



## **Arab Reform Initiative (ARI)**

### **Enhancing Arab Social Science Research Capacities**

#### **Arab Research Support Program (ARSP) – Groups, Centers, Networks**

#### **Call for Proposals**

##### **Background**

The Arab Reform Initiative (ARI), established in 2005, is an association of 11 Arab research institutes and 6 institutes in Europe and the US. One of ARI's main objectives is to enhance the capacity of social science research in Arab countries. Therefore ARI launches the Arab Research Support Program (ARSP). The ARSP is made up of two strands: (i) the ARSP-INDIVIDUAL for supporting individual researchers; and (ii) ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL for supporting nascent and consolidated Arab research groups, centers and networks. This Call for Proposals is exclusively for the ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL.

##### **Objective**

###### **ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL aims at:**

- Enhancing the capacity of Arab groups, centers, and networks which focus on research in the social sciences and seek to develop and implement collaborative research projects involving individual Arab researchers as well as Arab research institutions;
- Enhancing the skills of, especially young, Arab social scientists wishing to contribute to the democratic development of their societies of origin;
- Increasing the quality and quantity of scientific publications with policy relevance on political accountability, policy reform, and transition processes in Arab countries;
- Reinforcing existing communities of social scientists within each Arab country;
- Enhancing exchanges between researchers and research institutions in different Arab countries;
- Facilitating the involvement of Arab research institutions and Arab researchers in Arab countries in the international research community.

##### **Support Forms**

###### **ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL provides the following support:**

- Setting up new and reinforcing existing research teams;
- Managing research teams;
- Organizing and conducting (field) research;
- Organizing training programs (including summer schools) on research methodology, research techniques, academic writing skills, oral presentations, policy paper writing, etc.;
- Organizing training programs (including summer schools) on specific research topics;
- Organizing scientific conferences;
- Organizing conferences with experts and policymakers;
- Commissioning papers, translating or editing papers, publication of papers;
- Participating in ARI research projects.

## **Disciplinary Focus**

**ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL welcomes proposals from all social sciences, in particular from:**

- Political science;
- Law;
- International relations;
- Economics.

## **Topics**

**ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL welcomes proposals on any relevant topic in particular Arab countries. It is particularly interested in proposals concerning:**

- Transition and consolidation processes of new political regimes;
- Reform and resistance to reform of consolidated political regimes;
- Role of the state in polities, societies and economies;
- Civil society and its role vis-à-vis the state;
- Constitutionalism, constitutional reform, the roles of the incumbents/government, the legislative and the judiciary;
- Platforms of political parties, campaign strategies, coalitions and dialogue among diverse political actors;
- Governance of religious, linguistic, and ethnic diversities;
- Social demands, labor activism and new patterns of negotiation, and the role of trade unions and professional associations;
- Reform of the security sector;
- Media, the role of the media in transitions, its (in)dependence, and ethical codes;
- Case as well as comparative studies (both synchronic as well as diachronic).

## **Country Focus**

**Proposals can focus on one or more Arab countries. ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL particularly welcomes proposals focusing on:**

- Egypt;
- Libya;
- Syria;
- Tunisia.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

**ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL eligibility criteria for the group, center, or network are:**

- Core mission and activities should focus on Arab social science research;
- Based in an Arab country;
- Have no partisan affiliation.

**ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL eligibility criteria for the proposal are:**

- Submission made by the legal representative of group, center or a network. In case of a not (yet) legally constituted group, center or network, the application should be made by one member who should be explicitly authorized to apply on behalf of the other members;
- Focus on research in and on Arab countries;
- Be complete in all its parts.

## **Selection Criteria**

**ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL selection criteria are:**

- Quality of the proposal;
- Innovative nature of the proposal;
- Feasibility of the proposal;
- Relevance for Arab societies, polities and economies;

- Relevance for enhancing the Arab social science capacity;
- Commensurability between need and request;
- Research and language skills of the researchers;
- Stage of career of researchers (initial, mid-career, advanced);
- Capacity and sustainability of the group, center, network.

### **Support Specifications**

#### **ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL:**

- Supports activities that need to take place by March 2013;
- Supports activities that have not yet initiated and expenditures that have not yet been made;
- Reimburses expenditures upon reception of valid receipts and, in justified cases, anticipates part of the costs;
- Supports matching funds for specific eligible activities (i.e. those partially funded by third parties);
- Supports proposals in a range from 5,000 – 30,000 USD;
- Supports generally proposals for a duration of 3 to 12 months;
- Encourages especially proposals which include female researchers.

### **Application and Selection Procedures**

#### **ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL application and selection procedures are as follows:**

- There is no specific deadline as Arab Research Support Programme continuously reviews incoming proposals;
- Applications can be submitted in Arabic, English or French;
- First a Letter of Inquiry (Attached) and an updated CV should be submitted to: [Application-ARSP-Institutional@arab-reform.net](mailto:Application-ARSP-Institutional@arab-reform.net)
- ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL selection committee of Arab and international academics will review the incoming proposals on the basis of eligibility and on the selection criteria;
- ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL reviews the Letters of Inquiry within 6 (six) weeks of reception;
- The strongest Letters of Inquiry will be invited to submit a full application within 4 (four) weeks of notification. Being invited to submit a full application by no means implies funding;
- ARSP-INSTITUTIONAL aims to decide on the proposals and, in case of selection, to sign the grant agreement as soon as possible, possibly within 12 (twelve) weeks after the full proposal was received. Requests for grants up to 5.000 USD will possibly be decided within 6 (six) weeks after the full proposal was received.

### **Information**

For more information, please contact [Info-ARSP-Institutional@arab-reform.net](mailto:Info-ARSP-Institutional@arab-reform.net).