EU - China NGO-Twinning-Exchange Program

A program of the German Asia Foundation
supported by
Robert Bosch Stiftung

Call for applications

This first-of-its-kind exchange program gives European and Chinese NGO staff the opportunity to work and study for 4-8 weeks in an organization of the other region. The program is designed as a twinning exchange, i.e. two organizations working on similar thematic issues exchange a member of their staff. The exchange is designed to strengthen future cooperation and to facilitate the kick-off for joint projects. In June 2013, an international jury will choose up to five NGO-Twinners for the first exchange period. The period of stay in the partner country is scheduled for September/October (in Europe) and November/December (in China). The participants will take part in preparatory seminars.

Background and aims of the program

The political, economic and cultural relations between Europe and China have been growing substantially over the last few years. We consider it equally important to establish trust-building relations and cooperations between civil society organizations and NGOs of both regions. The long term goal of this exchange program is to obtain a better understanding of developments in both regions and to strengthen similar forces working for the promotion of civil society.

This exchange program will strengthen network building and alliances between Chinese and European organizations. China is becoming more and more important for working areas of European NGOs, but they often lack access to information and know-how on engagement in Chinese society. The NGO exchange will enable the missing information on Chinese developments to channel directly into important multiplier organizations in Europe. At the same time, Chinese NGOs will get important insights into working methods of European NGOs. Again, these processes will enable more Chinese NGOs, think tanks and grassroot activists to participate in international debates. The program supports professionalization and internationalization and enables organizations from both regions to develop joint visions for a better future.
The NGO Twinning program is open to organizations from all thematic areas dealing with environmental and social justice.

Requirements for applying organization

Participating organizations should:
- be able to provide an English-speaking working environment
- be able to provide a desk, a PC and a telephone and a contact person who can support the exchange fellow
- help in providing accommodation/guest families

Participants should:
- be able to communicate at work in English
- have several years of working experience, ideally in the NGO sector.

What we offer

Most associated costs for accommodation, living expenses and air fares (up to 600 €) will be covered by the organizers. However, we expect a small contribution of the participants or their organizations – this could be part of the fare for the flight-ticket, small financial contributions to living expenses or support for public transportation.

Additionally, the participants will receive workshops and trainings on topics relevant for their work, e.g. help in daily life management, political and societal backgrounds of and civil society development in the respective region.

How to apply

- all documents must be submitted in English
- short introduction of the organization (thematic focus/key activities, international experience, number of staff)
- topic for exchange
- potential twinning partner in China/Europe if already known (preferred will be twinning applications)
- letter of motivation of the participant.

Please send your application to the following address: eu-china-ngo-twinning@asienhaus.de
For questions please contact: inga.gebauer@asienhaus.de

Deadline for application is 15th of June 2013.