CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Context

Due to the conflict in Syria, more than seven million Syrians have been displaced internally and nearly five million Syrians have fled to Egypt, Northern Iraq (KRI), Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Many of these vulnerable people are university-aged, while only a small fraction of them are enrolled in university programmes in host countries. These higher education systems have been heavily affected and are facing challenges in admitting a large number of Syrian students and in coping with the problems related to this situation.

HOPES as a Response by the EU to the Syrian Crisis

HOPES (Higher and Further Education Opportunities and Perspectives for Syrians) is a €12 million initiative funded by the EU’s Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis, the ‘Madad Fund’ and implemented by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), British Council, Campus France and Nuffic.

It aims at improving prospects for young Syrians and contributing to the preparation of the post-crisis reconstruction of Syria. The project seeks to provide better access to quality further and higher education opportunities for refugees of post-secondary-age from Syria as well as young people in the host communities affected by the high influx of refugees.

The Call for Proposals (CFP)

As a result to the first round of the Call for Proposals launched in March 2017, 19 projects were awarded in Egypt, Northern Iraq (KRI), Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey with a total budget of approximately €940,000 out of €1.5 million. Further information on projects funded under the first round of Call for Proposals is available on http://www.hopes-madad.org/call-for-proposal/

The second round of the Call for Proposals will be open from December 18, 2017 till February 20, 2018.

The main objective of the Call for Proposals is to increase the number of beneficiaries from the target group, refugees of post-secondary age from Syria as well as young people in host communities, that are enrolled and trained in higher education programmes and training courses including innovative further education options and language courses.

Furthermore, the CFP aims to improve the situation and performance of already enrolled students. The CFP will also enhance the education and training institutions’ capacity to deal with the specific situation of refugees and provide Syrian youth and vulnerable youth from the host communities, with opportunities to access further and higher education. It also seeks to promote refugee education through better access to online resources, innovative courses and educational support. In addition the CFP will support initiatives which intend to help the youth from Syria and vulnerable youth from the host communities to continue their education and ensure that the human capital is not lost. Overall, it aspires to empower young people from Syria to build their own career path by addressing their educational needs while also promoting a gender balanced approach.

Examples of projects that can be funded:

☑ Training for lecturers and students of higher education institutions in didactics and methodology as well as subject-specific skills in order to keep them connected to international developments.
- Implementation of MOOCs (Massive Online Open Course) in the refugee context. Such a project will open up learning resources to refugees in camps and it may stimulate refugees to pursue a learning path.

- The offering of academic or TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) short courses on a variety of topics (e.g. on entrepreneurship, soft skills, leadership qualities, computer literacy, working independently, dealing with university administration) by lifelong learning centres to facilitate the learning of students at university and to improve their chances on the labour market after graduation. This could also include summer or winter schools on specific topics.

- Training of education staff in providing support to students with learning difficulties, including capacity building, supportive classes, and psychosocial support. This will help students to complete their studies.

- Setting up flexible procedures within universities for Syrian students who are not familiar with the application process. Streamlining the process and procedures at universities in the region and developing a common approach in the region to integrate refugee students into education institutions.

- Design and implementation of a blended learning module for Syrian youth to acquire academic skills enabling them to enrol (again) in formal education. This will help young Syrians of post-secondary age to kick-start their academic careers.

- Development of a special mentoring/coaching trajectory for Syrian students in Higher Education in the region to help them succeed in their studies, helping them to share their experiences and build alumni and ambassadorial structures.

- **Development of student networks and alumni clubs to support the integration of students from Syria and the host communities (e.g. student clubs implementing activities to facilitate cross-cultural interaction through their universities)**

- Creation of tutoring and training schemes to help the students perform better in their studies with a special focus on the active participation of refugee students.

- Support the establishment of structures that help the refugee students better take care of their own needs and interact more closely with the host communities.

- **Activities supporting sustainable cohesion and open dialogue between the refugees from Syria and the host communities**

- Scientific surveys on factors that influence the access of refugees to Higher Education, their performance during their studies and their chances for employment after graduation.

- Provide informal education opportunities for young Syrians, such as train-the-trainer components.

- Certified short courses leading to credit points (ECTS equivalent) that may be transferred to bachelor or master studies. These will help students determine their further course of study and acquire knowledge and skills that are most useful to them.

**General Information**

I. Through this call an approximate of €560,000 is available to fund approximately 14 projects with budgets ranging from €6,000 to €60,000 and a maximum duration of 12 months across Egypt, Northern Iraq (KRI), Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and/or Syria.

II. The amount granted will be based on the budget and the cost breakdown in line with the eligible cost criteria specified in the Rules and Regulations document.

III. Grant Beneficiaries will receive the funds in three instalments, the first 40% of the requested budget will be received after the signing of the agreement. The second instalment will be received after the submission and approval of the interim report. The last instalment will be received after the submission and approval of the final report.
IV. Grant Beneficiaries are required to submit an interim and a final report. Second and third payments will not be transferred before the submission and approval of the reports.

V. Based on the reports, at least one monitoring and evaluation visit will be conducted by HOPES Project team during which the progress of the project will be assessed.

VI. Grant Beneficiaries will receive the funds at the end of May 2018 after signing the agreements and upon which projects are expected to start the implementation.

General Eligibility

The general criteria that proposals under the CfP have to comply with in order to be eligible:

- Proposals come from Egyptian, Northern Iraqi (KRI), Jordanian, Lebanese, Turkish and/or Syrian organisations involved in the higher education or post-school training of refugees from Syria
- Applications from the abovementioned organisations and further and higher education institutes in Europe: this type of institutional cooperation has to be demand-driven and should arise from the needs of local organisations.

