

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

NOHA

1. 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 will produce 155 Masters graduates each year as from year 2011, its value to DG ECHO aims to increasingly shift towards the provision of other educational products and towards a much more results-oriented approach, focused on added value for the humanitarian aid environment.

Over the last years, the European Union has developed a vision of its humanitarian agenda and priorities which were focused upon 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 reinforcing 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 (...)*" in order to contribute to an "*improved (...) response to humanitarian 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.

DG ECHO's relationship 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.

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.

The purpose of this HIP is to grant support to NOHA's Joint Master's Programme for the period ranging from 1/1/2012 to 31/12/2012. Short courses designed for humanitarian professionals, awareness raising seminars and on-line learning which are expected to form a dynamic educational platform will also be supported by this HIP. Finally, NOHA's academic community is expected to actively contribute research in order to inform DG ECHO's debate on issues identified as priorities.

2. IDENTIFIED NEEDS

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

- 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 provide refresher courses for experienced humanitarian actors.
- To inform the European policy formulation process on some challenges facing the humanitarian community in consultation with DG ECHO.
- To disseminate awareness of humanitarian stakes among the wider public, and of the European Consensus agenda among policy makers
- To educate and train the humanitarian workers of tomorrow and refresh the knowledge of today's humanitarians. To enlarge the target population to include policy makers and the broader public.
- By disseminating international best practice on humanitarian aid to young professionals from non-EU countries, to contribute to outreach towards new actors in humanitarian aid including in developing countries.

3. PROPOSED DG ECHO RESPONSE

The need for higher education in humanitarian disciplines is addressed by NOHA's Master's in Humanitarian Aid. The programme spans 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, and Peace and Conflict Research.

Students have the possibility to move to different NOHA and Partner universities to engage in specialization and to perform research into 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 Master's graduates per year, with a recent growth to 140 laureates per year, soon to become 160 (i.e. 2000 alumni since 1994-95). The gender balance is 64% female to 36% male. The number of applications is constantly rising, in particular from non-European countries. NOHA has registered 790 non-European applications for 2010-11, originating from all continents.

Currently, about 10 NOHA alumni are employed as DG ECHO field experts.

NOHA students have overwhelmingly sought professional and internship experience within 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 - the 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 HIP not only aims to consolidate NOHA's Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action, but also to offer other educational products such as :

- advanced courses in Humanitarian Action;
- 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;
- a seminar in each of the countries that will hold the Presidency of the EU to raise awareness of humanitarian stakes and of the Consensus on Humanitarian Aid;
- an electronic learning environment for distance learning (NELINT) including with a view to enable its accessibility to DG ECHO professionals;
- a research programme by introducing a NOHA PhD programme and realising a number of flagship projects that resulted from NOHA seed funding programme;
- a supporting progressive integration of new member universities of NOHA;
- a tailor-made module for undergraduates on humanitarianism to be deployed in non-NOHA universities.

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).

5. OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL DETAILS

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2012/01000 and the general conditions of the Partnership Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

5.1 Contacts³

Operational Unit in charge : ECHO/C1
Contact persons at HQ : René GUTH
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5.2 Financial info

Indicative Allocation: EUR 600,000
Complementary activities : humanitarian aid : EUR 600,000
Total : EUR 600,000

5.3 Proposal Assessment

Assessment round 1

- a) Description of interventions relating to this assessment round : all interventions as described in section 3 of this HIP.
- b) Indicative amount to be allocated in this round of proposals : up to EUR 600,000.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2012⁴.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months.
- e) Preselected partner : the NOHA network is a preselected partner in compliance with Decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2012/01000.
- f) Information to be provided : single form.

³ Single Form will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL (e-SingleForm)

⁴ The eligibility date of Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single Form or the eligibility date of the HIP, what ever occurs latest.