



Call for Applications Public Policy Research

Ukraine National Initiatives to Enhance Reforms (UNITER) Civil Society Strengthening Program in Crimea

This Call for Applications (CFA) is a part of the “Ukraine National Initiatives to Enhance Reforms” (UNITER) project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), implemented by Pact Inc. The main purpose of UNITER is to assist to consolidate democratic governance in Ukraine by strengthening and developing a more vibrant civil society and more robust NGOs.

A key objective of the Civil Society Strengthening Program in Crimea, as a part of the UNITER project is to increase the quantity and quality of policy interaction on Crimean issues.

As Ukraine moves towards consolidating democratic governance on the national level, much of the social, economic difficulties emerge in the country’s regions. Citizens’ quality of life is seriously impacted by both the short-term effect of transitional economics and the rapid changes in the global economy. Ukraine’s ultimate conclusion of deep free trade talks with the European Union will have direct impact on Crimea’s economy, such as in tourism, agriculture, fisheries and energy sectors.

As an autonomous republic, Crimea enjoys substantial ability of self-governance but Crimean social and economic issues are underrepresented in national level policy-making. Crimean capacity in policy research and advocacy, debating alternatives advancing social change at present seems lacking. To facilitate effective treatment of important policy issues, the debates should be cross-sectoral, involving the public as well as the private sectors.

To fortify the capacity of sub-national policy-making and reinforce opportunities unique to its regions, Ukraine needs to advance an overarching strategy for regional development. A regional development strategy for Crimea will be successful only if it enjoys wide-ranging support from its citizens. To ensure this, it should be based on broad public consensus and should be able to demonstrate its capacity to directly improve the quality of life of Crimean citizens. The strategy and its implementation should therefore build upon evidence-based policy alternatives in key areas of social life.

This call for applications aims to support public policy research and advocacy that address the quality of life issues and improve human services in Crimea.

PRIORITY ISSUES

Cost of living, social inclusion, employment – access to consumer goods, health care, labor market characteristics, social security to vulnerable groups, safety at the workplace, labor migration and unemployment.

Trade, transport, maritime affairs – access to markets, factors influencing current account, transaction costs, transport routes, directions and volumes, integration with national and international markets, maritime diplomacy, naval security, law enforcement in the Ukrainian waters, off-shore resources and drilling, compliance with EU maritime policy standards, government support of shipping industry, fisheries policy, Black Sea water quality.

Education, culture, multilingualism and youth – access to quality education in rural areas, access to education of vulnerable groups, enabling cross cultural dialogue, enhancing government multilingual policy, involvement of youth in social initiatives and local self governance,

Governance productivity – policing, R&D, tax policy, environmental investment, pollution, alternative sources of energy, strategic outsourcing of social services, employment characteristics of government labor force, ensuring info and data accessibility to public, safeguarding democracy, good governance institutionalized forms cooperation between civil society and local governments.

Proposals should:

- Identify an attainable goal to be addressed via significant public policy research: micro- and/or macro-level policy studies;
- Include an assertive public policy advocacy component targeted at well-defined audiences;
- Demonstrate a cross-sectoral approach by strong public and media outreach and results dissemination strategy;
- Demonstrate clear definition of roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved;
- Demonstrate a minimum of 10% co-funding from international or local resources and/or local governments.

Preference will be given to:

- Applicants with previous research experience on Crimea;
- Projects that are able to strengthen independent research and advocacy capacity in Crimea (involving partners from Crimean institutes);
- Comparative research of Ukraine's regions on access to local human services;
- Projects that addresses Crimean social services and quality of life standards in the wider European context;
- Projects that exhibit innovative research questions, hypotheses development and unique set of variables in area and industrial studies;
- Projects that demonstrate participatory methods, marrying research with advocacy and public education;
- Projects with clear statement of problem, goals and measurable outputs and outcomes.

Applicants must be legally registered non-governmental organizations including unions, trade and professional associations, foundations from any regions of Ukraine.

Pact does not support for-profit organizations, political parties, religious organizations and individuals.

Grant amount will vary depending on the project type and applicant's capacity with a maximum amount of \$200,000. Average grant is expected to be up to \$50 000.

Tentative project duration is six months up to one year.

All projects can be submitted in English, Ukrainian or Russian electronically or in hard copies, no later than **April 09, 2010 COB**:

By email: crimea@pact.org.ua

Or at the address: UNITER Crimea Sergeeva-Tsenskiego 12/4 street, entrance 2, floor 2, Simferopol, Crimea

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