

Terms of Reference (TOR) for researcher

Policy Paper on the impact of the Eastern Partnership on Minority Rights

Minority Rights Group Europe (MRG), a Budapest-based non-governmental organisation has recently begun the implementation of a 3-years EC-funded programme **in the Eastern Partnership (EaP countries, especially Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine that aims at increased capacities and networking between minority activists and organisations.** We work with activists and civil society organisations, including ethnic, linguistic, national, religious minorities, indigenous peoples and visible minority communities.

Currently, there is a lack of empirical research on the EaP's impact and benefit for minority rights implementation. Without such research, minority activists & the EU lack information needed to campaign for and ensure the EaP benefits minority communities. A comprehensive policy paper will address this need.

MRG is seeking to engage a consultant to carry out research and author a 35 page paper on the impact of the Eastern Partnership mechanisms to minorities with a special regards to their capacities to absorb funds and access to decision making processes. The researcher is also **expected to develop indicators** for further monitoring of the impact of EaP on minorities. The policy paper will have a comparative approach elaborating on challenges, good practice relevant for each target country, elaborating on each of the references to minority issues in the Eastern Partnership process and the Association Agreements.

Specifically the consultant would be expected to:

1. **Introduce EaP's historical and political framework, priorities & reference to minorities**
2. *Assess the impact of the multi-lateral dimension of the EaP*
3. *Assess impact of the bi-lateral dimension, including positive examples and assessment of the current level of minority-informed participation*
4. **Design indicators** for future measure and monitoring of EaP impact on minorities
5. *Write country specific analyses of final AAs or CSP impact on minorities*
6. *Carry out research on the future impact as a new political framework, a map of EaP's potential in terms of development & human rights*
7. *Illustrate the argument with comparison among the EaP countries*
8. **Set policy recommendations** to improve EaP implementation & ensure effective minority participation.

Target group:

The policy paper will target EU/ national decision makers and establish indicators for continued EaP monitoring by partners. The paper will be disseminated to government officials responsible for implementation of EaP Association agreements & programmes, EU officials, national & European parliamentarians, CSOs & other relevant actors.

The paper language is English. It will be maximum 35 page. The content will be finalized in consultation with project partners. .



The selected consultant should have the following experience:

Essential

- Have substantive experience with the institutions and programmes of the Eastern Partnership;
- Have extensive knowledge in minority rights
- Have significant experience in regional comparative research, in a wide variety countries in the Eastern Partnership countries.
- Have a detailed knowledge of minority situation and challenges in the Eastern Partnership countries
- Have experience of developing policy recommendations in the field of international development.
- Have experience in social research methods i.e. interviews with decision makers, data analysis, etc.
- Be fluent in both written and spoken English
- Be able to work independently, arranging travel, appointments and interviews for him/herself.
- Be able to work closely with the MRG staff and project partner organizations in the EaP.

Desirable

- *Practice in collaboration with EaP officials and decision makers*
- language skills in any of the official languages of the six countries is an asset

Materials (to be delivered):

- Research notes
- 3 page executive summary of the research for advocacy purposes
- Max. 35 page policy paper

We envisage that the consultant would work for 20 days. MRG's budget currently states that we will be able to offer around 3500 Euros for this role, although we may be able to offer a slightly higher rate for a candidate who is particularly skilled and experienced.

If you are interested in being considered for this opportunity, please send your **CV** and a **research plan** setting out your relevant experience and skills, workplan, timeline and methodology, to zsofia.farkas@mrgmail.org to arrive by **5th September 2013**. **Please write 'Policy Paper EaP' in the subject of the e-mail.**

The researcher will be supported by the MRGE staff officer and partner organizations. The consultancy fee should cover brief travel to the countries, not necessarily all. Those consultants who are shortlisted will be interviewed over the phone late September 2013.

Closing date: 5 September 2013

MRG values diversity and ethnic minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.

