



Strasbourg, 27th of May 2014

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Scholarship

GIANFRANCO MARTINI

2014

The selection Committee attributed the Gianfranco Martini 2014 to the following project research.

Mr. Sratan DUMITRU, Szent Istvan University

- **Working Title:** Building Social Capital in Developing Countries on the basis of integrated community planning and cooperation
- **Reasons and purposes for the project:** The main issues that will be considered in the thesis take into the consideration the challenges of building social capital in developing countries (on the practical research that will be taken in the most developed regions in Republic of Moldova), as well as the importance of participation, civic engagement and social capital of creating community-based development projects.
- **Research Focus:** The thesis is based on the research of practical guides on the topic of integrated regional and local strategic planning, such as *“Guide on strategic planning for socio-economic development incorporating GE and HRBA”*

developed in the frame of *Joint Integrated Local Development Programme* that is a joint programme of UNDP and UN Women with the Government of Moldova funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The purpose of this Guide is to outline a step by step approach to local development through participatory strategic planning using a human rights and gender equality based approach, for mayors and councilors, to help them to develop plans for the social, economic and environmental development of their area.

- **General aims:** The sample or the target group proposed for the research are public authorities and international or local funding organizations from Republic of Moldova involved in development projects. Simultaneously, the field research and observation of people behaviors will be used for the thesis. And the most important is that the author of the thesis already managed and still are involved in few integrated socio-economic strategic planning projects in Republic of Moldova. As a project manager, the author elaborated all possible working scenarios, processes and procedures for running the project. As well as, the author already started to analyze the behavior and the most suitable tools that could have positive impact on the on-going projects and further on sustainable development.
- **Methodology:** The author will use qualitative analysis that represent a method for examining social research data without converting them to numerical format. The author also will use *cross-case analysis* to stress on the examination of more than one problem of social capital and regional/local development. Also, it will be used *variable oriented analysis*, which means that the analysis will be focused on interrelation among different variables that characterize the described situations. Finally, For understanding the situation and model the practical frameworks, the author will use causal analyses, using a tool such *problem and causal tree*.

Annexe : the 2014 call

Guidelines

Scholarship

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Deadline: 30th April 2014

1. Main goal

The Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) has decided to set up an annual scholarship in memory of its Honorary President, Gianfranco Martini, who passed away in October 2012. Gianfranco Martini was among the initiators of the concept of Local Democracy Agencies and became the first President of ALDA when it was founded in 1999.

Throughout his active life Gianfranco Martini remained passionate about the promotion of local democracy, the engagement of civil society and the encouragement of interethnic dialogue in Europe with a particular focus on the Western Balkans.

2. Specific objectives

Following a widely disseminated call for applications within Europe, ALDA will once a year award a scholarship to a student or researcher proposing a study or work project dealing with the topics local democracy, engagement of civil society and/or interethnic dialogue.

The objective is to receive high-quality academic research and analysis for ALDA's fields of activity in order to develop strategies on how to further promote local democracy, engage civil society and strengthen interethnic dialogue.

3. Applicants

The Call for Application is open to university students and researchers proposing a study work or project dealing with the topics local democracy, engagement of civil society and/or interethnic dialogue. Priority will be given to study works or projects that have a focus on regions where ALDA is active.

4. Scholarship amount

The amount of the scholarship will be decided annually by the ALDA Governing Board in the context of the adoption of the annual draft budget. The amount available for 2014 is 3,000 EUR.

5. Eligibility of actions

The application should include a succinct presentation of maximum 5 pages of the objective of the study or work project with a clear indication of how it will help further the topics of local democracy, engagement of civil society and/or interethnic dialogue and what the scholarship will be used for. Relevant references should also be submitted.

Projects of students should at least be a Master thesis or higher (e.g. PhD dissertation). Applicants for a work project should at least dispose of a Master degree.

6. Criteria for project selection

The applications will be selected by the evaluation committee on the following criteria:

- Originality and innovation of the proposal
- Timeliness and relevance of the research

- Clear definition and formulation of the research project's objectives and how it will be implemented
- Relevance for ALDA's work regarding local democracy, civil society engagement and interethnic dialogue
- Research that builds a link between theory and practice.

The selection process will be made by an evaluation committee nominated by ALDA's governing board.

7. Deadline for application and application process

Applications should include

- a succinct but precise presentation of the project (max. 5 pages),
- a motivation statement for the project,
- a CV,
- a copy of ID,
- a draft budget and if available
- relevant references

and should be sent in electronic version at latest by 30th April 2014 to:
aldabrussels@aldaintranet.org

The successful candidate will be announced at the annual General Assembly of ALDA which will take place on June 2014.

The scholar will be expected to present the results of her/his study or project at the ALDA General Assembly the following year. In addition, the results of the scholarship will be widely disseminated.