

The European Stability Initiative (ESI) announces its

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

For joint research with ESI in Georgia

The European Stability Initiative (ESI) is a non-profit research and policy institute, created in recognition of the need for independent, in-depth analysis of the complex issues involved in promoting stability and prosperity in Europe. In nine years of its operation, ESI has won a reputation of one of Europe's leading think tanks on the issues of enlargement and developments in South Eastern Europe since 2003 including Turkey. Its advice is sought regularly by a range of policy makers across the region. ESI has analysts based in London, Berlin, Brussels, Vienna, Istanbul as well as, more recently, in Baku, Tbilisi, and Yerevan

The European Stability Initiative (ESI) launched its South Caucasus program in spring 2007 with a round of capacity-building seminars in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The current call for applications is a 3-month component of this program, spanning from mid March until mid June 2008.

The main aim of this joint research is to build local capacity for empirical research and policy analysis. Case studies will be produced with individuals interested in developing their research skills. Through ESI's Europe-wide network, this work can influence the thinking among European media and policy circles about the Caucasus.

The focal point of the joint research will be "European State Building in Georgia." Case studies including portraits of concrete institutions – their structure, capacity and performance- and their impact on the lives of ordinary Georgians will be produced to shed light on the larger question of transformation in Georgia.

Successful products will be leveraged to connect the local researchers to a wider European audience of decision makers and opinion leaders. In late 2008, a booklet of this work will be published and launched with a high level conference in Tbilisi.

Each researcher will also receive 2000 USD from ESI for a three-month period. (1000 will be upfront and 1000 after research is completed).

At the first stage the applicants are required to submit:

- CV
- Letter of motivation
- Written sample of previous research-based writing (in English).

The deadline for submission of these materials is February 8th 2008. Selected candidates will be contacted and invited to interviews during which detailed information about the nature of the work ahead will be provided by the ESI team.

Requirements for the interested applicants are as follows:

1. Strong writing skills (empirical research experience is an asset);
2. Fluency in Georgian and English;
3. Strong motivation and time for conducting independent research (researchers can be employed with other institutions however are expected to set aside time for field research, drafting, literature review and etc.)

Please note that:

1. All documents submitted to European Stability Initiative throughout the whole research period should be in English, though the notes from the interviews conducted in Georgian should also be included;
2. The work of each researcher during the contract period must go under the supervision of ESI;
3. Researchers would also be required to travel to the region(s) (unless they are based in those regions) for conducting field research.

Applications should be submitted in English by e-mail to ESI at the following address:

k.tsikhelashvili@esiweb.org

We are looking forward to receiving your applications. Please have a look at our website www.esiweb.org for an overview of what we do and where we come from.