Call for International Prize by Onassis Foundation directed to Civil Society organizations

In 2009, the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, as organiser of the Civil Society Days (CSD) of the 3rd Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2009 in Athens, Greece, and in accordance with the goals set forth by its founder, Aristotle Onassis, for the awarding of International Prizes, has launched

the "Hestia" Onassis International Prize
in Immigrant Integration and Human Development

in view of rewarding an exceptional and pioneering initiative of immigrant integration and human development in the host countries of the GFMD.

The Prize is a three year commitment of the Onassis Foundation (2009-2011) and is accompanied by a monetary award of EUR 50,000 per year.

In 2009, during the CSD/3rd GFMD in Athens, Greece, the Onassis Foundation has bestowed the Prize to the *Médecins du Monde-Greece* for their initiative "Open Polyclinic", which offers free medical and pharmaceutical care, as well as psychosocial support to groups of immigrants with limited or no access at all to the Greek National Health System and social services.

For **2010**, the Prize will be awarded to a **Mexican** civil society organization, team or individual dealing with Mexican migrant integration and human development issues.

With this initiative, the Onassis Foundation confirms its lasting interest and strong commitment to this crucial social challenge.

** **Hestia**- the ancient goddess of home, domestic life and family. It symbolizes the new home and the new life that immigrants build in their countries of residence, and how the receiving countries accept and incorporate them in their public life.*

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A) Guiding principles

Integration: the key for a successful migration policy – While heated political debates usually focus on immigration legislation and its reform, issues of immigrant integration often remain in the shadows. Integration issues are crucial for migrants themselves but also for the origin and receiving societies at large. It is important to shed light on the work and efforts directed towards making stronger, more unified and successful communities of mutual understanding between migrants and natives, communities offering opportunities for individual success and collective prosperity.

The importance of migrant groups' initiatives - Migrant groups and communities exemplify a strong tendency for mutual help facilitating social integration and contributing, thus, to social cohesion. Solidarity in practice involves not only actions directed to newly arrived people from the same country of origin, but also covers a broader array of actions aimed at the emancipation and empowerment of migrants in their host countries. Mexico is a country with a long experience as an origin country. Mexican immigrants abroad and in particular Mexican immigrants in the USA usually keep strong ties with their communities of origin. Such ties have led to the development of hometown associations and other civil society organizations aiming at the welfare of both migrants in their country of settlement and of their communities of origin back home. Migrants' organizations play a crucial role in fostering human development in both origin and destination regions.

Human development is understood here in its wider meaning as adopted by the UNDP, notably as a process of enlarging people's choices by expanding human capabilities and functionings. Human development thus includes the social, cultural and economic development of migrants and their families but also the impact that such development has on wider groups, communities and countries.

By launching this Prize, the Onassis Foundation wishes not only to acknowledge this useful role but also enhance it even further by means of providing material support for further initiatives and by publicizing good practices that form the necessary pool of respect, understanding and good intentions required to tackle the issues of social integration. The award is meant to support the efforts of civil society organizations, groups or individuals and develop their capacities to lead initiatives that encourage the human development of migrants and their families.

It is meant to take into consideration not only individual successful projects but also the beneficial impact of continuing efforts stemming from a general profile conducive to building trust and strengthening social solidarity and integration in the society at large.

B) Candidate initiatives or projects for the Hestia Onassis International Prize 2010 should:

1. be initiated and implemented by Mexican civil society organizations, groups or individuals;

2. strengthen the voice and citizen participation of migrant communities;
3. create links between migrant communities and their immediate environment;
4. facilitate concrete responses to specific problems experienced by migrants in general and by the more vulnerable migrant groups such as women, disabled persons, children, older people etc;
5. bring about a collective benefit to groups and communities as well as an individual benefit to specific people and their families;
6. generate a multiplier effect in order to provide a source of inspiration for others.

C) Candidates eligible to apply for 2010

Candidates for 2010 can be **Mexican** civil society organizations, groups of citizens or individuals dealing with migrant integration and human development issues and work with communities of origin, Mexican migrants abroad or any issue related with migration in Mexico. Actual or previous experience of partnerships between the applicant organization, group or individual and other associations, schools, local authorities or other actors is considered to strengthen the application. There will be no priority in favour of any particular country of destination that a given migrant organization may represent or work with.

D) Selection criteria

Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. importance of the issue dealt with or need addressed by the project
2. innovative character of the activity/ies undertaken
3. impact of the activity (people reached, output achieved at the individual and collective level)
4. influence during and beyond the life of the activity

In particular:

Importance refers to how significant is the issue, population coverage or practice that the initiative/group addresses.

Questions to consider:

- What is the concern that your organization/initiative seeks to address? Which needs do you seek to meet?
- How is the initiative or group activities critical to the integration and human development of the migrants and their families;
- Which aspects of your initiatives/activities make your contribution especially valuable?

Innovative approach refers to the perceived institutional or policy gap addressed for the benefit of migrants.

Questions to consider:

- What core elements of your approach are particularly innovative?
- What is the value added of your actions and initiatives that would inspire others to imitate?

Impact refers to the effectiveness of the initiative/activities in achieving immigrant integration outcomes.

Questions to consider:

- What did you set out to accomplish?
- To what extent have you succeeded?
- What specific and measurable results can you provide to show individual, family or broader community development outcomes?
- To what extent have your actions/initiatives resulted in positive changes in policies and practices?

Influence refers to the extent to which the actions and initiatives taken are likely to influence the efforts of others.

Questions to consider:

- To what extent have your actions and initiatives influenced others in your community or field, as well as other communities or fields?
- Do you believe that your initiatives can be successfully replicated elsewhere by others?

E) How to apply

- Application forms can be downloaded from www.onassis.gr www.onassishestiaprize.gr o de www.gfmd2010mexico.org

- Applications will be accepted by **Mexican** civil society organizations, associations or groups of citizens or individuals dealing with migrant integration and human development issues and working with communities of origin, Mexican migrants abroad or immigrants in Mexico. **Applications from civil society organisations, groups or individuals dealing with other than Mexican migrants or immigrants in Mexico will not be accepted.**

- Application forms must be completely filled out **in English or Spanish only.**

- Application forms and any supporting material should be submitted **electronically only. Applications sent by post will not be accepted.**

- All supporting material should be attached in the following formats: jpeg, word document, excel, pdf, gif, png files

- The size of the application and all supporting material **must not exceed 8 MB**.

- Deadline for submission: **Wednesday, September 15, 2010**

F) Time schedule

- Deadline for submission of applications: Wednesday, September 15, 2010
- Official announcement of final decision: Monday 8th or Tuesday 9th November, 2010

G) Selection procedure and Prize Committee (2010)

After closure of the application deadline, the Onassis Foundation will hand out the applications to the Prize Committee. This Committee is composed by six members (3 from Mexico and another 3 from Greece) and is chaired by Ms Marianna Moschou, Secretary of the Board of the Onassis Foundation.

The Prize Committee examines the submissions and shortlists up to 5 initiatives on the basis of the criteria mentioned above.

Shortlisted applications will be passed to a GFMD CSD subcommittee of the International Advisory Committee 2010 (IAC) for the final selection of the winning project.

The decision for the winner project will be officially delivered during the Civil Society Days 2010 organized by the BBVA Bancomer Foundation, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, notably on 8-9 November, 2010.

For queries, please contact:

- In Mexico, BBVA Bancomer Foundation, mariaalicia.athie@bbva.bancomer.com
- In Greece, Onassis Foundation, mlogiadou.pr@onassis.gr (in English only)