



Nordic-Russian Cooperation Programme in Education and Research

Call for proposals – Higher education 2015

1 INVITATION

The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education («**SIU**») is pleased to invite Nordic institutions for higher education to apply for project funding under the [Nordic-Russian Programme for Cooperation in Education and Research](#).

The overall objective of the Programme is to promote multifaceted contacts in the fields of education and research, in the interests of sustainable social and economic development in Russia and the Nordic countries.

The call is open to projects with a project period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016. The final deadline for sending in applications is **23 September 2015, at 15:00 Norwegian time (CET)**.

Below you will find more information on the primary focus of the Programme, eligibility requirements and selection criteria, and an outline of the administrative process of project selection under the Programme.

2 MAIN OBJECTIVE AND FUNDING FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAMME

2.1 The primary objectives of the Programme

The primary objectives of the Programme are:

- To initiate long-term partnerships that will improve the direct links between the involved institutions and organizations.
- To facilitate multilateral cooperation in the training of highly qualified experts, exchange of undergraduate and postgraduate students and university faculty, as well as joint research projects and promotion of innovation. The multilateral cooperation should have a clear added value compared to bilateral cooperation in higher education between institutions and organisations in Russia and the different Nordic countries.
- To promote mutual benefit of project activities between Nordic and Russian cooperation partners.

2.2 Individual project funding and primary project focus

The Nordic-Russian Cooperation Programme in Education and Research is based on Nordic-Russian mutual priorities and mutual funding.

Nordic participation in higher education projects is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Each project may be awarded up to 50 000 Euro (EUR) from the Nordic funds. SIU may adjust the amount awarded based on assessment of the merits of the individual applications. The total funds made available for Nordic participation in this call are EUR 445 000.

Russian participation in higher education projects must be funded with own funding (in kind or cash) obtained from the participating institution's funds for international cooperation. In the application, such funding should be confirmed by the Rector of the Russian institution.

The joint activities must be related to one or more of the following thematic priority areas in the field of higher education:

- Shared Nordic-Russian challenges regarding environment and climate and common or shared resources, such as the Baltic Sea and the Arctic region.
- Social inclusion and exclusion – including special needs education, social integration of minority and migrant children, youth employment, and transition from education to labour market.
- Area studies – including the languages, literature and culture of Russia and the Nordic countries.
- Higher education aimed at strengthening long-term cooperation in the field of industries and innovation.
- Reform of higher education structures with regard to the aims of the Bologna Process.

Support may be granted to any activity that contributes to fulfil the programme's primary objectives. The following list of activities may be illustrative of typical activities eligible for support:

- **Project development**
E.g. international project meetings; development of joint courses, study programmes, degrees and/or intensive programmes; and joint publication and dissemination.
- **Implementation of educational cooperation between higher education institutions**

E.g. joint teaching and supervision; guest lecturing, workshops and seminars; short or long term mobility of students and/or staff; and facilitation of student participation in research activities or projects.

- **Implementation of educationally relevant cooperation with enterprises in the public and private sectors**

E.g. implementation of student work placements, internships or trainee arrangements; facilitation of student involvement in R&D projects and/or involvement of private or public enterprises in student projects; facilitation of student entrepreneurship or innovation projects; and guest lecturing, workshops and seminars involving lecturers, supervisors or advisors from the public or private sector.

Activities may include all levels of higher education (Bachelor, Master and PhD), all fields of education, and involve multiple fields and disciplines (multidisciplinary projects). For more information on and specification of eligible project activities and budget items, please see the Programme Document 2012-2015 and Guidelines of the Nordic-Russian Cooperation Programme in Education and Research.

3 ELIGIBILITY REQUIRMENTS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

3.1 Formal eligibility requirements

In order to be eligible, applications must meet the following criteria:

- **Applications** must include at least three partners; one partner in at least two different Nordic countries and at least one partner in Russia.
- **The applicant** must be a Nordic institution for higher education that is defined as such in their respective countries.
- **The main partner** must be an accredited institution for higher education in Russia, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, and which is providing accredited education programmes at a level equivalent to that offered at the Nordic applicant institution.
- **Applications** must include Letters of commitment from the main partner institution and network partners in Russia in the Nordic countries.
- **Applications** must be written in the English language and be submitted fully completed, including attachments, through [SIU's online platform for applications and reporting](#) (Espresso), latest within the call's final deadline.
- **The project activities** described in the application must be implemented within the project period: 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016.

Please note that failure to meet the above criteria will lead to dismissal of the application.

3.2 Project selection criteria

The eligible applications' relative strength will be assessed on the degree to which they are deemed able to meet the following specific and general selection criteria:

Specific selection criteria

- The project's ability to contribute to the establishment or strengthening of collaborative partnerships between the involved higher education institutions, hereunder the depth, breadth, sustainability and educational quality of the proposed collaboration;
- The project's ability to introduce or strengthen collaborations with or involvement of enterprises in the public or private sectors, hereunder the enterprises' level of integration in the project activities, the educational relevance and quality of the proposed collaboration/involvement, and the value thereby added to the educational collaboration;
- The project's ability to introduce or strengthen mobility of students, hereunder the mutuality and anticipated sustainability of such mobility strategies; and
- The project's ability to achieve positive and lasting educational or institutional synergy effects (e.g. increased knowledge and experience sharing, network development, multi-disciplinary cooperation, and other relevant effects).

General selection criteria

- The project's relevance to the primary objectives of the Programme, including its ability to realise the objectives, to create added educational value for its target groups (institutions, enterprises, students and network partners), and to justify the need for financial support under the Programme to carry out the proposed activities.
- The overall clarity, completeness and quality of the project description, including the quality of the project structure, alignment of proposed activities with budget allocations, demonstration of cost-efficiency, and identification and mitigation of potential risk factors.
- The quality of the project team and the cooperation arrangements, hereunder the parties' complementarity with regard to profile, experience and expertise, the level of formalised commitment and active contribution of the involved institutions/enterprises, and the project's sustainability.

Please note that these criteria correspond to various compulsory fields in the online Espresso application form, and that the application's ability to meet these relative criteria will be assessed on basis of the description provided in each such field. The project budget included in the application form should only include funds applied for through SIU.

In order to ensure coherence in the description of your project, please carefully read the relevant help texts in the online application form as well as the Programme Document 2012-2015 and the Guidelines for the Nordic-Russian Cooperation Programme in Education and Research. Remaining questions may be directed to SIU or the International Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

4 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

4.1 Assessment of applications and response to applicants

The Joint Nordic-Russian Working Group makes the final decision regarding project funding. Each application will be subject to an external peer review and will be assessed on basis of its individual merits with regard to the specific and general selection criteria set out above item 3.2., and its relative standing to other competing project applications. If all other aspects of competing applications are considered equal, the Nordic-Russian Working Group may place emphasis on strategic and political factors deemed relevant to the Programme.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the application process. Decisions are estimated to be announced by the end of November 2015.

4.2 Contracts and reporting obligations

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a contract with SIU. The contract will be subject to SIU's standard terms and conditions, and must be signed by an institutional representative holding the requisite authority to legally bind the applicant institution. The obligations on part of the applicant include a duty to submit a final project report via Espresso, on completion of the project.

4.3 Contact information

For further information on the Programme or how to apply, please contact **SIU** via e-mail (herdis.kolle@siu.no) or by telephone (+47 55 30 38 99) or the International department, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation via e-mail (trinchenko-ko@mon.gov.ru).