

Call for Applications

Confidence Building in the South Caucasus – a joint initiative of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Black Sea Trust

The Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation of the German Marshall Fund (BST) are launching a new, joint funding initiative to support confidence building activities of non-state actors in the South Caucasus and its neighboring regions. Both partners are convinced that civil society can make a valuable contribution to the process of confidence building, mutual understanding and reconciliation between populations in territories involved in (armed) conflicts. This is a new initiative designed to encourage grantees to investigate new ways, methods and approaches to generating mutual understanding.

1. Program Description

The projects should be initiated by civil society organizations, who can successfully involve various population groups from the region in their projects' activities. Organizations requesting grants must be legally registered in one of the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine. The involvement of additional partners (especially those from the EU) is possible and welcome.

Projects working in the following areas would be especially appreciated:

- cross-border initiatives for youth;
- approaches to political and civic education;
- approaches to reconciliation and peace that incorporate experiences from history and convey them to the younger generation;
- the role of media in overcoming stereotypes.

A special emphasis is placed on multilateral initiatives and those that reach out to the neighboring countries - Russia and Turkey.

Projects should be exemplary and make use of novel and innovative means of building trust. The grants provide up to 35 000 USD (about 25 000 EUR), multilateral projects can in special cases exceed that amount. The projects must be completed by June 30, 2012 and reported to BST within two months of the project's completion. The maximum duration of the project should not exceed 10 months.

2. Application

The entire program administration is carried out by the BST on behalf of both partners. Application forms and all other documents (for narrative and financial reporting) will be

provided by the BST website (<http://www.gmfus.org/cs/blacksea>). Applications and reports are to be submitted in English only. Decisions about selection and funding of the submitted projects will be taken jointly by representatives of both donors. A grant letter to the selected projects will be issued by the BST by September 2011.

Interested parties may consult the following contact persons, who are prepared to provide advance consultation if needed:

Nino Liliushvili – BST representative for Georgia and Armenia (nliliuashvili@gmfus.org)

Mehriban Rahimli – BST representative for Azerbaijan (mrahimli@gmfus.org)

The deadline for submitting applications is August 1, 2011. Applications can be currently sent to the following email address:

confidencebuilding@gmfus.org

Interested organizations from the EU are also welcome to address the responsible program officer in the Robert Bosch Stiftung:

Dr. Carsten Lenk, carsten.lenk@bosch-stiftung.de

NOTE: In addition to the joint initiative, BST will continue to fund projects in all countries of the Black Sea region, including in-country projects in all three countries of the South Caucasus.