

Mekelle University
Att: Dr. Mesfin Tilahun Gelaye
P.O.Box 231
Tigray
Ethiopia

Arkivkode/ File no:
822.1

Vår ref./ Our ref.:
1300589-2

Deres/ Dykkar ref./ Your ref.:

Vår saksbeh./ Enquiries:
Antonie Lysholm
Kræmer

Dato/ Date:

27.06.2013

NORHED 2013

Dear applicant,

Reference is made to your application entitled “Capacity Building for Climate Smart Natural Resource Management and Policy (CLISNARP)” submitted under the 2013 Call for proposals issued by Norad for the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED).

Norad received a total of 173 applications to this call. Out of these, 46 have been recommended for support.

We are pleased to inform you that your project has been recommended for support under the NORHED programme. Norad will contact you within the next coming weeks to initiate consultations to revise or adjust parts of your proposal. In particular it will be important to look at the details in the budget composition, and the share of budget between the Norwegian and LMIC partners.

Norad is aiming at entering agreements around 1 October, provided that the consultations result in acceptable adjustments from the partners involved.

Evaluation process

The evaluation of the proposals is based on the priorities of the NORHED programme in general, the guidelines and criteria for this call in particular, and the Grant Scheme Rules for this budget post. For the purpose of securing an independent and professional evaluation of the proposals, Norad established Independent Review Committees (IRCs), where 24 international experts were invited to assess the applications. The IRC members were identified through Norad’s global networks of partners including higher education institutions, research councils and university associations. The Independent Review Committee members were selected with the focus on:

- Ensuring a wide array of expertise, in particular experience with capacity development for higher education and research ;
- Including a balance of expertise relevant to the specific NORHED sub-programmes, and knowledge about socio-political context and development issues in each of the NORHED focus regions;
- Including persons with experience from relevant organizations or sectors in both developing and developed countries;
- Ensuring a geographically diverse composition, with balanced female and male representation.

The IRC members assessed each proposal individually based on a set of predefined criteria reflecting the different sections in the guidelines and application form, before they convened in panel meetings according to NORHED sub-programme and arrived at joint recommendations to Norad. The IRCs were asked to categorize the proposals in three categories: 1) Proposal recommended for approval without changes (and no or only minor clarifications), 2) Proposal recommended for approval provided that clarifications or adjustments are met within a limited timeframe, 3) Proposal not recommended for funding.

Projects recommended for funding have also been assessed by relevant Embassies and Norad technical departments with the focus on national/regional priorities, thematic relevance, synergy with other Norwegian-supported initiatives and risk factors related to the project.

Based on the evaluation process, Norad has decided to support all the projects in category 1, as well as a few from category 2. No projects from category 3 will be support under this call.

Way forward

Attached to this letter (Annex 1) are some comments from the Independent Review Committee on your project proposal, as well as the recommended category. Norad's request for adjustments and clarifications will be based on these external evaluations, as well as other internal assessments from Norad and the relevant Embassies.

The result from the evaluation process is considered as a recommendation for funding. Issues can arise during consultations that may hinder Norad in entering an Agreement. In addition to the follow up issues suggested from the IRC, Norad will pay particular attention to realism of budgets, value for money, risk of double funding, and coordination and synergy with other project initiatives.

Norad has already received input from different partners on risk of double funding, lack of coordination and fraud. Norad will have to go deeper into these issues before contracts can be signed.

Further, Norad cannot enter a new NORHED agreement until report on the NORHED Seed Funds is received and approved.

Pending the letter from Norad and in order to be able to enter contracts around 1 October, we recommend the partners to start revising the proposal according to the recommendations attached.

The result of the call, information about the process and the names of the IRC members can be found on www.norad.no/norhed.

Yours sincerely,

Bjarne Garden
Acting Director
Department for Global Health, Education and
Research

Edle Hamre
Head of Section,
Section for Research, Innovation and
Higher Education

Annex 1

Project title: Capacity Building for Climate Smart Natural Resource Management and Policy (Ethiopia, Mekelle and Malawi, LUANAR)		Project number: 1300589
Recommendations to Norad (please tick the relevant category)		
Category 1	X	Proposal recommended for approval without changes (and no or only minor clarifications)
Category 2		Proposal recommended for approval provided that clarifications or adjustments are met within a limited timeframe
Category 3		Proposal not recommended for funding
Narrative, overall project assessment according to the NORHED objectives of capacity development for higher education and research including relevance of geographic focus (minimum 100 words) :		
<p>This proposal links Mekelle University in Ethiopia and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources with UMB to develop skills in research, teaching and policy analysis related to climate smart natural resource management. The proposal builds on established links which have supported the development of a successful MSc programme.</p> <p>The works here involves the 2 post doc researchers, 15 PhD, 51 academic staff retooled in climate and environmental impact and policy analysis, Masters programmes, published research results, increased involvement of women at all levels and improved staff student ratios. There is potentially valuable linkage to earlier developed databases.</p> <p>This is a very well justified proposal with especially strong situational analysis justifying the need for the work.</p> <p>In addition to the full range of academic development there is also emphasis on dissemination of findings in order to facilitate evidence based policy development and analysis of key policies in both countries whose relation to climate change is generally not explored.</p> <p>Proposal is strong on gender analysis and outputs and southern based leadership in the agreement and in PhD work.</p> <p>Would benefit from clearer elaboration of the planned activities section (3.4), how the research will be done and specific climate change aspects, policy links and dissemination to be achieved. Ten PhDs at UMB is not acceptable as far as programme rules are understood.</p>		