



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (CFA) # CEP-LEAD MK-02

LEAD MK Fellowship Program (Linking, Engagement, Advocacy, Development)

Issued on September 20, 2017

USAID’s Civic Engagement Project (CEP) invites young men and women (18 – 25 years old) from Macedonia to apply for participation in the 2017/2018 LEAD MK Fellowship Program. LEAD MK is a cutting-edge leadership and advocacy program designed to equip Macedonian young people with skills, knowledge, and networks that will enable them to become leaders in advancing public interests at the community, regional, or national level. CEP intends to select up to 22 young men and women to participate in the project’s second LEAD MK Fellowship Program.

LEAD MK represents an innovative approach to supporting Macedonia’s next generation of leaders as they become active and engaged citizens working on the issues they care about deeply. Grounded within the interplay of two ideas—human potential and social responsibility—the program is designed to stimulate and cultivate each participant's unique leadership experience through a “Community of Practice”—a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do (in this case engaging their peers on important issues) and who learn how to do it better as they interact with each other regularly and consistently.

The LEAD MK Fellowship Program will include the following components: participation in the LEAD MK Academy; development and implementation of LEAD MK projects, and participation in LEAD MK personal capacity development and networking activities. CEP will support LEAD MK Program participants through in-kind grants, individual stipends, mentoring support, and inclusion in a wide variety of targeted youth-focused activities.

1. Background

The Civic Engagement Project (CEP) is a five-year USAID-funded program that has been designed to achieve two objectives: (1) strengthened influence of civil society organizations (CSOs) on policies and programs related to priority issues of citizen concern; and (2) increased and sustained youth engagement in public life in Macedonia.

CEP is implemented by the East West Management Institute (EWMI) in partnership with: the Foundation for Internet and Society “Metamorphosis,” the Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI), the Foundation for Open Society in Macedonia (FOSM), and the National Youth Council of Macedonia (NYCM).

NYCM will manage the LEAD MK Program. NYCM is a registered network of 55 members that include youth CSOs, CSOs that run dedicated programs for youth, and youth wings of political parties. Through its eight regional centers, NYCM reaches out to a wide net of CSOs and youth throughout the country. For more information about NYCM, please, visit <http://www.nms.org.mk>

2. Program Timeline

October 17- November 7, 2017 — *Selection of LEAD MK program* participants. CEP will select up to 22 young men and women ages 18-25 to participate in the first LEAD MK program and will sign acceptance letters with each of them.

November 10-18, 2017 — *LEAD MK Academy*. Through a 7-day residential program, the Academy will equip the participants with skills that enable them to work within their communities and/or at regional and national levels, as well as to network with community, business, and political leaders.

November 2017 — *LEAD MK Mentorship Program*. CEP will pair LEAD MK Fellows with an individual mentor/coach for a 6-month period, as well as access to a carefully-selected CSO or CSO alliance, in order to help them gain additional skills and knowledge, as well as ensure organizational support for their LEAD MK Projects.

January 31, 2018 — *Signing of LEAD MK in-kind grant agreements and individual stipend agreements*. CEP will award an in-kind grant to each LEAD MK fellow for implementation of a 6-month project. The in-kind grant award will be up to 2,000\$. During the implementation of the

small scale project, the selected LEAD MK fellows will receive individual stipend of 160\$ for a 6-month period.

February 1- July 31, 2018 — *LEAD MK Projects*. CEP will support LEAD MK participants to develop and implement individual LEAD MK projects. These small 6–month small-scale projects will prioritize ideas that: (i) address problems that reflect concerns of a wide range of citizens; (ii) have the potential for making a long lasting (as opposed to a one time) impact on the wellbeing of the community; (iii) are creative and engage the community, private sector and/or public figures ; (iv) make use of best international and Macedonian practices in the respective area; and (v) ensure wide and meaningful participation of young women and girls, as well as ethnic and social minorities.

LEAD MK participants will also be included in a wide range of other CEP-supported activities.

3. Participant Profile

The ideal participants of LEAD Program should demonstrate:

- (i) An existing commitment to civic engagement through participation in public activities in school, the community, CSOs or public institutions;
- (ii) A good understanding of the need for citizen engagement in improving things at the community, regional, and national level;
- (iii) Support by teachers/professors, CSO leaders, or other well-respected leaders at the community level. This support should also confirm the applicant’s progressive stance towards issues of gender equality and inclusion of ethnic and social minorities;
- (iv) The ability to think “outside the box” as demonstrated through previous personal engagements, volunteerism, and/or project ideas and other answers to the questions in the required LEAD MK fellowship application; and
- (v) The availability to commit to the one-year LEAD MK program.

A panel comprised of NYCM and EWMI representatives will carefully review all applications, interview the strongest applicants, and determine the final pool of selected LEAD MK fellows.

4. Application Process

All applicants must fully complete the LEAD MK Fellowship application. CEP will accept applications only in English. Applications can be mailed, e-mailed, or hand-delivered to the addresses below. Faxed and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview.

In addition to the application form, applicants must submit the following documents:

- CV in English that includes the applicant’s volunteer experience;
- Two recommendations from teachers, CSO or community leaders, or other persons that can testify to the applicant’s potential for becoming a successful LEAD MK Fellow.

Please submit your applications to applications@nms.org.mk. E-mails must have “**CFA # CEP-LEAD MK-02**” in the subject line.

Applicants may submit the printed application package in a sealed envelope to: National Youth Council of Macedonia, Miroslav Krlezha 52-2, 1000 Skopje, att: Mr. Martin Miloshevski. Should you choose to mail the hard copy of the application package, please note that the time when the sealed envelope is delivered to NYCM will be considered to be the date and time of the application, not the time the when the envelope is mailed. The mail should be delivered to NYCM office by 12:00, **October 16, 2017**.

For questions and clarifications, please, write to martin.miloshevski@nms.org.mk. CEP will post the responses to the questions on NYCM’s web site.

5. Timeline

LEAD MK CfA launch date	September 20, 2017
Deadline for submitting clarification requests to the Project	September 25, 2017
Date when the Project will issue clarifications	September 28, 2017
DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS	12:00, MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017
Evaluation of applications	October 17-25, 2017
Interviews with shortlisted candidates	October 26- November 3, 2017
Notification to successful applicants	November 6, 2017
Signing of LEAD MK acceptance letters	NOVEMBER 7, 2017
<i>Please note that the dates above are subject to change</i>	

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