

ONE HEALTH CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL RESEARCH – ROMANIA

Call for proposals



UNIVERSITATEA
BABEȘ-BOLYAI



Cluj School of Public Health
College of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences
Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Program Overview

Purpose

The One Health Center for Environmental and Occupational Research – Romania Project seeks to build an international network of environmental and occupational health experts who have a common understanding of current thinking on Environmental and Occupational Research, and to train the next generation of researchers and leaders in South-Eastern Europe and West Central Asia. This is a call for proposals addressed to researchers from the South-Eastern Europe and West Asia, who are invited to present their projects in this competition.

Eligibility Criteria

Proposals need to include teams from at least two out of the seven South-Eastern European and West Central Asia countries of interest (i.e., Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Moldova, Romania). We will encourage the formation of a regional network of academic scholars and researchers in environmental and occupational health and to promote a mutual understanding of the common problems and the possible solutions that these systems face. Proposals have to focus on at least one of the three research areas of interest - zoonosis, environmental health, food safety.

Selection Criteria

Proposals with the best chance of success are those with the most rigorous design, greatest potential for publication, and greatest potential for impacting the public health system within the national and regional (e.g., South-Eastern Europe or West Central Asia) level. The number of participating countries and the strength of the regional network will also be taken into consideration.

Total Awards

Grants will be awarded to 3 projects, for an amount of up to \$ 8.000 each, and a length of 5 months.

Key Dates and Deadlines

The submission deadline for the grant proposals is February 25th, 2015 (at midnight, Romanian time - GMT + 2).

Application procedure

Proposals developed based on the application form (see Appendix A) must be submitted by email to elena.bozdog@publichealth.ro, by the closing date and time. Incomplete proposals and/or late proposals will be disqualified.

The Call

The present call for proposals will finance projects using a One Health approach that have to focus on at least one of the research areas of interest listed below:

- Zoonosis
- Environmental health
- Food safety

You are invited to send a project description that includes a discussion of the research problem and the research approach (target population, sample size, laboratory methods, and outcomes to determine).

The research projects need to include teams from two to three, out of the seven eligible countries of interest, in order to facilitate the formation of a regional network of academic scholars and researchers in the environmental and occupational health field and to promote a mutual understanding of the common problems and the possible solutions that these systems face. Eligible countries:

- Albania,
- Armenia,
- Georgia,
- Kazakhstan,
- Kirgizstan,
- Moldova,
- Romania.

Researchers or institutions from other countries as listed above are not eligible for funding.

Selection Criteria

The quality, effectiveness and translational potential of proposed research and training projects will be evaluated. A panel of experts will evaluate the research projects based on the following criteria:

- Project addresses scientific questions of interest to the GEOHealth Hub,
- Project possesses high scientific merit demonstrated by novel research direction and a One Health innovative approach,
- Project focuses on significant gaps in public health, environmental health and veterinary health,
- Project has a high potential for leading to external funding and publications,
- Project has a high potential for implementation or translation into policies or products that will improve public health.

Funding Opportunities and Financial Related Aspects

In this current call, three proposals will be awarded. Support of trainees is channeled through the awarded research projects. Through these grants we provide stipends, support for in-region travel, support for supplies, and translation services. Project awards allow trainees five months of support.

Budget revisions may occur during the course of a project. We have tried to create as much of a 'real world' budget atmosphere for the projects as possible, which includes making project leaders responsible for budgeting stipends at the individual level, and to make them commensurate with the role and contribution of each individual within the project team. All proposed stipends must be reviewed and approved by the Project Manager, and payments are controlled in order to ensure that they go directly to each trainee at the appropriate time. All research projects are also required to have some support from a local institution, which typically is the university with which the project leader is affiliated. This support must be confirmed by a letter from the appropriate Dean or Rector, and typically takes the form of office space, computer and office services, recognition of the project by the university and that it serves to train the project leader and other team members who are pre-docs or post-docs of that university. Please bear in mind that this is just an example and not only university affiliations are acknowledged.

