

Research Programme “Martin Roth-Initiative” at ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen)

Call for proposals

ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) and the Goethe-Institut founded the Martin Roth-Initiative as a joint project to enable temporary protective relocation and work stays in Germany as well as in safe third countries for artists and civil-society actors at risk. To contribute to the structural and content related enhancement of existing programmes one field of activity of the Martin Roth-Initiative is dedicated to accompanying research, the results of which are published on a regular basis.

The research programme of the Martin Roth- Initiative provides experts with an opportunity to study current topics related to protection and relocation of artists and civil society actors at risk. Research projects normally last three to six months. The experts involved in the project provide actors in the area of temporary international relocation programmes with clear, concise summaries, thus combining theory and practice. The purpose of this research is to gain insights into the impact and working methods as well as the framework of international protection programmes.

Together with the Goethe-Institut and the Martin Roth-Initiative, ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) invites for proposals for a research project under the following topic:

Best Practice in Shelter and Relocation Programmes

Many temporary international relocation programmes strive for "best practice" in relocation in their work. Developing best practices, learning from them and working with best practice examples is an important aspect for protection programme managers and the community of practice. Often there is not enough time to document them or to share them with other organisations.

In summer 2019 the Centre of Applied Human Rights of the University of York developed “*The Barcelona Guidelines on Wellbeing and Temporary International Relocation of Human Rights Defenders at Risk*” which will be published very soon. The guidelines are a joint effort of several organisations and were discussed on the occasion of a meeting of a “community of practice”. As the title indicates, the guidelines are focused on the issue of “wellbeing” of defenders in relocation. They frame principles about a collective approach to wellbeing and provide guidance on best practices for coordinators of temporary international relocation initiatives. To support the use and impact of the Barcelona Guidelines, the present call aims at the compilation of case studies and/or a catalogue of best practice examples that would complement the guidelines and give concrete information on how to put specific aspects of the aforementioned guidelines into practice.

With the aid of this research project, the Martin Roth-Initiative would like to gain insights into the subjects listed below, thereby providing suggestions and further impetus for improving the requirements and prospects of temporary international relocation programmes and their participants. The research should not focus only on human rights defenders but also on other civil society actors as artists and people from the cultural sector.

Key subjects, for which Case Studies and Best Practice Studies should be developed are:

- **Support and social networks for relocated persons.** Fostering contact with the host community, the establishment of friendship groups and support networks that allow for a safe stay and positive experience of the relocated person are recommendations mentioned in the guidelines. What are the successful approaches to building and maintaining support groups and how do they work? What should be considered in the setup and the supervision of such groups/networks? Which concrete practical guidelines are helpful and what has to be considered when working with volunteer support groups? What measures help to connect/integrate scholarship holders into the "host community"?
- **Integration of wellbeing plans and activities in relocation:** For many participants of relocation programmes their own well-being is often not the focus of their attention. How can wellbeing activities/plans be successfully integrated into the relocation? Is there a need for development of well-being plans and specific types of activities - as for example (compulsory) security trainings and/or psycho-education and sensitising to the subject of well-being - in relocation? If yes, how could the best be implemented and what examples of best practice exist already?
- **Management of difficult cases:** Sometimes people who request relocation are strongly affected by the experience of repression. How should such cases be dealt with? How can one guarantee access to relocation for such persons besides the challenges? How to avoid further harm during the application and relocation process? Are there flexible selection procedures allowing to adjust to delays due to wellbeing issues of the applicants or can interventions also be considered before the arrival to support the applicant?
- **Wellbeing of staff and supporters of relocation initiatives:** The guidelines recommend the relocation initiatives to take care of the wellbeing of their own staff and supporters. Professional supervision and support can address challenges which arise when learning from complicated and often dangerous live situations of human rights defenders. How can access be found to the appropriate professional support? What kind of effective support mechanisms exist already and how can they be extended?

The study should provide essential conceptual impulses for a planned workshop on 7 November 2019, where first interim results are to be presented to and discussed with members of the Martin Roth-Initiative and other initiatives. The best case scenario would be to have case studies on all mentioned issues. If this is not possible in the given financial and time limits applicants should explain the focus on specific issues. Contacts to the community of practice will be provided.

See also the first publication of the Martin Roth-Initiative Publication series “Temporary Shelter and Relocation Initiatives: Perspectives of Participants and Managers” [<https://www.martin-roth-initiative.de/en> see: Publication].

Format: Hands-on practical case studies will be published and made accessible for the community of practice, participation in the above mentioned workshop (presentation of interim results)

Duration: 2 months

Begin: September 2019

Workplace: flexible

Remuneration: 3,000 € (gross)

Application deadline: 15 September 2019

Please send your complete application (as a file attachment with no more than 3 MB) by e-mail no later than **15 September 2019** to: research@ifa.de

Selection interviews are expected to take place in CW 38 (16-19 September 2019)

Further information on the Martin Roth-Initiative: www.martin-roth-initiative.de

For more information on ifa can be found at: <https://www.ifa.de>

Further information on the Goethe-Institute can be found at: www.goethe.de

The following application requirements and procedures apply to all projects:

Application requirements

- Postgraduate degree (minimum M.A.)
- Proven experience and sound knowledge in the field of protection, shelter and residency programs for civil society actors as well as art and cultural workers
- Knowledge of the work, organizational logic and structures of civil society organisations working in their home country on freedom of expression, freedom of the arts, democracy or human rights
- For projects with an event format: proven experience in event organisation
- For projects involving publication: very good, proven knowledge of editorial work and academic publications
- Very good knowledge of English and the language required for the particular project
- Knowledge of further languages (especially French, Spanish, Russian or Arabic) is an advantage
- Research grants on offer are full-time grants. Candidates who are awarded a grant are not allowed to take on other employment during the period of the research project. This does not apply to research contracts.

Application procedures

Please attach the following documents to your application for the Culture and Foreign Policy Research Programme:

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