



Call for expert to guide and advise the selection, adjustment and implementation of a regional comparison model for the CSO Meter

TERMS OF REFERENCES

Background

ECNL together with local partners, are leading the [CSO Meter](#) - Assessing the civil society environment in the Eastern Partnership countries. The CSO Meter is the first ever such tool developed for the region by the CSOs to support the regular and consistent monitoring of the CSO environment. It consists of a set of standards and indicators in 10 different areas that measure both law and practice. It was developed based on a review of international standards and best regulatory practices to address the needs and emerging trends in the region.

- It consists of an:
 - Explanatory note: offers detailed explanation of what each indicator means, derived from international and EU standards and practice;
 - Methodological guidance: that guides the usage of the framework, the data collection and analysis; and the instruments for monitoring.

For the second phase of the project starting in 2021, ECNL will aim to introduce a regional comparison to the existing CSO Meter methodology. The aim will be to provide for more successful advocacy by engaging with both qualitative, but also quantitative comparison of the different areas of the enabling environment (total of 10) across the EaP countries and years.

For 2020, ECNL has decided to review existing methodologies for comparison (e.g. USAID Sustainability Index, Eastern Partnership Index, Nations in transit, Monitoring matrix-BCSDN, etc.), and select relevant aspects of the models to be considered for the CSO Meter regional comparison in 2021. Our guiding principles for the selection of model are that it should be easy to understand, not-costly and should build on the existing framework with few adjustments. This includes the following activities:

- Review and update the Mapping of monitoring frameworks;
- Assess the different existing models;
- Develop a model most suitable for the CSO Meter.

Purpose of the assignment

ECNL seeks a consultant (it can be both an individual or an organization) to provide guidance, support, opinion and advice on the options for models ECNL is looking at in line with what has been already developed. The consultant should contribute to answering to the dilemmas to a draft model, on a range of important considerations such as: limitations that different models have and quantitative aspects of the tasks, defining clearly the purpose, who collects data, who



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scores/who verifies, cost of development and implementation, period for implementation, ensuring sustainability (when, how), distribution of the results and adjustments needed to the overall methodology (documents to develop) by the end of the year, that will enable for effective and quick adjustment that will start early 2021 of the comparison model, and allow for its testing and implementation the same year.

Scope of work:

- a. Expertise, innovation and opinion (advice) on models that are similar to our monitoring package, to consider the possibilities (limitations) for applying them;
- b. Provide guidance and opinion on the necessary steps to be undertaken for and after consultations with ECNL to prepare draft-model for comparison;
- c. Guide and advise on the overall adjustments needed for the update of the CSO Meter for the purpose of the model (advise the comprehensive plan for next year);
- d. Assist ECNL with solving different issues and dilemmas around the comparative model (particularly quantitative e.g. if we need weighting and aggregation, and the implications of that).

Period of implementation:

Under the assignment, up to 10 expert days are planned within October 1 - November 30, 2020.

Required qualification, skills and experience:

- University degree in social sciences or other relevant area;
- Excellent research skills (quantitative and qualitative);
- Fluency in English is required;
- At least 5 years of professional experience in researching the field of civil society or other related areas and developing assessment methodologies.

Documents to be submitted:

- CV;
- Offer, including
 - Daily rate;
 - Previous experience in developing assessment methodologies and indexes with examples of work (methodology notes, publications, reports, etc.);
 - References (at least 2 contact details).

Deadline: 23 September 2020

Please send your CV along with the offer at: anna.av@ecnl.org