

African countries. Inquiries should be directed to Program Specialist Stephen Taylor, (202) 619-5319, Internet STAYLOR@USIA.GOV

American Republics

Good Governance in the Americas

USIA is interested in proposals for programs which will foster effective administration in local and regional municipal governments. Programs might examine and seek to improve relationships among local executive, legislative, and judicial elements, or they might address the knowledge and skills necessary to administer one or more of these branches of local government. Program topics might include one or more of the following: judicial administration, budget development, financial management and oversight, professionalization of the civil service (e.g., the use of city managers), tax policies and mechanisms, election practices, management of municipal services, privatization of government property, consumer protection, business regulation (as opposed to control), licensing, and environmental protection. Inquiries should be directed to Program Specialist Laverne Johnson, (202) 619-5326, Internet LJOHNSON@USIA.GOV

Western Europe

Italian Local Government

USIA is interested in proposals with a focus on regional governments in Italy. The exchange would have three phases. In Phase 1 a team from the American grantee institution would visit five cities in Italy (Rome, Palermo, Naples, Bologna, and Milan) to select, in conjunction with the USIS post, participants in a U.S. study tour. In Phase 2, fifteen participants, three from each city, would travel to the U.S. for a two-week study tour focussing on regional government and separation of powers between federal and state governments. In Phase 3, American participants selected from the interlocutors that the groups met during Phase 2 would return to Italy and conduct short (one-day) seminars in each of the five cities. Inquiries should be directed to Program Specialist Christina Miner, (202) 619-5319, Internet CMINER@USIA.GOV

East Asia

Chinese Federalism Project

Proposals are invited to conduct a project for Chinese provincial and municipal legislators to observe how U.S. state governments function and

how the Federal government and state governments interact.

Chinese Local Elected Officials Project

Proposals are invited to conduct a project to bring Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs officials from the provincial level to the U.S. to observe how U.S. local officials are chosen, what their powers are, how they respond to the needs of their constituencies, and what happens when they are not sufficiently responsive to their constituencies' needs.

Inquiries should be directed to Program Specialist Elroy Carlson, (202) 619-5326, Internet ECARLSON@USIA.GOV

Program Parameters

The Office of Citizen Exchanges strongly encourages the coordination of activities with respected universities, professional associations, and major cultural institutions in the U.S. and abroad, but particularly in the U.S. Projects should be intellectual and cultural, not technical. Vocational training (an occupation other than one requiring a baccalaureate or higher academic degree; i.e., clerical work, auto maintenance, etc. and other occupations requiring less than two years of higher education) and technical training (special and practical knowledge of a mechanical or a scientific subject which enhances mechanical, narrowly scientific, or semi-skilled capabilities) are ineligible for support. In addition, scholarship programs are ineligible for support.

The Office does not support proposals limited to conferences or seminars (i.e., one- to fourteen-day programs with plenary sessions, main speakers, panels, and a passive audience). It will support conferences only insofar as they are part of a larger project in duration and scope which is receiving USIA funding from this competition. USIA-supported projects may include internships; study tours; short-term, non-technical training; and extended, intensive workshops taking place in the United States or overseas. The themes addressed in exchange programs must be of long-term importance rather than focused exclusively on current events or short-term issues. In every case, a substantial rationale must be presented as part of the proposal, one that clearly indicates the distinctive and important contribution of the overall project, including where applicable the expected yield of any associated conference. No funding is available exclusively to send U.S. citizens to conferences or conference-type seminars overseas; neither is funding available for

bringing foreign nationals to conferences or to routine professional association meetings in the United States. Projects that duplicate what is routinely carried out by private sector and/or public sector operations will not be considered. The Office of Citizen Exchanges strongly recommends that applicants consult with host country USIS posts, prior to submitting proposals.

Selection of Participants

All grant proposals should clearly describe the types of persons who will participate in the program as well as the process by which participants will be selected. It is recommended that programs in support of U.S. internships include letters tentatively committing host institutions to support the internships. In the selection of foreign participants, USIA and USIS posts retain the right to nominate all participants and to accept or deny participants recommended by grantee institutions. However, grantee institutions are often asked by USIA to suggest names of potential participants. The grantee institution will also provide the names of American participants and brief (two pages) biographical data on each American participant to the Office of Citizen Exchanges for information purposes. Priority will be given to foreign participants who have not previously travelled to the United States.

Additional Guidance

The Office of Citizen Exchanges offers the following additional guidance to prospective applicants:

1. The Office of Citizen Exchanges encourages project proposals involving more than one country. Pertinent rationale which links countries in multi-country projects should be included in the submission. Single-country projects that are clearly defined and possess the potential for creating and strengthening continuing linkages between foreign and U.S. institutions are also welcome.

2. Proposals for bilateral programs are subject to review and comment by the USIS post in the relevant country, and pre-selected participants will also be subject to USIS post review.

3. Bilateral programs should clearly identify the counterpart organization and provide evidence of the organization's participation.

4. The Office of Citizen Exchanges will consider proposals for activities which take place exclusively in other countries when USIS posts are consulted in the design of the proposed program and in the choice of the most suitable venues for such programs.