Evaluation and Monitoring Related Aspects

Grantees are expected to meet the program requirements for the submission of narrative and financial reports. As part of the application process, finalists will be asked to disclose any financial arrangements or relationships that might compromise the credibility or perceived credibility of the findings, mirroring the types of disclosure requested by leading journals. Grantees are required to submit periodic information needed for overall evaluation and monitoring.

Application procedure

Applications must be submitted by email to elena.bozdog@publichealth.ro. Applications which fail to comply with this formal requirement will not be evaluated further. In particular, proposals arriving by any other means will be regarded as "not submitted" and will NOT be evaluated.

Applications submitted after the closing date and time or incomplete applications will NOT be taken into consideration.

Applicants are strongly advised to start their submission process well in time and not to leave it to the last hour in order to avoid the risk of a failed submission. Also, the applicants are strongly advised to write the proposal in strict accordance to the application form (see Appendix A) that has been made available to them.



Spending procedure

Grant funds may be used for project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, dataset procurement, meetings, supplies, project-related in-region travel, and other direct project expenses, including a limited amount of equipment essential to the project.

Grant funds may not be used to subsidize individuals for the costs of their health care, to support clinical trials of unapproved drugs or devices, to construct or renovate facilities, for lobbying, for political activities, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities.

Additional Information

For additional information please contact:

elena.bozdog@publichealth.ro

alexandru_coman@publichealth.ro

Appendix A: Application form

Please write the proposal according to the instructions within each section. If you choose to include charts, graphs, or references, add them within the appropriate section and space limit.

Your application must not exceed ten double spaced pages, using Times New Roman, 12 font size (section VIII - CVs and Section IX - *References* are not to be considered in the ten page limit).

Section I: Applicants

Research area:

Research title:

Principal investigator (country of residence, name, title, affiliation, and contact):

Team members (names, titles, and affiliations of researchers that are foreseen to participate in the project, listed by country):

Abstract of the proposal (up to 350 words):

Keywords for the proposal (up to five):

Proposed start date: mm/dd/yyyy

Proposed end date: mm/dd/yyyy

Total amount requested (USD):

Section II: Background

In this section state: (1) the current status in the field in the international literature, (2) the current status in the field in the targeted geographical area, (3) the problem you want to address, (4) why and how you plan to address it. Moreover, describe (4) the scientific framework and (5) the expected impact of the project. The scientific framework and the expected impact must comprise (1) the importance of the problem from a scientific, socio-economic and/or cultural point of view; (2) the difficulties encountered in approaching the problem; (3) the limits of the current approaches in regards to the state of the art in the field.

Section III: Objectives

Describe the scope/focus of your proposal and state the objectives of your study.

Section IV: Methodology

Describe in detail the methodology to be employed. Include the potential risks of your approach and the strategies used for mitigating these risks.

Section V: Description of proposed work

In this section please detail the implementation plan by describing:

- the work plan, which needs to describe the way of organizing and planning the project related to the proposed objectives (proposed activities, key targets, and milestones);
- the budget plan and the time schedule;
- facilities and expertise which would be accessible to the research team.

Section VI: Expected outcomes

Use this section to briefly describe:

- the essential data you will generate;
- the expected impact of the project in a broader frame of the scientific field, discussing: (1) the potential impact of the project in the scientific, social, economic or cultural environment and/or (2) the applicability of your project;
- the steps that can be further undertaken.

Section VII: Detailed Budget

The budget should contain details of all planned expenditures. The total amount should not exceed 8,000 USD.

Eligible costs include:

- **Staff costs** of researchers, technicians, and personnel directly involved in the project;
- **Travel and subsistence allowances** related to the project – for travelling in partner countries and within home countries.
- **Consultants fees** (if they are essential for the project);
- **Equipment costs** (if they are essential for the project);
- **Consumables** needed for the project's activities;
- **Data collection and analysis**
- **Other project related costs** (e.g., organizing seminars and meetings, disseminating the results).



Section VIII: CVs

List the *Curriculum Vitae* of the applicant and the team members (listed by country).

Section IX: References

Please supply two letters of reference concerning the main institution(s) involved and/or the principle investigator.

Please supply a letter of institutional support from your institution from the Dean or Rector.