

the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Phlx proposes to amend its schedule of dues, fees and charges to incorporate the amended section 31 fee passed by Congress.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6 of the Act⁹ in general, and in particular, with section 6(b)(4),¹⁰ by providing for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its members.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any inappropriate burden on competition.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were either solicited or received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act¹¹ and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder,¹² because it involves a due, fee, or other charge. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposal is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC

20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to file number SR-Phlx-2002-02, and should be submitted by February 28, 2002.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-2961 Filed 2-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3907]

Office of Overseas Schools

ACTION: 60-Day notice of proposed information collection: Overseas Schools Grant Request Automated Submissions Program (GRASP): Forms DS-573, DS-574, DS-575, and DS-576 (Formerly Forms FS-573, FS-573A, FS-573B, and FS-574 Respectively) OMB Number 1405-0036.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment in the **Federal Register** preceding submission to OMB. This process is conducted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The following summarizes the information collection proposal to be submitted to OMB:

Type of Request: Reinstatement with change of a currently approved collection.

Originating Office: A/OPR/OS.

Title of Information Collection: Overseas Schools Grant Request Automated Submissions Program (GRASP).

Frequency: Annual.

Form Numbers: DS-573, DS-574, DS-575, DS-576 (Formerly FS-573, FS-573A, FS-573B, FS-574).

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Respondents: Recipients of grants.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 189.

Average Hours Per Response: 1.5.
Total Estimated Burden: 56.70.

Public comments are being solicited to permit the agency to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency.
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Public comments, or requests for additional information, regarding the collection listed in this notice should be directed to Keith D. Miller, Office of Overseas Schools, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-0132, (202) 261-8200.

Dated: January 15, 2002.
Robert B. Dickson,
Executive Director, Bureau of Administration, Department of State.
[FR Doc. 02-3008 Filed 2-6-02; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4710-24-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3904]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: Small Grants Competition for Women's Political Leadership, Girls' Education, Disability Issues, and Women-Led Small Business Development, for Afghanistan, North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula States of the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces a Small Grants Competition designed to promote Women's Political Leadership, Girls' Education, Disability Issues, and Women-Led Small Business Development. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to conduct exchanges for a *single country* from the following: Afghanistan, North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula States of the Middle East, and Latin America & the

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

Caribbean. The goal of this initiative is to provide support for grassroots organizations or local chapters of national groups to expand the scope of their overseas work and build or strengthen linkages with partner organizations in other countries. Approximately \$500,000 has been allotted for this competition, with at least \$250,000 projected for Afghanistan and countries in North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula States. "(Afghanistan is included in this solicitation, contingent on security and feasibility of programming.)" Grant awards will not exceed \$60,000, with most grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Overview

The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) announces a small grants competition for U.S. nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations and institutions to implement international exchange programs, in partnership with one or more local organization(s) in one of the countries listed below. Each Small Grant award is meant to fund a single-country project, with the exception of projects for Afghanistan*. The following are this year's priority themes: (1) Political Leadership for Women, (2) Girls' Education, (3) Disability Issues, or (4) Women-Led Small Business Development. Project activities may take place in the partner's country overseas, or in both the U.S. and the partner country.

* Two-country projects with Afghanistan and one other Middle Eastern or North African country are eligible. These projects should recruit an equal number of participants from each country. Alternatively, single-country projects for Afghanistan may take place in the U.S., Afghanistan and/or a third country.

With the exception of Women-Led Small Business Development, eligible countries for each theme are:

Afghanistan (included in this solicitation, contingent on security and feasibility of programming.)

Latin America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Mexico; Caribbean: The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad.

North Africa: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia.

Arabian Peninsula States of the Middle East: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Proposals for Women-Led Small Business Development may include

Afghanistan, and the countries listed under North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula States of the Middle East.

