

Constituency and Influence for Reform

Call for Consultant(s) for conducting
external evaluation

11/14/2023



Background	3
Objective of the Call	3
Responsibilities and tasks	4
Deliverables	4
Duration and location	5
Required qualifications and skills	5
Confidentiality	6
Application and Selection Process	6

Founded in 1987, the NHC was part of the wave of new human rights watchdogs across wider Europe, established following the signing of the Helsinki Accords. Long-time dissidents and newly inspired activists behind the Iron Curtain called on their governments with appeals for political reform and improved protection of human rights. They were using the human rights commitments of the parties to the Accords to hold their governments to account. Today, we continue to build on our rich experience of 35-years work on the rule of law and human rights, and building bridges between people, sectors and countries. Together we stand strong to inspire, engage and support catalysts of change in building just and rights-respecting societies in wider Europe.

The present document defines the terms for the Call for Consultant(s) for conducting external evaluators for the Netherlands Helsinki Committee's "*Constituency and Influence for Reform*" project, financed in part by the European Union¹.

Background

The *Constituency and Influence for Reform* is a 3-year long project (July 2020-November 2023) aiming at strengthening CSOs' communication, advocacy and crowdfunding capacity, good governance, and operational security in four EU Eastern Partnership+ (EaP+) countries. The project most directly targets, and immediately benefits, civil society organizations (CSOs) working on **women's rights, anti-corruption or environmental protection** in 4 EaP+ countries. The project is funded by the European Union and implemented under Financial Framework Partnership Agreement between the EU and the NHC.

The role of civil society in all target countries has proven to be critical in defending democratic progress and mending governance deficiencies in the past. Furthermore, stimulating greater appreciation of human rights issues by domestic constituencies, including financial contribution in the form of crowdfunding, is a vital yet little-applied long-term strategy for CSOs promoting women's rights, fight against corruption, and environmental protection. The project aims at be further strengthened the growing influence and leverage of society as a whole in all target countries and to seek possible windows of opportunities for CSOs to safely engage with the government, either at national or local level, principally on issues of women's rights, anti-corruption, and environmental protection. To this end, in each country, the NHC has organised trainings, provided small grants, and arranged coaching support to enable a select group of CSOs to conduct campaigns and effectively reach broader audiences and political actors in all target countries.

Objective of the Call

The objective of this Call is to hire one **international consultant or team of international consultants to conduct a final external evaluation of the project "Constituency and Influence**

¹ This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

for Reform” and to provide an independent assessment of the project’s implementation, including the assessment of the quality, achievements, and sustainability of the activities undertaken.

Responsibilities and tasks

The evaluation will consider all activities that have been implemented under this project and should examine the performance of the project in accordance with its logical framework. Key questions that the evaluation seeks to answer during the evaluations should be developed by the consultant(s) and agreed with the NHC project team.

The set-up of the evaluation process as well as the concrete methods for data collection and analysis shall be proposed by the evaluation consultant. However, the evaluation concept should at least provide for the following phases:

- Inception phase: Review of documents, finalization of work plan, preparation of the field phase, preparation of the interim report.
- Field phase: Collection and analysis of data.
- Finalization: Synthesis of evaluation findings and preparation of final evaluation report.

The mixed method design comprising qualitative as well as quantitative methods should be used.

All the data collection (such as interviews with the project stakeholders) is to be completed online.

Deliverables

1. Draft Evaluation Work plan (before signing the contract);
2. Final Evaluation Work plan (after signing the contract and based on the comments by the NHC);
3. First draft of final evaluation report;
4. The final evaluation report with recommendations and identified lessons learned from the implementation of this project (40 pages max.).

The consultants are expected to deliver the final report with an executive summary written in English. The final report should have a clear structure and will follow the layout format we require for decentralised evaluations.

The report shall clearly and in detail describe the evaluation approach/methodology and methods for data collection and analysis and make a clear distinction between the two. The methodology should be relevant to the structure of the project that has important sub-granting component. Limitations to the methodology and methods and the consequences of these limitations for findings and conclusions shall be described.

The evaluation should also analyse the impact of the project on coordination, synergies, relations and information sharing with other framework partners and the bodies of the European Union such as DG NEAR and EU Delegations.

Assignment findings shall flow logically from the data collected from beneficiaries and all other stakeholders of the project, showing a clear line of evidence to support the conclusions. Conclusions should be substantiated by findings and analysis. Evaluation questions shall be clearly stated and answered in the executive summary and in the conclusions. Recommendations and lessons learned should flow logically from conclusions and be specific, directed to relevant intended users and categorised as short-term, medium-term and long-term. The final report will be an important part of the NHC's reporting to DG NEAR and will help to improve future similar interventions of the NHC in this area. Therefore, the report should also include recommendations for the improvement for the NHC and indirectly to the DG NEAR.

Duration and location

Total 30 working days: 10 (ten) days home-based for online collecting data and 20 days for home-based report writing.

Duration is 4 months: 01 January – 30 April 2024

Required qualifications and skills

Prospective applicants are required to have the following qualifications and skills and meet the following criteria:

- Academic background in social science, development studies, or related field;
- At least five years of experience in evaluation in the context of civic space development and capacity strengthening projects, and at least three years of experience with EU funded projects.
- Sound knowledge of different evaluation approaches and qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods;
- Experience in conducting evaluation on capacity strengthening project with the focus of re-granting/financial support to third parties.
- Experience in conducting participatory evaluations, gender and/or rights responsive evaluations, with practical experience in remote evaluation methods.
- Experience in collecting and handling project evaluation data including production of data visualization.
- Strong conceptual understanding of the Project Cycle and the role of evaluation in the cycle.
- Strong analytical and report writing skills and abilities to present findings and practical recommendations.

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Good written and verbal communication skills in Russian and/or Ukrainian is an asset.

Confidentiality

Throughout the assignment, and for five years after the date of final payment for service, the consultant must agree to keep confidential all data, documents, or other materials (in any format) that is disclosed (in writing or orally) concerning the project.

Application and Selection Process

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following:

- Technical proposal, including proposed evaluation methodology and brief work plan (no more than two (2) pages);
- Financial proposal, including the proposed fee and breakdown (no more than one (1) page based on HRHF financial proposal template);
- CV (s)- including examples of other evaluations undertaken by the individual(s) (no more than two (2) pages)
- References or recommendations letters from at least 3 previous evaluations experiences (for each individual, including contact details).
- Confirmation that they are not aware of any conflict of interest (completed and signed Declaration of impartiality on exclusion criteria and selection criteria)

Individual consultants are eligible to apply, but we also welcome applications from teams/groups of consultants. For applications submitted by a prospective team of consultants, team members must complete a joint application form and indicate therein a description of how the team members will cooperate with each other along with a proposed division of tasks must be included in the application.

We invite candidate to [APPLY ONLINE](#) no later than December 01, 2023.

Only full applications will be assessed.

For any questions, please contact Nathalie Heidema at nheidema@nhc.nl by November 22, 2023.