

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Context

Due to the war in Syria, 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 is enrolled in university programmes in host countries. These higher education systems are facing challenges in admitting a large amount 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', implemented by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), British Council, Campus France and EP-Nuffic. It aims at significantly improving the situation of refugees of post-secondary age from Syria and young people in host communities affected by the high influx of refugees, by directly addressing their education needs.

The Call for Proposals (CfP)

The main objective of the Call for Proposals is to increase the number of 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. The final aim is to promote refugee education through better access to online resources, innovative courses and educational support. Overall, it aspires to empower young people from Syria to build their own career path by addressing their educational needs.

Examples of projects that can be funded:

- ✓ Training for lecturers and students of higher education institutions inside Syria in didactics and methodology as well as subject-specific skills in order to keep them connected to international developments.
- ✓ Implementation of a MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) in refugee camps. 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) 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The LifeLongLearning Centres and Language Centres of educational institutions can organise short courses for Syrian students (e.g. English language courses or entrepreneurship courses).
- ✓ 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 a total of €1,5 million has been made available to fund for proposals, which allows for approximately 40 projects in total that can be funded across Egypt, Northern Iraq (KRI), Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and/or Syria. All projects can request funds for their actions ranging from €6,000 to €60,000.
- II. The amount granted will be based on the budget and the cost breakdown within the application as long as this is in line with the eligible cost criteria as specified in the Rules and Regulations.
- III. All proposals will receive 40% funding at the start of the project and 40% half way. The final payment will be 20% of the requested amount.
- IV. All participants are obligated to hand in an interim and a final report. No second and third payments will be transferred before receiving these reports.
- V. The maximum duration of these funded projects will be 18 months, during which they will be obliged to hand in project reports on a semi-annual basis. Based on these reports at least one monitoring visit will be conducted by HOPES project staff. During these visits, their progress will be assessed.
- VI. Awarded projects will receive the funds at the end of June, upon which projects are supposed to start as soon as possible.

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
 - 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
- 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.

Selection and Award Criteria

The projects must be demand driven and 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. Additionally, academic research related to Syrians and their education will be funded. As a consequence, projects can be funded that meet the following general selection criteria:

- 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
- 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
- Actively promote the achievement of gender equality in project implementation as well as in the contents and delivery of education and training activities
- Have an effect also 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 100 ([See Selection Score Sheet Application](#))

The Process

Opening the Call

The first round of applying for the Call for Proposals will open on the 1st of March till the 1st of May 2017.

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 small 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 do you have to report, etc.)

Selection Process

During the first week of May HOPES staff will screen the proposals to insure the completeness of documents. This first phase includes an eligibility check performed by the HOPES staff responsible for the Call for Proposals, based on the eligibility criteria of the score sheet.



In the middle of May there will be a selection committee gathering in each country for a one day assessment session of the proposals. This national selection committee, which will make the final selection consists 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 Syrian student or professor and a HOPES staff member. The committee will base its decision on the criteria fixed in a specific score sheet. Applications received after the deadline will be considered for the second round of the Call.

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

Turkey	Lebanon	Jordan	Northern Iraq (KRI)	Egypt	Syria	Total Number of Projects Funded
9	7	9	5	6	2	38

Implementation

Awarded projects will be notified as soon as the selection committee finishes the assessment, by the latest on the 1st of June. Selected organisations will start receiving funds at the end of June if all required documents are delivered and the agreement is signed. An agreement between the requesting organisation and Nuffic (as consortium partner of HOPES) will be signed to initiate the project and start the first payment of the funds.

Requesting organisations are expected to start implementation as soon as funds are received.

Application Form

Institutions have to apply for a grant by downloading the necessary application form from the website www.hopes-madad.org. The applications shall be sent to cfp@hopes-madad.org by the latest on the 1st of May. Within two weeks after submission, applicants will be contacted by email.

Reporting Requirement

The maximum duration of the funding of a project will be 18 months. All participants are obligated to hand in an interim and a final report (on a semi-annual basis). No second and third payments will be transferred before receiving these reports. See below under *available documents*.

Payment in Tranches

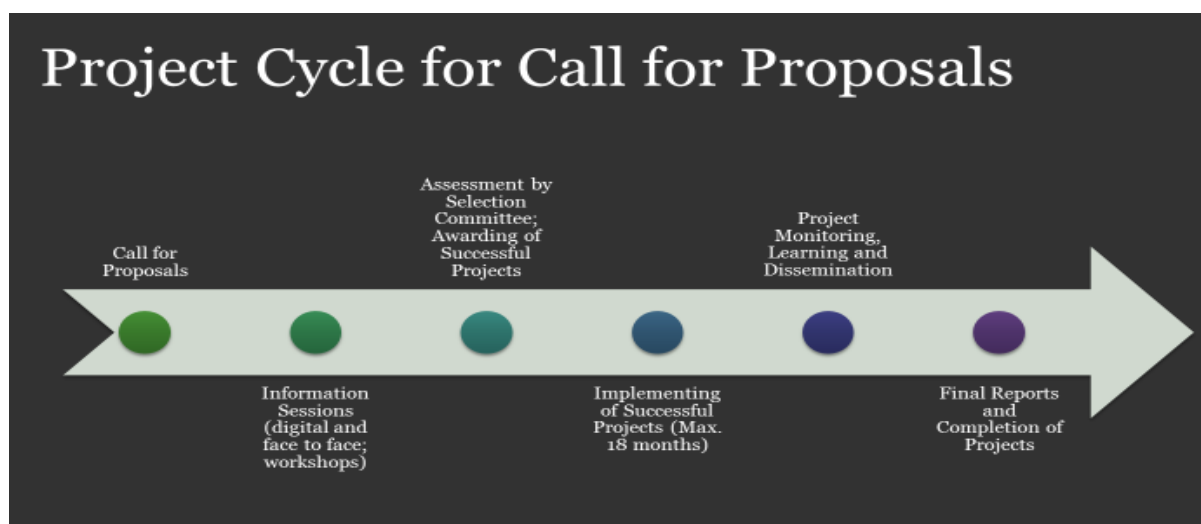
All proposals will receive 40% funding at the start of the project and 40% half way. The final payment will be 20% of the requested amount due after the submission of the final report

Monitoring Visit

Based on the interim reports at least one monitoring visit will be conducted by HOPES project staff. During these visits, their progress will be assessed.

Project Cycle

The following chart depicts the different activities that form the project cycle.



Available Documents

Type of document format	Download document
Application form to be completed and submitted by the requesting organisation only.	Annex 2- Cfp Full Application Form
Conditions – Rules and Regulations	Annex 3- Rules and Regulations for HOPES Grants
Checklist for Organisational Capacity Assessment (COCA) (for projects above €8,000)	Annex 4- COCA
Score sheet, as used by the selection committee in its assessment of proposals	Annex 5- Selection Score Sheet Application
Narrative and Financial Report	Annex 6- Reporting template