ECA seeks organizations that are interested in expanding or developing grassroots training programs and international exchanges in Afghanistan, North Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean, and the Arabian Peninsula States of the Middle East. Eligibility: U.S. nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations that *have not* received prior funding directly from ECA; and organizations that have received prior ECA funding, *but only under previous Small Grants competitions*, are eligible to apply. All proposals will receive equal consideration. Foreign organizations may submit a joint proposal with the U.S. partner as the principal applicant.

Organizations planning to submit a proposal are strongly encouraged to contact the program office for a consultation. Before calling, applicants should be ready to discuss a concrete concept specific to the guidelines supplied in this request for grant proposals (RFGP).

For Latin America & the Caribbean: Laverne Johnson, ljohnson@pd.state.gov, Tel: (202) 619-5337.

For North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula States of the Middle East and Afghanistan: Susan Krause, skrause@pd.state.gov, Tel: (202) 619-5320.

Guidelines

To be considered for a grant award in this competition, the proposed project must address one of the themes described in this RFGP for a single country from the above list (except as noted above for Afghanistan).

Applicants should describe a clear and convincing plan for carrying out project components that will fulfill the expected outcomes stated in the proposal narrative. Proposals should address the REVIEW CRITERIA outlined below.

Projects funded under this competition should enhance partnerships among American and foreign organizations, reach the widest possible audiences, provide hands-on activities and training sessions with practical materials in the local language for use during the project and after the grant period is over, and achieve permanent and sustainable results.

This program is not academic in nature; proposals should be creative and innovative, combining elements of skill enrichment, experiential learning and exposure to American life and culture. The activities should also provide Americans an opportunity to

experience the culture of the partner country. Cultural programming may include activities or events hosted by local institutions and home stays with community members. Orientation sessions must be included for all foreign and American program participants.

The majority of funding should be directed toward participant program costs.

Unless otherwise specified below, project components may include, but are not limited to, training of trainers (TOT), internships & job shadowing, workshops, site visits, consultations, and short-term training. Distance learning techniques using appropriate technology and activities meant to bridge the digital divide are also encouraged.

Partner organizations should be identified in the proposal, with project plans developed collaboratively by both the American and foreign organization(s). Applicants that have not yet identified local partners, but whose proposals show significant regional and thematic expertise, are also eligible to apply.

The proposal narrative (excluding resumes, sample materials, the budget & budget notes) should be 3-5 pages and double-spaced. The budget should be presented on one page. Budget notes should be included. The proposed start date should not commence before June 1, 2002, and may be subject to change.

Women's Political Leadership

Proposals should focus on promoting women's political leadership by (1) strengthening the capacity of grassroots women's organizations in developing the skills of current and future women political leaders, and (2) compiling a repertoire of practical materials in the local language for use in workshops, mock elections and campaigns, educational sessions, or other activities. Proposals must indicate a practical knowledge of the political and legislative environment in the partner country. Projects may include, but are not limited to, components listed above and may also include the following: "Workshops for Political Leaders," "Women's Political Awareness Campaigns" and "NGO Management," as described below.

Workshops for Political Leaders might include such topics as public speaking, message development, leadership, campaign management, accountability and constituencies, consensus building, lobbying, surveying, polling, advocacy, voter outreach, networking, working with the media, and fundraising. Mock campaigns and elections are encouraged.

Women's Political Awareness Campaigns should educate women on the political process and get them actively involved in the political arena. Awareness campaigns should be jointly conducted with partner organizations, and should reach the widest possible audience in large and small cities, towns and villages.

NGO Management Part of the program design may also include workshops on NGO management and capacity building, for NGOs whose work is linked to emerging or enhanced women's political leadership. NGO workshop topics might include: strategic planning, managing volunteers, coalition building, public relations, facilitation training, peer education & outreach, public-private partners, information management, and website development.

