

TERMS of REFERENCE
RESEARCHER / RESEARCH TEAM

Study on the CSO Development Effectiveness Principles for the Black Sea region

Project:	CPDE-SIDA Programme „Promoting the Universal Application of EDC for The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”
Assignment:	Research on the CSO Development Effectiveness Principles for the Black Sea region
Countries targeted by the research:	Black Sea region countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine)
Period of contract:	16 June 2021 – 30 July 2021
Type of contract:	Research contract (only with legal entities)
Budget available:	\$ 3.500 USD (taxes included)
Open to:	Researchers from the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine
Deadline for submitting applications:	13 June 2021, 23:59 Romanian time (GMT+2)
Submit to:	fond.romania@gmail.com

I. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The current call for applications targets researchers/ research team with relevant experience in the field of CSO Development Effectiveness Principles in the Black Sea region, with the purpose of designing and elaborating a **Study report on Implementing the Development Effectiveness Principles** among the CSOs in the Black Sea region, having as main outcome to increase the capacity of CSOs in the region to engage in activities regarding the International Development Cooperation.

The Study on the CSO Development Effectiveness Principles aims to address the level of implementation of the CSO Development Effectiveness Principles in the Black Sea region selected countries.

The main topics which will be addressed through the research will be focused on CSOs Development Effectiveness Principles, with an emphasis **on national experience and recommendations for regional cooperation**.

The study report will be conducted exclusively online. The researcher/research team will benefit from the support of FOND Romania team.

II. RATIONALE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The current assignment will be contracted in the framework of the project „CPDE-SIDA Programme „Promoting the Universal Application of EDC for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, implemented by the Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND.

The aim of the project is to strengthen development partnerships in Europe towards more sustainable development in Europe and beyond by strengthening CSOs capacities and effectiveness to engage in promoting EDC.

There is a growing need for CSOs to improve their own knowledge, accountability and development effectiveness in order to lead by examples and demand greater accountability and effectiveness from other developmental actors, especially in times of severe global social and economic crisis caused by the covid-19 pandemic. At the same time, efforts for significantly improving their own accountability and effectiveness are also necessary for CSOs to broaden their constituency base, and respond to the trend of shrinking civic space by increasing the overall trust and support for the sector.

In the first half of 2020, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, non-governmental organisations from the Black Sea region (but not only) have been forced to quickly adapt their ongoing projects and redesigning their activities, in order to ensure the commitment in implementing the CSOs Development Effectiveness Principles and contributing on transparency and accountability of the ODA financing.

A list with useful resources is available in the annex below. For more background information, please do not hesitate to contact us at: fond.romania@gmail.com.

III. TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

The assignment of the researcher / research team of researchers includes the following mandatory activities:

- Develop the research methodology for the study on the CSO Development Effectiveness Principles, based on the input received from FOND Romania;
- Conduct the research;
- Provide recommendations on the main issues addressed during the research, which can be disseminated to Black Sea NGO Forum participants and other relevant stakeholders;
- Participate in the elaboration of public policy recommendations aiming to improve the general overview about the concept of Development Effectiveness.

IV. DELIVERABLES

The Researcher/Research team is expected to deliver:

- The proposed methodology;
- A work plan;
- The report in English containing the main findings of the study, including figures, analysis of the trends observed and recommendations;
- An executive summary of the final report.

The activities and all materials will be delivered in English.

V. TIMELINE

Activity	Deadline
Selection of the researcher/ team of researchers	June 15 th 2021
Elaboration of the Methodology	June 22 th 2021
Elaboration of the first draft of the study report	June 29 th 2021
Final draft for the study report & recommendations for future advocacy activities	July 30 th 2021

VI. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Researcher/ Research team:

- Perform the tasks part of this research activity with professionalism and in timely manner, according to a calendar agreed with FOND, based on the deadlines established in this ToR;
- Provide the deliverables established in this ToR.

The Romanian NGDO Platform:

- Support the researchers/ research team with necessary background documents and information about the Black Sea NGO Forum (including contacts of participants from the beneficiaries' countries for online interviews);
- Provide feedback on the deliverables resulted from this assignment.

VII. CONTRACT

The researcher/team of researchers must be represented by a legal entity for the signing of the service contract concerning the above mentioned assignment.

VIII. BUDGET

The total value of the consultancy contract is **\$ 3,500 USD (taxes included)**.

The payment will be made in tranches, based on the delivery of the following:

1. First tranche – 1,000 USD (after the final approval of the methodology);
2. Second tranche – 1,500 USD (after the finalization of the first draft of the study report);
3. Third tranche – 1,000 (after the delivery of the final draft of the study report).

IX. SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Required:

- Proved experience in doing desktop research, drafting and conducting of questionnaire surveys, and interviews with a variety of stakeholders
- Proficiency in English;
- Experience of working in multicultural contexts;
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

Would be considered an advantage:

- Knowledge of the context and dynamics specific to ODA Effectiveness and/or ODA Transparency.

X. APPLICATION PROCESS

The application procedure consists of two stages:

1) Initial selection (applications review)

Interested candidates must send the following application documents by e-mail: fond.romania@gmail.com, until the 13th of June 2021, 23:59 Romanian time (GMT+2):

- **CV;**
- **Motivation letter;**
- **Two samples of relevant policy paper/ study report/ policy recommendations developed by the applicant(s)** (one preferably on a subject related to the assignment. Please note that the samples will not be made public, their use will be solely for the selection process);
- **A list of publications.**

Candidates accepted for the interview stage will be announced on the **14th June 2021**.

2) Online interview (Zoom)

Online interviews will be organized if additional information is needed and only with the selected candidates. The selection will be made based on the first-stage review and is scheduled to take place on **15th June 2021**, via Zoom. During the interview, the selected candidates must demonstrate their motivation, commitment, and the necessary background for carrying out properly the assignment.

*Selected applicants are expected to take on the assignment immediately after the selection is finalized.

Should you need any other information related to the current assignment, do not hesitate to contact us at: fond.romania@gmail.com.

ANNEX 1

USEFUL RESOURCES:

Available online:

Strategic Framework for Civil Society Cooperation in the Black Sea Region: <http://www.blackseango.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Strategic-Framework-for-Civil-Society-in-the-Black-Sea-Region.pdf>

Istanbul CSO Development Effectiveness Principles:

<https://concordeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/DEEEP-BOOK-2014-510.pdf?ad4440&ad4440>

The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness – CPDE: <https://blackseango.org/cpde/>

The European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad) working areas:

https://www.eurodad.org/working_areas_summary