



## Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development

### PROGRAM FOR VISITING EXPERTS 2018 CALL

#### THE NETWORK AND ITS MISSION

The nrg4SD is a network of regional governments that share common interests in climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development. Established in 2002, today it has 50 members from 26 countries and is the only international network on sustainable development matters representing solely regional governments.

The nrg4SD mission is to promote sustainable development policies and activities at the level of regional governments around the globe. To achieve that, nrg4SD:

- Acts as the voice of regional governments at the international level in the field of sustainable development, including at UN negotiations and other intergovernmental processes,
- Facilitates and encourages collaboration projects and exchanges between its members regions, and also with international partners and experts
- Promotes learning and sharing of specialised knowledge, as well as opportunities for capacity building and engagement in initiatives at the global level.

#### BACKGROUND

One of the main reasons to found nrg4SD was the will to promote cooperation among regional governments capable of achieving expertise exchange, partnerships and joint projects on all scales.

Since 2002, many cooperation activities have been developed, but it was in 2014 when the Network allocated a specific budget to enable practical learning among members. Indeed, the formerly known “Exchange of staff program” enabled selected nrg4SD members to send a visiting expert to another nrg4SD member territory to learn on the ground experiences, progress and actions developed in the fields of work of the Network.

Acknowledging the great success of the three experiences developed within the program in 2015, the General Assembly decided in 2015 in Colombo to approve the call again for 2016. As a consequence of such decision, a visiting experts experience was developed early 2018 and the General Assembly decided again in Cuenca last June to open another call with the remaining budget.

#### EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

The Network opens a call for visiting experts between nrg4SD members to foster bilateral cooperation, capacity building and know-how transference. The call is



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especially addressed to promote learning in the fields of climate adaptation, biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all related respectively to the nrg4SD initiatives RegionsAdapt, Regions4Biodiversity and Localising the SDGs at regional level.

The rationale behind is to strengthen partnerships within nrg4SD initiatives, as well as that by sharing methodologies, approaches and experiences, it will be possible to improve regional governance and capacities.

### DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS

**The call will fund one (1) visiting experts program.** The programs need to promote North-South or South-South cooperation between nrg4SD members, as well as to create collaborations or strengthen and extend existing ones, in order to promote innovation, new working methodologies and improvement of practices. North-North cooperation is also fostered by nrg4SD, although no funding will be available.

**The funded program will receive a maximum of 3.000 Euros.** The grant will be provided after the completion of the program upon presentation of all the necessary receipts accompanying the nrg4SD expenses form for reimbursements. Exceptionally, and based on grounded reasons, a written agreement between the member that sends the expert and nrg4SD will enable the Network to advance up to 2/3 of the granted amount. The advance of the grant will not exonerate the member in question to present the above-mentioned form and receipts.

The nrg4SD will not fund expenses over 3000 Euros. Should the expenses incurred be less than 3000 Euros, the nrg4SD will only fund those expenses.

**Participating members in the program are welcome to complete nrg4SD funding** should it be not enough to cover the expenses of the visiting expert.

**The preferable duration of the program is 1 to 2 months,** depending on each case needs and circumstances.

**The host of the visiting expert is expected to** involve the different bodies/agencies within its organization to provide the necessary global and full learning to the visiting expert. In addition, the host is expected to assist the visiting expert in terms of identifying suitable accommodation, urban transport and meals. In this sense, the possibility of using canteens or student dormitories of the host government are strongly advised.

**Both parties are to agree one or more specific topics** to be studied by the visiting expert. In this sense, the collaboration must be oriented to concrete actions and



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identified learning results. Vague or poorly defined collaborations will not be considered.

**Visiting experts will continue to perceive their salaries from their administrations/governments.** The nrg4SD financing aims at enabling visiting experts in terms of travel, accommodation and daily allowance. On no account nrg4SD funds should be considered as complementary salary for the experts benefiting from the program.