Girls' Education

The proposal should focus on exchanges and training for grassroots educational and community leaders who are actively involved in girls' education. Emphasis should be on providing essential tools and support to educators for classes and leadership activities. Potential topics for activities include, but are not limited to, creating & reconstructing educational opportunities, methodology & practice, the role of women & girls in society, leadership, civic responsibility, mentoring, women in history, conflict resolution, health education, and social issues. Only adult professionals or grassroots practitioners may be selected to travel internationally for exchange activities. Girls may take part as students in pilot sessions and other in-country educational activities.

Disability Issues

Projects should focus on engaging disability NGOs and institutions, individuals with disabilities, leaders in the disability community, as well as the community at-large, to improve opportunities and expand services for the disabled. Projects should seek to involve victims of civil wars and acts of terrorism. Possible themes for exchanges and training include: professional & occupational training, accessibility, entrepreneurship, community involvement, educational & extra-curricular issues, association building, leadership, dealing with mental & emotional scars, public relations, and NGO management. Projects may be designed to cover a range of topics and/or methods, or may focus more intensively on a specific area.

Women-Led Small Business Development

Projects should foster the development of local women-led businesses in the partner country and create ongoing international partnerships. Project components in the U.S. or overseas, with *examples* of possible topics, include: seminars for women considering micro-enterprise (e.g. entrepreneurship, management, finance and registration issues); workshops (start-up, loan packages, marketing, staff training, appropriate technology); site visits (chamber of commerce, local government, women's business association, small business resource centers); mentoring; consultancies; internships; job-shadowing; or other activities.

Grant funds may be used to establish or enhance overseas Women's Business Resource Centers, Women's Business Associations, and regularly published not-for-profit Women's Business Newsletters in the local language, or other sustainable elements. For women's business centers, ECA funding may be used on resources and development of services, but may not be used to furnish new centers. No more than \$5,000 may be used to purchase computer and/or office equipment. No funds may be used for micro-credit or re-lending activities.

Foreign participants should be linked with U.S. mentors or counterparts with similar work responsibilities, in order to ensure ongoing professional interaction. In addition to activities for businesswomen, proposals should include components targeting potential entrepreneurs, single mothers and low-income working or non-working women, particularly in countries with critical social and economic challenges.

Countries eligible for Women-Led Small Business Development grants are Afghanistan, and those listed above under North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula States of the Middle East.

Selection of Participants

The proposal narrative should include a description of an open, merit-based selection process for all international exchange components and/or any other component requiring participant selection. A draft application and a sample announcement used for recruitment advertising should be included. ECA and the U.S. embassies retain the right to nominate participants and approve or reject participants recommended by the grantee institution. For exchanges to the U.S., priority must be given to foreign participants who

have not previously traveled to the United States.

VISA Regulations

Foreign participants on programs sponsored by ECA are granted J-1 Exchange Visitor visas by the U.S. Embassy in the sending country. All programs must comply with J-1 visa regulations.

Project Funding

Funding available for the FY 2002 Small Grants Competition will be disbursed through grants to several organizations. Priority will be given to grant proposals with budgets ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000, with funding limited at \$60,000. Applicants should not submit a budget that exceeds \$60,000 in costs to be paid by ECA, however the overall budget may exceed \$60,000 through cost sharing by the U.S. and foreign partner organization(s), and/or other sources. Approximately \$500,000 has been allotted for this competition, but may be subject to change. At least \$250,000 is projected for Afghanistan, and the countries of North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula States of the Middle East. ECA expects to announce the small grants awards recipients around late May 2002.

Budget Guidelines

To assist applicants in preparing project budgets, listed below are selected sample allowable costs. Applicants should refer to the Proposal Submission Instructions for specific formatting instructions and sample line items.

(1) General Program Expenses (*i.e.* orientation & program-related supplies, educational materials, traveling campaigns, consultants, interpreters, room rental, etc.)

