
HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

NOHA

The activities proposed hereafter are still subject to the adoption of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/ BUD/2014/01000

AMOUNT: EUR 700 000

1. CONTEXT

The Network on Humanitarian Assistance (NOHA) is the first network of universities at European level to provide education (teaching and research) and training in humanitarian action. It is now entering its second generation having celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2013. In earlier years, NOHA was identified as a European network of universities providing a Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action and, while this Programme continues to produce approximately 175 graduates each year, NOHA has increasingly expanded its educational product base to meet the educational and research needs of Europe's humanitarian stakeholders. Examples of this include NOHA's active participation in the first two pilots of the EU Aid Volunteers programme, its Fall and Springs Schools that are aimed at providing relevant civil servants and Commission staff with an introduction to humanitarian action, and its Awareness Raising Seminars that promote humanitarian action in member states with limited involvement in the European humanitarian project.

The European Union humanitarian agenda and priorities are well documented in its strategic plan: the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid¹. In this 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. NOHA is committed to the next phase of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and its revised Action Plan. It is envisaged that the Consensus will continue to commit 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. The Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) is committed to the implementation of those principles which underpin the vision of the European Union.

As DG ECHO and NOHA commence the second generation of working together, attention continues to focus on enhancing the professional delivery of humanitarian aid. In addition, NOHA will grow and strengthen its network to promote the European Humanitarian Agenda in all member states through education and research.

The purpose of this HIP is to grant support to NOHA's educational programme for the period from 1/1/2014 to 31/12/2014. Short courses designed for humanitarian professionals, awareness raising seminars and on-line learning which is 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.

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

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 research, map and monitor Europe's humanitarian activities;
- To establish partnerships with peer non-European universities for mutual benefit in enhancing the professional delivery of humanitarian aid;
- To enlarge the target population to include policy makers and the broader public; and
- 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 Programme in Humanitarian Action. This is a 16 month multi-disciplinary postgraduate humanitarian programme which focuses on the following disciplines as they relate to humanitarian action: International Law, International Relations, Political Science, Journalism, Mass Media, Medicine, Anthropology, Management, Human Security, Sustainable Development, and Peace and Conflict Research.

The European nature of this educational endeavour is reinforced by the joint nature of this Programme's design and delivery. Students have the possibility to move to different NOHA Partner universities to engage in specialization and to perform research in the subject(s) of their choice in partial fulfillment of academic requirements. The NOHA Master's Programme is built around 5 well-integrated components: Intensive Programme, Core Course, Orientation Period, Research, and Work Placement. The NOHA core teaching staff delivers the Master in 9 full member universities. Over 100 teachers back up the core faculty with sound knowledge and teaching experience.

NOHA has produced, on average, 120 Master's graduates per year, with a recent growth to 154 laureates per year, soon to become 175 (i.e. more than 2 500 alumni since 1994). The gender balance is 64% female to 36% male. The demand for the NOHA Master's Programme remains very high. In 2013, the number of applications exceeded 1 300 and more than half of these were non-European applications originating from all continents

Currently, about 12 NOHA alumni are employed as DG ECHO field experts.

This HIP not only aims to consolidate NOHA's Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action, but also to offer other educational and research products such as:

- 2 advanced courses in Humanitarian Action;
- 2 introductory courses on humanitarian action' (the NOHA Fall School in Brussels and the Spring School organised by Vilnius University) 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 (Greece and Italy) to raise awareness of humanitarian issues in general and of the Consensus on Humanitarian Aid in particular;
- An electronic learning environment for distance learning (NELINT) with a view to make it available to DG ECHO;
- An undergraduate optional elective on humanitarian action to be rolled-out in all NOHA and associated universities which introduces university students to global humanitarian need, the European Humanitarian Agenda and member state support to humanitarianism;
- Support for NOHA's links to and synergies with the EU Aid Volunteers programme
- Research to assess the level and scope of European humanitarian activity as base information in further promoting coherence in the European Humanitarian Agenda; and
- Supporting progressive integration of new member universities in the NOHA association.

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) ;
- EUR 572 800 for the 2010 edition (which covers the academic years 2010 and 2011 and ends on 30/10/2012);
- EUR 424 993 for the 2011 edition (which covers the academic years 2011 and 2012 and ends on 30/10/2013).

5. VISIBILITY

The partner will be expected to ensure full compliance with visibility requirements and to acknowledge the funding role of the EU/DG ECHO, as set out in the applicable contractual arrangements.