

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA)

The activities proposed hereafter are still subject to the adoption of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/ BUD/2016/01000

AMOUNT: EUR 700 000

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2016/01000 (Worldwide Decision) and the related General Guidelines for Operational Priorities on Humanitarian Aid (Operational Priorities). The purpose of the HIP and its annex is to serve as a communication tool for ECHO's partners and to assist in the preparation of their proposals. The provisions of the Worldwide Decision and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

1. CONTEXT

Relief assistance has progressively shifted from the provision of basic services to more efficient and principled interventions, transforming reactive strategies into more proactive, needs and rights-based approaches that need to be put in place by fully committed and qualified experts. Consequently, it is becoming ever more essential that the humanitarian sector is professionalised and experts receive high quality and in-depth training so that the relief and assistance they provide can help people in need as much as possible.

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. This willingness is anchored in the Action Plan of the Consensus which commits the European Union to the "*reinforcement of EU training provision for humanitarian professionals and other actors linked to the humanitarian response.....*". The provision of high quality European education and professional qualifications in humanitarian action impacts policy and practice. It can lead to improving the quality and efficiency of aid, and ultimately may result in saving lives while ensuring that people live in dignity.

2015 has in many ways been a pivotal year for humanitarian action. Consultations have been organised around the globe throughout the year to provide input to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), which will take place in May 2016. This has been a great opportunity for stakeholders across the board to share good policy and best practices. It has also been an opportunity to address the shortcomings of, inter alia, the humanitarian community, and to acknowledge and act upon the urgency, scale and complexity of humanitarian crises and disasters around the world.

The conclusions of the WHS will bring new challenges and opportunities for the provision of adequate training to humanitarian professionals and actors.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

The following needs have been identified. They reflect the on-going and continuous demand for a strengthened role of academia, research, education and training in humanitarian action.

(1) Education, training and awareness-raising:

- A continuous demand for higher educational qualifications specifically suited to addressing complex humanitarian emergencies;
- A continuous need to adapt education and training initiatives and methodologies to the changes in and of the sector, with contributions from academics and practitioners across the globe;
- The need for strengthened education and equitable training opportunities for humanitarian actors irrespective of geographical boundaries;
- The need to develop and use innovative methods, including modern technologies, to strengthen the outreach of humanitarian education and awareness, in particular the development of on-line and blended courses; and
- The need expressed by experienced humanitarian actors for refresher courses enabling them to question and address contemporary humanitarian issues.

(2) Research and Publications

- The need for up-to-date information on the humanitarian sector to better inform decision-making and policy development and to contribute to innovation and creativity in the sector; and

(3) Awareness-raising, networking and partnerships

- The need to raise awareness and further the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and knowledge on humanitarian policy (including the European Consensus and relevant EC communications) and practice as well as critical issues among the wider public and those directly or indirectly involved in humanitarian action;

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

ECHO funds education and training initiatives through the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA). The network is a unique association of twelve universities based in Europe.

The Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA) was established in 1993 as a network of European universities aiming to enhance professionalism in the delivery of humanitarian aid through education, training and research.

It has grown and evolved both in scale and scope alongside its partner European humanitarian stakeholders including the European Commission and VOICE. NOHA's evolution has been shaped by the larger EU values and principles (liberty, democracy, human rights and basic civil liberty, and the rule of law). The European Union humanitarian agenda and priorities as documented in its strategic plan, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, and the EU's higher education strategy being operationalised through the Bologna Process continue to inform NOHA's strategic direction.

In earlier years, NOHA was identified almost uniquely as a European network of universities providing a Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action. While this Programme continues to produce hundreds of graduates each year, NOHA has increasingly expanded its educational product base at a global level to meet the

educational, training and research needs of humanitarian stakeholders in Europe and beyond.

With the launching in 2015 of the World Humanitarian Summit consultations, NOHA has seized the opportunity to reflect more deeply into and assess its current and potential contribution to the humanitarian sector. Quite fittingly, 2015 also marked the end of NOHA's 2011-2015 strategic cycle. There was therefore an opportunity to translate choices made into concrete actions. In establishing its new 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, NOHA has strongly reaffirmed its commitment to humanitarian principles. In addition, it firmly commits to and supports the idea of subsidiarity as an additional principle to guide its actions. In doing so, it explicitly recognises the crucial role of disaster-affected people in decisions and actions that affect their lives.

The 2016 NOHA work programme is the outcome of this process. It paves the way for a strengthened role of academic institutions within the broader humanitarian stakeholder mix, with the underlying premise that crisis affected people should be at the centre of any action, including research, training and education.

The activities foreseen for 2016 have been categorised along five broad lines, which constitute the main areas of work of the NOHA network. These are:

- Education and training courses and seminars
- Research and Publications
- Conferences and awareness raising events
- Networking and partnerships

Examples of NOHA's activities are provided below.

3.1. Recurrent Activities

- Support to the NOHA flagship product, namely the **NOHA Masters** with particular focus on the **Intensive Programme**.
- Support to **e-learning and development of open educational resources**, to complement and strengthen current courses and training initiatives and broaden their outreach.
- Two '**Introductory courses on humanitarian action**' (the Fall School and the Spring School) for professionals from local, international and civil society humanitarian organisations, based on the core principles of humanitarian aid.
- **Thematic short-term courses** on issues such as protection of civilians and logistics and humanitarian supply chain management.
- **Thematic seminar** held by the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the concerned year. The seminar will address innovation and assessing the outcomes of the WHS process.

- **Organisation of seminars** for researchers, humanitarian practitioners, representatives of inter-governmental organisations and international organisations and independent consultants on innovative humanitarian topics and approaches.

3.1. New Activities and Initiatives

- **NOHA South-East Asia** and **NOHA Latin America** are expected to be consolidated in 2016. Support to two or three more regions will be provided to start developing their networks (Middle East, Russia and Caucasus, and Southern Africa).
- A Winter School focusing on the **link between relief, rehabilitation and development** will be launched in 2016.
- Two **faculty workshops** to assess and strengthen the content and teaching methodologies on specific core modules of the NOHA Masters will be organised.
- A network wide **Comprehensive reflective simulation and training exercise** enabling participants to put theory in practice, especially as it related to disaster preparedness and response, including security and leadership elements.

4. LRRD, COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

In the context of Erasmus+, NOHA has received a grant of EUR 347 730 for the period 01/09/2014 to 31/08/2017, for the European Humanitarian Action Partnership project.