**The program shall be developed within 2019.** Should that not occur, nrg4SD funding will no longer be available.

**The awarded member regions must present upon the finalisation of the program a report to the nrg4SD Secretariat.** The report will be assessed by nrg4SD Co-Chairs and the Steering Committee and shall show the utility and results of the programme. Should the report not be presented or not provide any satisfactory result, it may be decided not to approve the reimbursement.

### FINANCIAL ENVELOPE

The financial envelope of the call amounts to **3.000 Euros to be allocated to one awarded program.** The funding provided by nrg4SD may be completed by the awarded member regions.

### ELEGIBLE REGIONS AND TARGET GROUP

The **nrg4SD member regions that are in good standing with their obligations with respect to the Network** are considered eligible to the call.

The target group is:

- Regional administrations and associations of regional governments that are nrg4SD members;
- Any type of professional structure with legal personality governed by private law, with headquarters in one of the member regions of nrg4SD (associations, foundations, consortiums etc.);
- Territorial entities and legal persons governed by public law, implemented in the territory of nrg4SD members.

The applications submitted should entail **North-South or South-South cooperation.** North-North cooperation is also encouraged by nrg4SD, although it will not count with nrg4SD financing. North-North partnerships or North members looking for North partners are welcome to contact the nrg4SD Secretariat.



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### ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The applications submitted must include learning, knowledge sharing or exchange of experiences within the priorities of nrg4SD and the competencies of its members. In addition, proposals must include information, training actions and practice, proposed activities and schedule for the visiting expert.

### SELECTION

Proposals fulfilling all the aforementioned conditions will be studied by a **Selection Committee** created by the Steering Committee. The Selection Committee will ensure that the proposal selected is the best in terms of quality, suitability and impact of the results (practical applicability of training in daily work).

The Selection Committee will give priority to those **proposals ensuring that the lessons learnt by the visiting expert are useful, applicable, efficient and capable of bringing and added value to his/her daily work.**

### OTHER

- The visiting expert maintains his/her contract and does not hold any contractual relationship with the host administration.
- The host administration shall help/guide the visiting expert on logistic matters, such as finding accommodation, public transport information, customs and practices of the country etc.
- The host administration is welcome to provide the visiting expert with access to government's canteen and to help with transport.

### PRACTICAL ISSUES

- The call is open from **17 December 2018**.
- Applications should be **submitted by 11 February 2019 to the nrg4SD Secretariat**, Ms. Natalia Vera, Secretary General, [nvera@nrg4sd.org](mailto:nvera@nrg4sd.org)
- Applications should be previously agreed and submitted on behalf of both host and visiting governments. Upon request, the nrg4SD Secretariat will gladly facilitate the contacts and introduce potential partners to members. We strongly recommend using the existing contacts and relations created with the nrg4SD initiatives RegionsAdapt, Regions4Biodiversity and Localising the SDGs at regional level.



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- Applications should be presented by **using the enclosed form**. Please, feel free to enlarge the enabled space for each question.
- Applications may be submitted in any of the three official languages of the Network (**EN, ES, FR**).



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**PROGRAM FOR VISITING EXPERTS- 2018 CALL- APPLICATION FORM**

**nrg4SD region members participating in the program:**

*Please include name of the organization and contact information of political representative*

- 1.
- 2.

**Thematic of the program:**

*If more than one, please mention*

**Rationale of the program:**

*Please mention the needs of the government sending the expert and what the government welcoming the expert can offer*

**Name and position of the visiting expert:**

*Please attach CV and motivation letter*

**Name and position of the technical expert that will be responsible for the  
visiting expert at the host government:**

*Please attach CV and motivation letter*

**Description of the program to be followed by the visiting expert at the host government:**

*Please mention the activities to be developed (study visits, bodies or agencies of the host government involved, practices to be learnt etc.). Include also the schedule or agenda to be followed*

**Aims of the programme to be followed:**

*Please include what added value and/or lessons will the visiting expert gain with the envisaged program*

**Facilities provided by the host government:**

*Please mention the accommodation options identified for the visiting expert, as well as meal facilities options (government's canteens, student canteens etc.) and local transport (provided by the host etc.).*

**Applicability of the lessons learnt by the technical expert when returning to  
his/her government:**