



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels
C(2009) XXX final

COMMISSION DECISION

of

on the financing of actions from the general budget of the European Communities in the field of high quality European academic research and education for humanitarian action.

(ECHO/NOH/BUD/2009/01000)

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THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid¹, and in particular Article 4 and Article 15(2) thereof:

Whereas:

- (1) It is necessary to finance high quality European education and professional qualifications for humanitarian action that impacts policy and practice, and ultimately results in saving lives and ensures that people live with dignity.
- (2) The overall objective of the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA) is to provide quality European education (combining elements of teaching, training and research) on humanitarian action. This is a sixteen-month multidisciplinary post-graduate diploma in the humanitarian field designed to promote greater professionalism amongst humanitarian workers and involving several participating universities.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The provision of academic research on key humanitarian issues and studies should be financed under this Decision for a period of 12 months, covering the academic year.
- (5) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 500,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities which makes a specific reference to expenditures incurred by NOHA is necessary to provide the added value that such academic capital can deliver to the humanitarian aid environment.. The activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.
- (6) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1

² OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1

Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002³, and Article 15 of the internal rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities⁴.

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 high quality European academic research and education on humanitarian aid that impacts policy and practice by using budget article 23 02 01 of the 2009 general budget of the European Communities.
2. In accordance with Article 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the principal objective of this Decision is:
 - To provide quality European education on humanitarian action that impacts on humanitarian aid policy and practice, and ultimately results in saving lives and ensuring that people live with dignity.

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

- To consolidate and strengthen NOHA's Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action with a view to exploit its academic capital to support research on key humanitarian issues and strategies, including issues jointly identified with DG ECHO.

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

Article 2

1. The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be for a maximum period of 12 months, starting on 1 September 2009
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 September 2009.

Article 3

1. The Commission shall implement the budget by direct centralised management.
2. 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
Member of the Commission*

³ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, , p.1

⁴ Commission Decision of 5.3.2008, C/2008/773



Humanitarian Aid Decision
23 02 01

Title: Financing of actions from the general budget of the European Communities in the field of high quality European academic research and education for humanitarian action.

Description: Provision of quality European education for humanitarian action that impacts on humanitarian policy and practice.

Location of Action: EUROPEAN UNION

Amount of Decision: EUR 500,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/NOH/BUD/2009/01000

Supporting Document

1 - Description of Master's Programme.

The Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA) Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action is an established European programme. The Network ensures that this programme retains its status as a "model post-graduate programme" by continuously striving for academic excellence.

The NOHA Master's Programme comprises 3 semesters. It is a 16-months programme beginning in early September each year and ending in December of the following year. The programme consists of elements relevant to the practice of humanitarian action, namely International Law, International Relations, Political Sciences, Journalism, Mass Media, Medicine, Anthropology, Management, Human Security, Sustainable Development, Peace and Conflict Research.

NOHA has set up a number of instruments in order to maintain active channels of communication with its graduates. The NOHA Alumni Association has been set up to facilitate contact and collaboration between Master's students, NOHA-graduated professionals, the wider NOHA community and the professional humanitarian stakeholders. The website (<http://www.noha-students.org/>) of the Association provides relevant information on internships, job offers, and experience sharing is regularly posted.

Each NOHA Master's University has also a continuously updated email list of its NOHA alumni for automatic distribution of relevant information on job and internship placements, events, programmes, publications, etc. on matters related to humanitarian action. The alumni population actively takes part in the NOHA Intensive Programme by giving or leading

workshops, seminars, simulation exercises and field visits. Thus those active relationships keep the information flowing.

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, Health care, 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.

The NOHA core teaching staff - the NOHA Faculty - which comprises 42 lecturers delivers the Master's, (i.e. 6 in each of the core 7 universities that deliver the programme) in these fields of study and disciplines. Over 100 teachers back up the core faculty with sound knowledge and teaching experience in more than 10 disciplines relevant to humanitarian action. Between 1993 and 2008, the NOHA university network produced 2081 graduates. A total of 140 graduates are foreseen for 2009.

For the year 2009, the NOHA Faculty will be teaching two contingents of students, the group that started the Master's programme in early September 2008 and the group that will register in early September 2009. Due to management and quality assurance constraints, the number of students is limited to approximately 20 per university per academic year.

NOHA students come from all over the world and register in the NOHA Network. They are admitted following a highly competitive selection process agreed by the Network and can therefore enrol for courses jointly recognised by each of the participating universities, with the assurance of good communication links between them.

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 while on the programme and in partial fulfilment of the academic requirements. They also carry out internships in various organisations, institutions, and associations working in the field of humanitarian action. The NOHA Master's is built around four well integrated components: Intensive Programme, Core Course, Orientation Period, Research, and Work Placement.

