ifa Research Programme “Culture and Foreign Policy”

Call for Applications

ifa’s Research Programme “Culture and Foreign Policy” provides experts with an opportunity to conduct research on current topics related to international cultural relations and foreign cultural policy. Research projects normally last up to six months. During this period, the experts involved in the project provide actors in the area of international cultural relations with clear, concise summaries of the latest academic findings. They formulate recommendations for future external policy strategies, initiate expert dialogue, and organise discussion forums and events.

ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen / Institute for International Cultural Relations) invites proposals for the following research project:

**Supporting EU-ASEAN Cooperation through International Cultural Relations**

In December 2022, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – European Union (EU) Commemorative Summit was held in Brussels to mark the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations. Together representing a little over 1 billion people and almost 25% of the global economic power, the relationship between ASEAN and EU are mutually acknowledged as important, as evident in their status as Strategic Partners since 2020. The longstanding relationship between the two regional organisations is based on shared values such as promoting international law, norms, and standards; effective and sustainable multilateralism; as well as free and fair trade.

During the Summit in 2022, it was emphasized that the relations between the EU and ASEAN countries should be intensified, especially in the areas of peace and security, connectivity, and environment. To what extent can cultural relations support / complement this cooperation? While socio-cultural cooperation between ASEAN and EU have long existed in the relationship between the two regions, it remains a relatively minor focus in comparison to economic and political cooperation. How can an international cultural relations approach enhance the relationship between ASEAN and EU, especially in security, connectivity, and environmental cooperation? What type of cooperation formats are desired by the partners in ASEAN? What other needs are there?

Furthermore, the role of “culture” in ASEAN as an organisation and for its member countries is not widely known outside the Southeast Asian region. How does ASEAN perceive and understand the concept of “culture”? What role does culture play for ASEAN? What are the trends in civil society/sector-led cultural relations as opposed to state-led cultural diplomacy initiatives in the EU-Southeast Asian context?

Taking into consideration ASEAN’s and EU’s commitment towards finding multilateral solutions, what is ASEAN’s perception of the role of culture with regard to the UN Summit of the Future 2024? How do the Southeast Asian cultural sectors regard the sustainability/climate crisis when it comes to international cultural

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1 EU-ASEAN Blue Book 2022
2 ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit 2022 – Joint Leaders’ Statement
relations? What are ASEAN’s perceptions/attitudes towards a stand-alone goal for culture in the UN SDGs post-2030 Agenda?

What role do other multilateral organisations (such as the Asia-Europe Foundation, among others) have in the cultural sector? How is (arms’ length) multilateral funding working to promote cultural relations with and within Southeast Asia? How do non-state funders such as corporates and philanthropists support cultural relations in Southeast Asia, and how does their work intersect with the agenda of multilateral organisations? What could a European strategy look like with regard to international cultural relations with this region?

Format: Study and workshop(s)
Starting period: October 2023
Location: flexible
Fee: 9.000,00 € (gross)
Application deadline: 11 September 2023

The following application requirements and procedures apply to all projects:

Application Requirements

- Postgraduate degree (minimum M.A.)
- Proven experience and sound knowledge of the topic of the particular project and of foreign cultural and educational policy
- For projects with an event format: proven experience in event organisation
- For projects involving publication: very good, proven knowledge of editorial work and of academic publications
- Good knowledge of English and the language required for the particular project

Application Procedure

Please include the following documents in your application for the Research Programme “Culture and Foreign Policy”:

1. Letter of motivation (including your contact information: i.e. address, e-mail, phone/fax/mobile numbers)
2. Description of the project:
   - Title and topic
   - Short description of the topic’s relevance and gaps in existing research
   - Brief outline of research project plan (max. 2 pages)
   - Provisional work plans showing that the project is feasible within the funding period
   - Indication of relevant sources and methods
3. Your curriculum vitae (CV).

Please send your complete application (all abovementioned documents in one attachment, max. file size: 3 MB) by 11 September 2023 via e-mail to: research@ifa.de

The selection process is foreseen to take place around the 3rd week of September.

For further information on the ifa Research Programme, please visit:
https://www.ifa.de/en/research/research-programmes/