(2) Participant Program Expenses (*i.e.* domestic and international travel, per diem)

(3) Administrative Expenses (*i.e.* salaries, telephone/fax, and other direct administrative costs)

Review Process

In support of first-time applicants, the grant proposal, budget and review process has been modified for this competition. Proposals will be reviewed in two tiers. First, all proposals will be reviewed by a team of qualified staff from the Office of Citizen Exchanges and the respective Department of State regional bureaus per the established review criteria outlined in this RFGP. Second, the most competitive proposals will be forwarded to embassies overseas and to ECA panels for formal advisory review. Non-finalists will be advised at

this point in the process. Please follow the instructions in this RFGP and the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) for guidelines. ECA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. Eligible proposals will be subject to compliance with Federal and Bureau regulations and guidelines. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal Adviser or by other Department elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Department of State's Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the ECA Grants Officer.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. Proposals should adequately address each area of review. The criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight.

1. *Quality of Program Idea and Ability to Achieve Objectives:* Program objectives should be clearly and precisely stated and respond to the priority topics in this announcement. The proposal should articulate the organization's ability to carry out the planned objectives, and should include an outline of the U.S. and foreign staff responsibilities, staff resumes, the organizations' mission statements, a monthly timetable, and sample schedules for program components.

2. *Cost Effectiveness and Cost Sharing:* Administrative costs should be kept to a minimum. Proposals should maximize cost sharing through support and in-kind contributions from the U.S. and partner organization(s).

3. *Program Evaluation:* Proposals must include a plan and methodology to evaluate the program's successes and challenges. The evaluation plan should show a clear link between program objectives and expected outcomes, and should include a brief description of performance indicators and measurement tools. A draft questionnaire for evaluation purposes may be attached to support the proposal.

4. *Support of Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of ECA's policy on diversity. Program content (orientation, evaluation, program sessions, resource materials, follow-on activities) and program administration (selection process, orientation, evaluation) should address

diversity in a comprehensive and innovative manner. Applicants should refer to ECA's Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines on page four of the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI).

Announcement Title and Number

All communications with ECA concerning this Request for Grant Proposals should refer to the announcement title *FY02 Small Grants* and reference number ECA/PE/C-02-37.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

Pursuant to ECA's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the "Support for Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Public Law 104-319 provides that "in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy," ECA "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Public Law 106-113 requires that the governments of the countries described above do not have inappropriate influence in the selection process. Proposals should reflect advancement of these goals in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Deadline for Proposals

The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs must receive all copies by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Friday, March 29, 2002. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. The mailroom closes at 5:00 p.m.; no late submissions will be accepted. Documents postmarked by March 29, 2002, but received at a later date, will not be accepted. Each applicant must ensure that the proposals are received by the above deadline.

To Download an Application Package Via the Internet

The entire Application Package may be downloaded from ECA's Web site at <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/rfgps/>.

Submissions

Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Application Package. The applicant's original proposal and ten (10) copies should be sent to: U.S. Department of State, Ref.: ECA/PE/C-02-37, Program Management, ECA/EX/PM, Room 534, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary," "Proposal Narrative" and "Budget" sections of the proposal on a 3.5" diskette. ECA will transmit these files electronically to the Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. Embassies for review. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT By mail: United States Department of State, SA-44, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges (ECA/PE/C), Room 220, Washington, DC 20547, Attn: FY02 Small Grants, By phone: (202) 619-5334; By fax: (202) 619-4350, By e-mail: pmidgett@pd.state.gov.

Interested applicants may request a copy of the Application Package, which includes the RFGP and the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI). Please specify "FY02 Small Grants" on all inquiries and correspondence. All potential applicants should read the complete announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFGP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau or program officers that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFGP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements. Organizations will be expected to cooperate with the Bureau in evaluating their programs under the principles of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of

1993, which requires federal agencies to measure and report on the results of their programs and activities.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures.

Dated: January 28, 2002.

Patricia S. Harrison,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 02-3005 Filed 2-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3905]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: Central and East European Exchanges and Training Programs for Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for Central and East European Exchanges and Training Programs. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to conduct training programs.

