

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee for the Studies of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Department of State		2025	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Advisory Committee for the Studies of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union		669	
4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	04/15/2023	04/15/2025	
8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority		8c. Actual Term Date
No			
9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?	
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)			
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
22 U.S.C. § 4503.	11/21/1983	Continuing	No
15. Description of Committee Grant Review Committee			
16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this Fiscal Year		
17a. Open	17b. Closed	17c. Partially Closed	17d. Total
0	0	0	0
Meetings and Dates			
No Meetings			

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The purpose of the committee is to make funding and policy recommendations to the Assistant Secretary of State for INR which will result in a balanced program of research and training on issues related to the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union. Those recommendations broaden the U.S.

knowledge base and have a direct impact on the processes of political, economic, and social change in these countries. Scholars regularly brief government analysts and policy makers on their experiences after completing Title VIII-funded onsite research. Title VIII scholars travel to Eastern Europe and Eurasia independently and not in association with the U.S. Government, allowing them to develop contacts outside of those officials in U.S. Embassies typically cultivate in the states in which they are stationed. The Department also benefits quickly and directly from the on-the-ground perspectives title VIII scholars present at Analytic Exchanges held at the State Department. They expound on policy relevant issues concerning Eurasia and Central and Eastern Europe. The INR Program Office disseminates the research they present to the federal interagency and intelligence community. We may give recommendations to the grantees about how they manage their programs. One Committee informal recommendation to the program officer included using the Notice of Funding Opportunity to have applicants explain why their proposals are distinct or original.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The advisory committee, which is chaired by the Director for Analytic Outreach for the Secretary of State, is comprised of six members, each with a single vote. Majority vote rules in all committee deliberations. The committee is legislatively-mandated to include four Federal Agencies and two private umbrella organizations active in the Russian, Eurasian and East and Central European fields and the U.S. academic community. Since its establishment in FY 1983, the Secretary or INR Assistant Secretary have

accepted all recommendations offered by the committee.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The advisory committee reviews applications received in the national competition and makes recommendations to the Assistant Secretary of State regarding grant recipients and levels of awards. Grantees selected are disclosed during the Committee's annual public meeting which is open to the public. The Advisory meets once per year to review applications and a second time that same year to announce them at the public meeting.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

Members of the advisory committee represent federal agencies and organizations, which are actively involved in following and analyzing events in the countries of Eurasia and East and Central Europe. Since the committee includes public and private members, it serves the interests of policy makers and scholars in the private sector that focus on the countries of the region. The public-private composition of the committee ensures that the mandate for a balanced national research and training program is met, addressing the interests of the academic, business, and nongovernmental communities, as well as U.S. policy makers. The committee is very adept at assessing which proposals may or may not meet Title VIII goals. For example, the committee can assess if a grantee is going to overly spend on personnel costs and determine how much funding will actually go to programming. They can assess if researchers will grow through their participation in the Title VIII program.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

NA

21. Remarks

The Advisory Committee recommends grant policies for the advancement of the objectives of Title VIII. In proposing recipients for grants under Title VIII, the Advisory Committee gives the highest priority to national organizations with an interest and expertise in conducting research and training concerning the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and in disseminating the results of such research. In making its recommendations, the Advisory Committee aims for the development of a stable, long-term research and training program. The duties of the Advisory Committee are advisory only. Timothy Duvall resigned as a member of the Advisory Committee.

Designated Federal Officer

Robert Zimmerman Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Duvall, Timothy	05/09/2019	04/15/2025	Government Employee	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kane, John	09/30/2019	04/15/2025	Department of Defense	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Kuchta-Helbling, Catherine	10/01/2015	04/15/2025	DOS	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Neubert, Michael	09/30/2019	04/15/2025	Library of Congress	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Park, Lynda	10/01/2015	04/15/2025	ASEEES	Representative Member
			Associate Vice	
Saab, Hanan	06/01/2023	08/31/2025	President for Federal Relations	Representative Member
				Regular Government
Sapatoru, Dana	06/01/2023	08/30/2025	Program Officer	Employee (RGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

Narrative Description

The purpose of the Title VIII advisory committee is to make funding recommendations to the Assistant (or Acting) Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, which will sustain a balanced program of research and training in the U.S. on the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union. In 2024, the committee met this goal by reviewing 14 grant applications submitted under the 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Program for Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII). After careful review and public deliberation, the committee recommended to the Assistant Secretary of State eight (8) national organizations and universities in the Russian, Eurasian, and East and Central European fields to receive grants for advanced graduate and language training and postdoctoral research on the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In August 2024, the Acting Assistant Secretary accepted those recommendations without revision. Active Title VIII grants currently support almost 200 graduate students and scholars throughout the U.S., expanding the body of knowledge about those countries and strengthening the pool of expertise available for service to the USG. The advisory committee's recommendations enable the U.S. to have a direct impact on and first-hand knowledge of the processes of political, economic, and social change in these countries. As a direct result of Title VIII funding, U.S. scholars are able to conduct field research and in-country language training. These scholars regularly brief government analysts and policy makers on their research products and in-country experiences.

Title VIII scholars frequently travel to the countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia and obtain a fresh, on-the-ground, perspective that they can share with analysts and policy-makers from the Dept. of State and the interagency. When circumstances allow (e.g., when the program officer meets existing implementers), the grantees can be advised of what courses of action they should for should not pursue. For example, in one instance, the program will see seven scholars researching the Black Sea geopolitical area, in lieu of four during each of the past two years. In another example, the program officer accepted an explanation written by one grantee to instruct move from in-person language instruction to 100 percent online language instruction. Reason: another grantee is doing this successfully and is able to reach out to students who cannot sit for the class in person but can learn online.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

325

Number of Recommendations Comments

Each year the advisory committee reviews an average of 10-15 grant proposals. This reporting year the committee reviewed 14 proposals. The advisory committee reviews all submitted proposals and subsequently makes recommendations to the Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research. Since 1985, the advisory committee has made 325 recommendations.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Bureau of Intelligence and Research provides the advisory committee with feedback regarding the Assistant Secretary of State's disposition towards the committee's recommendations. Public is welcome to file a FOIA request for feedback. In 2024, four of six unsuccessful applicants discussed their applications with the program officer.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Approves annual request for proposals, which includes priority regions and emergent issues.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

Yes

What is the estimated Number of grants reviewed for approval 14

What is the estimated Number of grants recommended for approval 8

What is the estimated Dollar Value of grants recommended for approval \$1,994,598

Grant Review Comments

The Committee recommended eight organizations for an award.

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

The annual Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announcement is published on <http://grants.gov> and <https://mygrants.service-now.com/grants/>. The advisory committee's annual public meeting is published in the Federal Register. Title VIII is also accessible through the INR public website. The program officer has a dedicated Title VIII email address: TitleVIII@state.gov