
MEPI Alumni Connection

رابطة خريجي ميبي



MEPI



MEPI Leaders Grants

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Application Instructions

Program Overview

During the uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic, community resilience is being challenged at every corner of the globe. With overwhelmed institutions, local activists are taking the stage to address the needs of their communities. MEPI alumni are among these leaders across the Middle East and North Africa. IREX plans supporting alumni with grants for professional development opportunities. These small grants will be offered to eligible MEPI alumni to allow them to take advantage of professional development opportunities, such as enroll in a course or training to enhance their technical and professional development. The new MEPI Leaders Grants Professional Development Fund promotes MEPI alumni as thought leaders in their respective fields. These fixed amount awards up to 3000 USD will support alumni in short-term length opportunities.

Eligibility Requirements

Candidates will be considered without respect to race, color, religion, national origin, or gender. Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. The MEPI Leaders Grants is a merit-based competition open to:

- MEPI alumni in good standing, who have successfully fulfilled all requirements of previously awarded alumni grants and other USG opportunities, if applicable.
 - MEPI alumni who submit a complete application. Upon selection, the MEPI Leaders Grants awardee is responsible to IREX for all financial responsibilities and project deliverables including a completed Application, a signed Terms & Conditions of Participation (T&Cs), a Bank Wire Transfer Form, and a Final MEPI Leaders Grants Professional Development Impact Report.
- The MEPI Leaders Grants awardee must be current citizens of and currently reside in one of the following eligible countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and/or Yemen.
- Individuals in the following circumstances are **NOT** eligible for the MEPI Leaders Grant:
 - Individuals currently residing outside of the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Yemen. Note that Residents or Citizens of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, West Bank /Gaza, Libya, Syria, or Oman are not eligible.
 - Local employees of the U.S. missions abroad who work for the U.S. Department of State are ineligible for grants during the period of their employment and for one year following the termination of employment.
 - Current IREX employees and consultants and their immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, and siblings).
 - Alumni are not eligible for another MEPI Leading Grant until all deliverables including reporting have been completed for any previous grant.

Selection Criteria

Applications for Professional Development opportunities will be reviewed against the following selection criteria:

- Legitimacy of the Professional Development opportunity.
- Alumni who show accountability and commitment to the Professional Development opportunity.
- Objectives and impact of the opportunity on the professional development of the alumni applicant.

Examples of Professional development funds may include:

- Enroll in a short course or training;
- Conference or professional development event costs;
- Research costs;
- Technical equipment to enhance community or entrepreneurial work; and
- Magazine subscription related to profession or skills interests.

Application Evaluation

All received completed applications, will be evaluated competitively against the technical eligibility and selection criteria internally in consultancy with MEPI and U.S. Posts within the eligible countries on a monthly basis.

IREX reserves the right to verify all information included in the application. If there is a discrepancy, or information is found to be false, the application will immediately be declared invalid and the applicant ineligible. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

All proposed projects selected for award must be reviewed and cleared by the U.S. Embassy to the proposed country of the project, prior to final selection.

Checking & Monitoring Requirements

All MEPI Leaders Grants awardees will be required to adhere to at least one check-up call or any other monitoring process requirements by IREX during the award cycle.

Reporting Requirements

All MEPI Leaders Grants awardees will be required to submit a Final Professional Development Impact Report to IREX within two weeks of project completion.