemented by centralised direct management through an action grant to NOHA. No call for proposal is needed as the purpose of humanitarian aid pursuant to Article 4 of the Council Regulation (EC) 1257/96 is in line with Article 168.1(a) of the Implementing Rules.

Annex 1 - Summary decision matrix (table)

Principal objective : To provide high quality European education and professional qualifications on humanitarian action that impact on humanitarian aid policy and practice, and ultimately result in saving lives while ensuring that people live with dignity.				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners
To support NOHA's Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action with a view to use its academic platform and educational resources for facilitating access to training in donor best practices and awareness raising activities, and to promote research on key humanitarian issues.	500,000	European Union	Higher education, training and research	<u>Other</u> - NOHA ³
TOTAL	500,000			

³ Network on Humanitarian Assistance

Annex 2 - List of previous DG ECHO decisions⁴

List of previous DG ECHO operations in SPAIN				
Decision Number	Decision Type	2007 EUR	2008 EUR	2009 EUR
ECHO/NOH/BUD/2007/01000	Ad hoc	500,000		
ECHO/NOH/BUD/2008/01000	Ad hoc		500,000	
ECHO/NOH/BUD/2009/01000	Ad hoc			500,000
	Subtotal	500,000	500,000	500,000
	TOTAL	1,500,000		

Date : 31/08/2010

Source : HOPE

(*) decisions with more than one country

⁴ In previous years, the European Commission supported NOHA activities through the budget line "23 01 04 - Support expenditure for operations of Humanitarian aid, policy area". From 2008 onwards, the corresponding credits have been transferred to the operational line "23 02 01 - Humanitarian Aid" in order to increase transparency, sound financial management and in order to reflect better the operational nature of funding expenditures incurred by NOHA.

Annex 3 - Overview table of the humanitarian donor contributions

Donors in the EU over the last 12 months			
1. EU Member States (*)		2. European Commission	
	EUR		EUR
		DG ECHO	500,000
		DG EAC	572,800
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	1,072,800
TOTAL	1,072,800		

Date : 31/08/2010

(*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reports. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac>

Empty cells : no information or no contribution.