

## Application Guidelines

### *Visegrad-Balkan Public Policy Fund Young Researchers Programme*

The Visegrad-Balkan Public Policy Fund: Young Researchers Programme is a 1 year project aiming at enhancing regional cooperation and integration in the Balkans through the support of young researchers from this region.

Programme partners from Visegrad countries offer one-month fellowships for selected participants from Macedonia and Kosovo.

The objective is to provide fellows with a chance to get first-hand experience with successful stories of the transformation process and involvement of the civil society in policy making. The fellowships will enable the selected participants to gain first-hand experience in two aspects: 1) they will enhance fellow's knowledge and skills in the research field they would be pursuing and 2) they will make them familiar with the issues and obstacles going hand in hand with the transformation and integration process. Moreover, through sharing their experience with their colleagues in their home countries, the young researchers will contribute to strengthening the cooperation in the region.

Six (6) fellows altogether will be selected, two for each of the participating Visegrad countries. They will be placed in organizations in Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary depending on their chosen research topics. The host organizations will closely follow the fellows' progress and act as their mentors. Fellows' travel, accommodation and boarding will be provided and covered through the International Visegrad Fund. Visa assistance will also be provided. Fellows are expected to cover their travel insurance themselves.

Fellowships are to be agreed individually between successful applicants and receiving organisations. Duration of fellowships is 1 month. Fellowships in the Czech Republic are scheduled for the month of September 2013, successful applicants should be prepared to travel latest in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September 2013. Fellows can prolong their stay on their own expense.

### **Who can apply?**

Eligible candidates are representatives of civil society organizations or individual researchers, between 20 - 35 years old having permanent residence in Macedonia or Kosovo.

## How to apply?

Applicants shall submit their CV and a filled in Application Form, specifying their focus area, field of expertise, motivation and expectations from the fellowship. The template for the Application Form can be downloaded at <http://vbyoungresearchers.eu/>. The documents shall be submitted to the following e-mail address: [fellowship@pontisfoundation.sk](mailto:fellowship@pontisfoundation.sk).

The deadline for receiving applications is **12 August 2013**. Applications will be evaluated by an independent selection committee by **31 August 2013** and successful candidates' names will be announced on <http://vbyoungresearchers.eu/> by **6 September 2013**. They will be then contacted immediately and a process of preparation for the stay in the Visegrad countries will start.

During the fellowship period additional complementary activities will be carried out. A meeting between the fellows and the representatives of the relevant department of the Foreign Ministry will be organized, introducing the project, establishing mutual contacts and making the Ministry representatives familiar with the fellows' activities. An event in the form of expert breakfast will also take place, bringing together representatives of the civil society, government, academic institutions and media and providing them with the opportunity to share their views on the research topic pursued by fellows. Moreover, the fellows will attend a series of lectures at the universities in the respective Visegrad countries, delivering a presentation about the issues they are tackling in their home countries.

At the end of the fellowships all fellows will produce comparative studies. They will be primarily based on the research they carried out supported by their recipient institutions, and shall contain an action plan for the future with measurable indicators. The studies will be summarily published in the collection of works that will be disseminated among relevant decision-makers and other stakeholders in participating Visegrad countries, as well as the countries the fellows would come from. After their return back home, public presentations of the achieved results as stated in the study shall be held, which will also represent an advocacy activity towards the government.

Contact person for additional information for Macedonian applicants is **Ms. Deniza Bundalevska** [dbn@balkancsd.net](mailto:dbn@balkancsd.net) or + 389 (0)2 614 42 11

Contact person for additional information for Kosovar applicants is **Mr. Fatmir Curri** [fatmir.curri@kcsfoundation.org](mailto:fatmir.curri@kcsfoundation.org) or + 381 (0)38 248 636

The project duration is from May 2013 to April 2014 whereas fellowships are expected to take place in the autumn 2013, funded by the [International Visegrad Fund](#).