

(2) Program Plan: Program objectives should be stated clearly. Objectives should respond to priorities and address gaps in knowledge for particular fields and/or regions. A calendar or timeline of major program activities should be included. Responsibilities of partner organizations, if any, should be described clearly.

(3) *Institutional Capacity*: Proposed personnel and selection committees should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program's goals. The proposal should reflect the applicant's expertise and knowledge in conducting national competitive award programs of the type the applicant proposes on the countries of Southeast Europe and/or Eurasia. Past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants will be considered.

(4) *Cost-Effectiveness and Cost Sharing*: Administrative costs in the proposal budget should be kept to a minimum. All other items should be necessary and appropriate. Proposals should maximize cost sharing, including in-kind assistance, through contributions from the applicant, partner organizations, as well as other private sector support. "Applicant Cost-Sharing" and "Third Party Cost Sharing" should be included as separate columns in the budget request. Proposal budgets that do not provide cost sharing will be deemed less competitive in this category.

(5) *Evaluation, Monitoring, Database, Reporting*: Proposals should include a plan to evaluate and monitor program successes and challenges. Methods for linking outcomes to program objectives are recommended. The proposal should address the applicant's willingness and ability to contribute to the alumni database.

Part III

Available Funds: Funding for this program is subject to final Congressional action and the appropriation of FY 2005 funds. Funding may be available at a level of approximately \$5.0 million. In Fiscal Year 2004, the program was funded at \$5.0 million from the FREEDOM Support and SEED Acts, which funded grants to nine national organizations. The number of awards may vary each year, depending on the level of funding and the quality of the applications submitted.

The Department legally cannot commit funds that may be appropriated in subsequent fiscal years. Thus multi-year projects cannot receive assured funding unless such funding is supplied out of a single year's appropriation. Grant agreements may permit the

expenditure from a particular year's grant to be made up to three years after the grant's effective date.

The terms and conditions published in this Request for Proposals are binding and may not be modified by any Department representative. Issuance of the Request for Proposals does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government. The Department reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds.

Further Information: For further information or to arrange a consultation, contact Maria Seda-Gaztambide, Title VIII Program Assistant, by e-mail: Seda-GaztambideMM@state.gov.

Kenneth E. Roberts,

Executive Director, Advisory Committee for Studies of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4896]

U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy; Notice of Meeting

The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy will hold a meeting at the United States Mission to the United Nations at 140 East 45th St., New York on December 7, 2004, from 10-11 a.m. The Commissioners will be briefed by Ambassador Anne Patterson.

The Commission was reauthorized pursuant to Public Law 106-113 (H.R. 3194, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2000). The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy is a bipartisan Presidentially appointed panel created by Congress in 1948 to provide oversight of U.S. Government activities intended to understand, inform and influence foreign publics. The Commission reports its findings and recommendations to the President, the Congress and the Secretary of State and the American people. Current Commission members include Barbara M. Barrett of Arizona, who is the Chairman; Harold C. Pachios of Maine; Ambassador Penne Percy Korth of Washington, DC; Ambassador Elizabeth F. Bagley of Washington, DC; Charles "Tre" Evers III of Florida; Jay T. Snyder of New York; and Maria Sophia Aguirre of Washington, DC.

Seating is limited. For more information, please contact Leanne Cannon at (202) 203-7880.

Dated: November 24, 2004.

Razvigor Bazala,

(Executive Director Acting) IIP/ACPD, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4894]

Shipping Coordinating Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC) through the Subcommittee on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping will conduct an open meeting at 9:30 AM on December 21, 2004. The meeting will be held in Room 6319 of the United States Coast Guard Headquarters Building, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001. The purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the 36th session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping (STW 36) to be held on January 10-14, 2005, at the IMO Headquarters in London, England.

The primary matters to be considered include:

- Measures to enhance maritime security, training and certification for ship, company and port facility security officers;
- Unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency;
- Large passenger ship safety;
- Training of crew in launching and recovery operations of fast rescue boats and the means of rescue in adverse weather conditions;
- Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats;
- Education and training requirements for fatigue prevention, mitigation, and management;
- Requirements for knowledge, skills and training for officers on WIG craft; and
- Development of competences for ratings.

Please note that hard copies of documents associated with STW 36 will not be available at this meeting, the documents will be available at the meeting in Adobe Acrobat format on CD-ROM. To request documents before the meeting please write to the address provided below, and include your name, address, phone number, and electronic mail address. Copies of the papers will be sent via electronic mail to the address provided.

Members of the public may attend the meeting up to the seating capacity of the