Program Information

Overview

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) invites applicants to submit proposals that encourage the growth of democratic institutions in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia. Exchanges and training programs supported by institutional grants from ECA should operate at two levels: they should enhance institutional partnerships, and they should offer practical information to individuals and groups to assist them with their professional and volunteer responsibilities.

Strong proposals usually have the following characteristics: an active, existing partnership between a U.S. organization and an in-country institution(s); a proven track record for conducting successful program activity; cost-sharing from U.S. and in-country sources, including donations of air fare, hotel and/or housing costs, ground

transportation, interpreters, room rentals, *etc.*; experienced staff with language ability; a clear, convincing plan outlining exactly how the program components will be carried out and how permanent results will be achieved as a result of the grant; and a follow-on plan that extends beyond the ECA grant period. Knowledge of the current technological capacity (Internet connectivity, e-mail, hardware and software) of in-country partners and their countries and/or regions, and a description of the role of technology in the proposed program, are essential. Cost sharing, which should be included in the budget, must be in tangible forms, both in-kind and monetary. Cost sharing may be contributed to the program by the prospective grantee institution, in-country partners and by third party sources.

Unless otherwise specified below: (1) Program activity may include: "training of trainers (TOT)," internships, short-term training, consultations, site visits, workshops; and (2) programming may take place in the United States or, when possible, in the target country(ies), or in both. Proposals should reflect a practical understanding of the current political, economic and social environment that is relevant to the theme addressed in the proposal. In order to avoid the duplication of activities and programs, proposals should also indicate knowledge of similar projects being conducted in the region.

Applicants are expected to identify the U.S. and in-country partner organizations and individuals with whom they are proposing to collaborate and describe in detail previous cooperative projects undertaken by the organizations/individuals. Specific information about in-country partners' activities and accomplishments is required and should be included in the section on "Institutional Capacity." Resumes for individuals mentioned in the proposal should be provided, including proposed U.S. and in-country staff, trainers, consultants, *etc.* Letters of support from partner organizations as well as internship and site visit hosts should be included in the proposal.

Programs should be designed so that the sharing of information and training that occurs during the grant period will continue long after the grant period is over. Proven methods of sustainability include, but are not limited to: a model TOT program that would include initial training, practice presentation sessions for the in-country participants, followed by training activities coordinated and implemented by the in-country participants in their home countries; a

commitment to create or support in-country training/resource centers; plans to create coalitions, professional interests groups, networks, or associations; regularly published electronic and/or hard-copy newsletters; and ongoing mentoring through Internet communication.

All proposals should include a discussion of the follow-on activities that will continue after the USG funding period is over.

Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

To be eligible for a grant award under this competition, the proposed training and exchange programs must address one of the following specific themes for regional projects or single country projects, as specified.

- *Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Girls*—Regional Project—Must include all of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia
- *Diplomatic Training*—Single Country Project: Must target Macedonia or Romania
- *Professional Internships*—Projects for Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia (please see topics and country assignments below)

Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Girls

Trafficking in Women and Girls has become a widespread problem in Southeastern Europe (SEE). In June 2001 the U.S. Department of State released its first report on the issue of trafficking in persons worldwide. (Please see <http://www.state.gov/g/inl/rls/tiprpt/2001/>.) The need to educate and inform communities, lawmakers and media representatives has become imperative to prevent women and girls from falling victim to trafficking in the SEE region.

The Bureau seeks proposals that provide training and capacity building to individuals and communities in the SEE region to help combat trafficking in women and girls. Programs should be regional in focus and should include cross-border efforts to ensure integration of efforts and cooperation among SEE countries. To avoid duplication of efforts, applicants should be familiar with the International Organization for Migration and the UNHCR's programs as well as indigenous SEE NGOs' programs to combat trafficking. Priority will be given to programs that propose to reach risk groups where anti-trafficking initiatives have been limited or