



## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (CFA) # CEP-LEAD MK-04**

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

*Issued on September 10, 2019*

USAID’s Civic Engagement Project (CEP) invites young people (18-25 years old) from North Macedonia to apply for the 2019/2020 LEAD MK Fellowship Program. LEAD MK is a cutting-edge leadership and advocacy program designed to equip 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 people to participate in the fourth year of the LEAD MK Fellowship Program.

LEAD MK represents an innovative approach to supporting North Macedonia’s next generation of leaders as they become active and engaged citizens working on the issues that 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: (i) participation in the LEAD MK Academy; (ii) development and implementation of LEAD MK projects; and (iii) participation in LEAD MK personal capacity development and networking activities. CEP will support LEAD MK Program participants through in-kind grants, mentoring support, and inclusion in a wide variety of targeted youth-focused activities.

#### **1. Background**

The USAID Civic Engagement Project strengthens dialogue between citizens and the government on important social issues. CEP strengthens constructive engagement by civil society organizations (CSOs) on policies and issues focused on anti-corruption, transparency,



and rule of law, and increases and sustains youth engagement in public life in North Macedonia.

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

NYCM manages the LEAD MK Fellowship Program. NYCM is a registered network of 46 members that include youth CSOs, CSOs that run dedicated programs for youth, and youth wings of political parties and other organizations. Through its eight regional offices, 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 16 - 25, 2019** — *Selection of LEAD MK Program* participants. CEP will select up to 22 young people 18-25 years old to participate in the fourth LEAD MK Program and will sign acceptance letters with each of them.

**October 30 - November 6, 2019** — *LEAD MK Academy*. Through a 7-day residential program, the Academy will equip 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. CEP will pair LEAD MK Fellows with a mentor/coach for a 6-month period, and provide Fellows with 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 24, 2020** — *Orientation session and training* on guidelines and procedures for the implementation of LEAD MK small-scale projects.

**January 31, 2020** — *Signing of LEAD MK in-kind grant agreements*. CEP will award an in-kind grant to each LEAD MK Fellow for the implementation of a 6-month project. The in-kind grant award will be up to \$3,000, including an individual monthly stipend of \$160 for a 6-month period.

**February 1 - July 31, 2020** — *LEAD MK small-scale 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 North Macedonia's practices in the respective area; and (v) ensure wide and meaningful participation of young women and girls, as well as ethnic and social minorities.

The program areas of LEAD MK small-scale projects include:

- Youth employment and employability skills;
- Youth's active participation in public life at the community, village/town, regional, and national level; and
- Social inclusion and social cohesion.

LEAD MK participants will also be included in a wide range of training activities, lectures, workshops, networking events, and 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](mailto:applications@nms.org.mk). E-mails must have “**CFA # CEP-LEAD MK-04**” in the subject line.

Applicants may submit the printed application package in a sealed envelope to: National Youth Council of Macedonia, Aminta Treti 29/1-3, 1000 Skopje, att: Mr. Filip Kulakov. 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 as 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 o’clock noon, **October 4, 2019**.

For questions and clarifications, please, write to [filip.kulakov@nms.org.mk](mailto:filip.kulakov@nms.org.mk). CEP will post the responses to the questions on NYCM’s web site.

## 5. Timeline

LEAD MK CfA launch date	September 10, 2019
Deadline for submitting clarification requests to CEP	September 20, 2019
Date when CEP will issue clarifications	September 25, 2019
<b>DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS</b>	<b>12:00 noon, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2019</b>
Evaluation of applications	October 7 - 15, 2019
Interviews with shortlisted candidates	October 16 - 25, 2019
Notification to successful applicants	October 28, 2019
Signing of LEAD MK acceptance letters	<b>by OCTOBER 30, 2019</b>
<i>Please note that the dates above are subject to change</i>	

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