Call for Proposals 2018 – Frequently Asked Questions

Who is SHL and where can I get information about SHL?

Schüler Helfen Leben (SHL) is Germany's largest humanitarian organization managed by young people. SHL was founded in 1992 during the wars in the former Yugoslavia in 1992 by high school students who brought relief supplies to the region. Since 1998, SHL organizes the annual Social Day in Germany. The principle is simple: students swap their school environment for a job for one day. Wages are donated by the students to support SHL's projects for children and youth.

At SHL's project selection conference, the students decide themselves which projects they want to support. Currently, SHL works with 18 partner organisations in Southeast Europe and Jordan in the areas of education, youth activism, social inclusion of marginalized groups as well as peace and conflict resolution. Additionally, SHL runs its own programs for youth in Southeast Europe and provides young people with the opportunity to do a voluntary service in SHL's offices and partner organizations.

What types of organizations are eligible

The CfP is open to non-profit organizations that implement activities in the eligible Southeast European countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia). Schüler Helfen Leben is a politically and religiously independent organization. Submitted projects need to be independent from these factors. Religious and political independence of the project need to be clearly outlined in the project application. Furthermore, the project needs to be open to a diverse target group and it needs to ensure that children and youth can have access to the project regardless of their religious and/or political affiliations.

How to apply for project funding?

You can find the current CfP as well as a timeline for the application process at http://bit.ly/2iS7Hv8. The deadline for receipt of short applications is 18 December 2017. Any applications received after this date will not be considered.

What kind of projects can be funded?

SHL is seeking applications for support of educational youth projects activities in the eligible countries mentioned above. The general objective of this Call for Proposals is to empower young people to actively shape their own living conditions and environment in the context of migration. Based on their migration experiences, children and adolescents should get enabled to advocate for themselves and to lead a self-determined life.

You can find an overview of formerly and currently funded projects at http://www.schueler-helfen-leben.de/fileadmin/user_upload/_SHL__Project_Overview_2018.pdf.

What about "employability" projects?

SHL recognizes that a lack of economic perspectives is one of the major concerns of young people in both South Eastern Europe and Jordan. However, projects or project components on "employability" aren't very often funded by SHL, as the contribution of those projects to ameliorating the problem often remains unclear. If you are thinking about proposing a project in this realm, please be sure to, as part of your application, provide very clear answers on the following questions: Is unemployment, at least in part, a consequence of a lack of qualification? If so, is there, in the local economy of those areas you are working in, a clearly recognizable need for the kind of professional skills you are planning to offer as part of your project (if that is what the project does)? Do you have data to back this claim up? Please describe the local economic situation as precisely as possible, thereby pointing out if and how your project meets existing demands.

How many projects are funded throughout this process?

Each year, two new projects are selected for funding – one from Southeast Europe, one from Jordan. They are awarded after following two preselection rounds and a final selection by a jury of high school students. Following this decision, the Social Day is organized, on which German high school students work for the new funding and current project activities.

Which expenses can be funded?

Within the project all sorts of costs may be requested. The costs should always be comprehensive and appropriate. The maximum amount of funding is specified in the current CfP. Own resources and third party funding are desirable, but not a requirement.
In Jordan, due to the larger costs of projects given their often humanitarian character and higher costs compared to South Easter Europe, we also welcome applications where SHL funding will be used to cover funding gaps in larger, ongoing programs.
We usually cover the salaries of staff-members on the level of average local NGO wages as well as acquisition costs.

Is it possible to re-apply after being rejected in a proceeding year?

Yes, it is possible to re-apply to a new CfP. However, in case of repeated denials the applicant should consider whether a new application is reasonable and preliminary contact SHL.

Is it possible to continue the support after the initial funding?

The continuation of the support of funded projects is in the majority of cases not possible. All projects must be designed to be completed within the funding period.

What are the steps of the selection process and who is in the selection committee of SHL?

The selection process is divided into three phases. Upon submission of all application, a 1st pre-selection of all project proposals takes place. About 10-15 candidates will receive invitations to submit a long application. Upon receipt of the long applications the 2nd pre-selection will be organized. As a result about 4-8 projects will be informed about their final selection. The selection committee which is involved in the first two phases is comprised of 10-15 members who have different roles in SHL: employees of the

Foundation, members of the Council, current volunteers, active members and possibly external experts. This committee is annually composed. The 3rd stage in the selection process concludes the decision on the final project. This decision is democratically reached by a jury of high school students during the Project Selection Conference. The available funding stems from the Social Day.

Please find the timeline for the application and selection process at: http://bit.ly/2iS7Hv8.

Which information of the applicants is made available to the selection committee?

For the 1st pre-selection, the committee receives all short applications, which are formally valid and have been submitted within the deadline. For the 2nd pre-selection, the committee receives all submitted long applications. This includes a detailed description of the project idea and a budget.

What information do the applicants receive during the selection process?

After the application deadline, each applicant will get a confirmation of receipt via email. All other notifications after the 2nd pre-selections will also be sent by email. The dates of the pre-selections will be announced with the Call for Proposals.

What should be considered when applying?

Please keep in mind that the selection committee reads many project applications. Therefore, it is very important to portray your ideas as precisely as possible and to focus on the main aspects. Too long and incomprehensible statements complicate the assessment of an application.

With regard to the content, it is important to ensure that the project – particularly the objectives, actions and expected outcomes and impact – are clearly formulated, consistent and realistic. The application should demonstrate that the organization has enough expertise to implement the project. Make sure that a successful implementation of the project activities within the funding period is realistic.

SHL only accepts applications in English and German language. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Please do not submit any additional documents to the required ones.