NOHA has been providing, since 1993, quality education and training to people working or intending to work in the field of Humanitarian Action. NOHA has evolved over these years from a teaching and training network to a network that deals with all aspects of humanitarian education, including research.

NOHA is also recognised by the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (EAC) as a joint Masters course of excellence. In fact NOHA has received the "Erasmus Mundus Masters Course" label as well as financial support in the last five years. The NOHA masters course has also received support to establish a partnership with non-EU universities in the framework of the "Partnerships" action of Erasmus Mundus. Both these projects support academic cooperation, sharing of knowledge and learning and both student and scholar mobility. The NOHA partnership is also successful in using Erasmus programme support for intra-European student and staff mobility and they have organised a series of Erasmus funded Intensive Programmes (like summer courses) on topics of relevance for the field. These initiatives complement the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid's (DG ECHO) support to NOHA's core product and there is a clear demarcation between activities supported by these two organs of the European Commission".

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. This transfer has also modified the relationship with NOHA which evolved from focusing on a multi-disciplinary postgraduate diploma in the humanitarian field involving several participating universities to a much more results-oriented approach focusing on added value for the humanitarian aid environment.

The year 2008 was a significant milestone in NOHA's development as it embraced a series of new challenges made possible by the solid foundation for change established through the activities of previous years. Many factors have influenced NOHA's strategic direction, not least: the changing context of contemporary crises, the advice of humanitarian stakeholders working in the front line; the demands of the NOHA family (including our alumni); and NOHA's own internal monitoring systems. The main challenges that NOHA was faced with in 2008 centred around:

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

The more salient objectives of the envisaged strategy for NOHA in 2009 include:

- Establishing think tanks - thus exploiting a rich pool of academic capital - and presenting position papers on two new issues as jointly identified with DG ECHO to contribute to the European policy formulation process;
- Carrying out and supporting flagship research on key humanitarian themes and issues;
- Designing and delivering introductory and advanced training disciplinary courses on humanitarian action;
- Supporting progressive integration of new member universities of NOHA

2. Rationale, needs and target population.

- 2.1 Rationale : Development of higher education in humanitarian action. The aim is to provide greater professionalism and quality of service among humanitarian action personnel through the provision of solid intellectual foundations and the development of sound concepts and principles. It also contributes to greater awareness of humanitarian issues among the broader public and policy makers.
- 2.2 Identified needs : Responds to a growing need for higher educational qualifications specifically suited to addressing complex humanitarian emergencies.
- 2.3 Target population : Educate and train the humanitarian workers of tomorrow and refresh the knowledge of today's humanitarians.

3. Objectives and components of the proposed activities:

- 3.1 Objectives :

Principal objective: To provide quality European education on humanitarian action that impacts policy and practice, and ultimately results in saving lives and ensuring that people live with dignity.

Specific objective: To consolidate and strengthen NOHA's Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action with a view to exploit its academic capital to support research on key humanitarian issues and strategies including issues jointly identified with DG ECHO.

This specific objective will involve the progressive integration of new member universities of NOHA to enhance geographical representation in the European Union.

3.2 Components :

It is envisaged to consolidate and strengthen NOHA's Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action through the development of the:

- (1) NOHA Academy concept;
- (2) Establishment of a number of quality "expert task forces" in line with key policy issues to support DG ECHO in formulating policy on key humanitarian issues and strategies;
- (3) The integration of NOHA's two new European universities and the support other potential NOHA members to enhance its geographical representation in European Commission;
- (4) Development of the NOHA research programme;
- (5) Enhancing the coordination and management of NOHA.

4. Duration expected for Actions in the proposed Decision:

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

The actions funded by this Decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 September 2009.

The start date of 1 September 2009 is necessary in order to support preparatory actions at the beginning of the academic year which starts in September with the NOHA Intensive Programme hosted by the State University of Paul Cézanne Aix-Marseille III in France. Expenditure will cover a full academic year including preparatory actions.

Start Date : 1 September 2009

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.

6. Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1 Total amount of the Decision: EUR 500,000

6.2 Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: to provide quality European education on humanitarian action that impacts policy and practice, and ultimately results in saving lives and ensuring that people live with dignity				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners
Specific objective 1: To consolidate and strengthen NOHA's Master's Programme in Humanitarian Action with a view to exploit its academic capital to support research on key humanitarian issues and strategies including issues jointly identified with DG ECHO.	500,000	EU	Higher Education and training	NOHA
TOTAL:	500,000			

7 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 Community 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/evaluation/index_en.htm.

8 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 1a) of the Implementing Rules.