**Terms of reference**

**Final evaluation of “Contributing to stability and peace in Central Asia” project**

**4082-2 CA-DG-EC**

**Email to:** Central-Asia-Info@internews.eu **Deadline: July 25, 2019:**

Internews overview

**Internews** is an international non-profit organization whose mission is to **empower local civil society worldwide** to give people the **news and information** they need, the ability to **connect** and the means to **make their voices heard**.

For more information about the organisation please visit:

[www.internews.org](http://www.internews.org)

Project overview

In April 2018, Internews launched the 18-month regional project “Contributing to stability and peace in Central Asia through media literacy, improved reporting and regional cooperation”. The project is funded by the European Union.

The overall objective of the project is to support national and regional media efforts to prevent radicalization in Central Asia. The specific objectives related to this are:

* to enhance national and regional professional conflict sensitive reporting;
* to promote critical media consumption among audiences in Central Asia.

Evaluation Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this final evaluation is to assess the performance and success of the project. It should look at signs of potential impact of project activities on beneficiaries and the sustainability of results, as well as providing solid, evidence-based conclusions on whether the project’s overall objectives were achieved.

According to the expected project results, this evaluation has the following tasks:

* Assess the project impact on increasing capacity to produce quality conflict sensitive media content by journalists, civic activists and media professionals in Central Asia;
* Assess the project impact on improving critical media consumption for civil society organisations, policy makers and active citizens in Central Asia.
* Assess performance of the project in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability;
* Analyse underlying factors beyond Internews’ control that affect the achievement of the project’s objectives;
* Provide recommendations for potential future interventions.

Evaluation Scope

The evaluation will use the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

The following general key questions should be addressed through the evaluation:

1. How effective was the project at building the capacity of journalists and other communicators in relation to conflict sensitive reporting and improving the quality of media content?
2. How effective was the project at improving critical media consumption among audiences in Central Asia through the online media literacy campaign and the pilot fact-checking platforms? (effectiveness)
3. What results have been achieved in the implementation of the project? What factors have contributed to the achievement of the project’s objectives? What have been the main challenges/barriers to achieving the project’s objectives?
4. What are the tangible outcomes (positive and negative) as a result of the project? Has there been positive or negative impact on beneficiaries as a whole? What specific real difference has the activity made to the beneficiaries?
5. Are the results sustainable? If so how?
6. How could things be done better in the future? (future recommendations)

It is expected that evaluator will participate in the International Forum, August 14-16, 2019 Almaty Kazakhstan as well as field work in target countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)

Timeframe and deliverables

Internews anticipate around 20-30 full working days will be needed to conduct this evaluation with maximum budget 10 000 Euro, in a flexible working manner as follows:

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| **Activity** | **Timeframe** | **Comments** |
| Launch of ToR and bidsReception | Deadline for applications:25 July 2019 |  |
| Appointment of evaluator and initial debrief | Appointment: by 8 August 2019Debrief: as soon as possible upon appointment. | The consultant is expected tohave initial meetings with staffin order to understand the expectation of the evaluation. Relevant project documents will be made available to the consultant.  |
| Inception report | By August 14, 2019 the latest, estimated time: 4-6 working days | Relevant documentation willbe made available and theinception report will include:* Literature review
* Draft methodology
* Data collection tools

Outline of final report structure |
| Field work: data collection with key stakeholders and beneficiaries; data analysis | By August 30, 2019,estimated time: 12-15 working days |  |
| Report writing andsubmission of first draft to Internews | By September 10, 2019 at thelatest, estimated time: 2-3working days | Internews to have anopportunity to comment and feedback |
| Final report submission to Internews after revision | By September 20, 2019 | Any remaining sets of data to be submitted to Internews |

Note that the draft and final reports should be presented in English and be no longer than 30 pages (excluding any relevant annexes) and contain a concise Executive Summary of core findings and recommendations, the latter being specific and action-oriented, and tailored to all relevant stakeholders (i.e. Internews and the donor). It should also include a methodology section, making explicit any limits to the evaluation.

Application guidelines and requirements

Interested parties should apply to Central-Asia-Info@internews.eu - with attention to Project Director Farhod Rahmatov and a copy to Regional M&E Manager Ikrom Mamadov – imamadov@internews.org, who will be directly managing the consultant(s).

Applications should include the below documentation. **Deadline: July 25, 2019:**

* A 2-3-page statement of interest/draft proposal, highlighting how your methodological approach will address the scope planned for this evaluation as well as describing how your profile meets criteria (see next section)
* A CV and 2 recommendations
* Evidence of evaluation work (e.g. link to evaluation reports or PDF attachments), highlighting evaluation theories and approaches.
* A short cost justification (not included in the 2-page limit) and estimated level of effort (number of days) – including your salary history and/or daily rate for your last 3 consultancies.

Essential qualifications

* Fluent in English and Russian
* Bachelor’s degree in media, journalism, international development, evaluation or related field
* At least 3 years’ experience conducting evaluations in difficult contexts, particularly for European Donors
* Experience with qualitative and quantitative M&E data collection and analysis methods
* Excellent inter-cultural communication skills/cultural sensitivity and the ability to forge strong cross-cultural relationships and build trust demonstrated through previous intercultural experience
* Strong facilitation, presentation, writing and communication skills

Desirable

* Masters’ degree or PhD in relevant field
* Experience conducting evaluations for media development, or more than 5 years’ experience as evaluator