- Applicants must be:
  - Local and/or regional education institutions registered in one of the target countries
  - Local ministries (of Education and Higher Education, but also others e.g. Ministry of Labour)
  - Youth or labour organisations who are working with refugees
  - NGO’s (local, regional and/or global) working with refugees which are registered in one of the target countries
  - Local authorities working with refugees
  - European education institutions – they can participate as a partner of a project, in which the local/regional organisation takes the lead.

- European education institutions cannot apply as an individual entity or a leading partner in a consortium with a local/regional organisation.
- Private and for-profit institutions can only apply as a partner/subcontractor of a project, in which the local/regional organisation takes the lead.

Selection and Award Criteria

The projects must be demand-driven with the support for increasing the social cohesion between the refugees from Syria and the host communities. Projects that are tailored to the needs of the target group and reach as many young Syrians in education as possible, be it face-to-face or through blended or online activities and, academic research related to Syrians and their education will be funded. Projects that meet the following general selection criteria can be funded:

- Reach/benefit as many people from the target group as possible, e.g. by including a train-the-trainer (ToT) component
- Demonstrate a clear and local/regional demand by referring to national development strategies, local initiatives and plans and taking the host community into account
- Include activities that address sustainable solutions for the social cohesion need between the refugees and the host community
- Deliver tangible and quick results
- Provide quality education, e.g. through activities that provide for credit transfer
- Include as many partners as possible, preferably the whole quadruple helix: education – business – (local) government and citizens/local communities
Active promotion of gender equality in project implementation as well as in the contents and delivery of education and training activities.

Have a lasting effect after project completion (sustainability).

The projects must take place in Egypt, Northern Iraq (KRI), Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and/or Syria.

*The proposals will be assessed on the following criteria leading to a maximum score of 120*

**The Process**

**Opening the Call**

The second round of applications for the Call for Proposals will be open on the 18th of December 2017 till the 20th of February 2018 (Midnight CET).

**Information Sessions**

During the application period, one information session will be organised in all eligible countries: Egypt, Northern Iraq (KRI), Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. In these information sessions, a number of relevant national stakeholders will be invited to get informed on the call and to help disseminate the information to potential applicants. These information sessions will provide the most relevant information (what is a CFP, what kind of projects are eligible, who can apply, how to report, etc.)

**Selection Process**

In March 2018, HOPES team will screen the proposals to ensure the completeness of documents. This first phase of screening includes an eligibility check performed by the HOPES team based on the eligibility criteria of the score sheet. Complete and eligible application will be transferred to the selection committees formed in each country for evaluation. The committees consist of an international expert on education, a national higher education official (e.g. from the Ministry of Higher Education)/ a local decision maker on education a representative of an international NGO working in the field of Higher Education for refugees and a HOPES staff member which will act as an observer.

In April 2018, a selection committee gathering will be organised in each country for an assessment session of the proposals. During this meeting the final selection will be made, the committee will base its decision on the fixed criteria of the score sheet published.

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. The distribution of projects in the target countries will be based on creating a balance between the demonstrated high demand and the quality of applications received.

The ambition of HOPES is to divide the projects awarded over the six eligible countries based on the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total Number of Projects Funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Iraq (KRI)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implementation

Awarded projects will be notified in May 2018. Selected organisations will start receiving funds if all required documents are delivered (bank statements, bank account details verification documents) and the agreement is signed by the Grant Beneficiary (Requesting organisation) and Contracting Authority (Nuffic as consortium partner of HOPES).

Application Form

Institutions are required to download the application documents from http://www.hopes-madad.org/call-for-proposal/ and upload the completed application documents to https://delta.nuffic.nl/Application/Apply/40.

All applications must be submitted by February 20, 2018 midnight (CET). A guideline for application is available on http://www.hopes-madad.org/call-for-proposal/

Research projects are requested to submit Annex 1-Application Form- Research Project-A. Non-research projects are requested to submit Annex 1- Application form Non- Research Project- B. Both applications should be submitted with the other required annexes as indicated in the required documents part of Annex 1- Application Form.

Further instructions on the application forms is available in Annex 10 - Application Guideline.

Reporting Requirement

The maximum duration of the funded projects is 12 months. Grant Beneficiaries are required to submit an interim and a final report. Second and third payments will not be transferred before the submission and approval of the reports. See below under available documents

Payment in Tranches

Grant Beneficiaries will receive the funds in three instalments, the first 40% of the requested budget will be received after the signing of the agreement. The second instalment will be received after the submission and approval of the interim report. The last instalment will be received after the submission and approval of the final report

Monitoring Visit

Based on the reports at least one monitoring and evaluation visit will be conducted by HOPES Project team during which the progress of the project will be assessed. Additionally, a monthly monitoring survey will be conducted by HOPES team to follow up on the implementation of the projects.

Project Cycle

The following chart depicts the different activities that form the project cycle.
# PROJECT CYCLE FOR CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## Available Documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of document format</th>
<th>Download document</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annex 4 - Document of legal registration, showing that the organisation is registered in one of the eligible countries</td>
<td>To be uploaded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex 5 - Checklist Organisational Capacity Assessment (See COCA) including; Organisational chart and description of staff numbers and functions (for projects above €8,000)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hopes-madad.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Annex-3-Grant-Recipient-Bank-Account-details.docx">http://www.hopes-madad.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Annex-3-Grant-Recipient-Bank-Account-details.docx</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>-------</td>
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