

## **CONSULTANCY VACANCY**

### **Final evaluation of the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism, ProtectDefenders.eu**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism, ProtectDefenders.eu, was established in October 2015 with the financial support of the EIDHR. It is operated by a Consortium of 12 international NGOs namely, Front Line Defenders (FLD), Reporters Without Borders (RSF), World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network (ESCR-Net), International Gay and Lesbian Association (ILGA), Urgent Action Fund for Women Human Rights Defenders (UAF), Protection International, Peace Brigades International (PBI), Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF), Forum Asia and East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project/Defenddefenders (EHAHRDP), with the support and under the coordination of a Secretariat established in Brussels. The EU HRD mechanism is currently in its second phase of implementation, which started operating on November 1, 2019 with a contract of 36 months.

#### **SCOPE AND FOCUS**

The evaluation is carried out as the end of this implementation phase approaches and in the context of the subsequent renewal of the mechanism, with the intention that its recommendations and findings contribute to the integration of improvements and learning in the next programming phase.

The evaluation should focus on documenting the impact that the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism had on the situation of human rights defenders during the current phase of implementation and whether the Consortium has delivered in accordance with the Project proposal and main objective of the Project. The evaluation should focus in particular on the direct support to human rights defenders under the project components, and should compare this with other programmes and the broader EU support to HRDs. It should also provide recommendations to improve the relevance and effectiveness of the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism in its follow-up phase of implementation.

The evaluation should concentrate as far as possible on the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism in its entirety. It is not the intention to evaluate the performance of the individual ProtectDefenders.eu Partners, although comparisons of practices can be used when relevant in order to draw lessons learned and contribute to improve overall performance.

The key areas that the evaluation should focus on include (the questions below are not exhaustive):

**Relevance and coverage:**

- *Does the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism respond to the most acute needs of the defenders?*
- *Are activities timely, relevant and sufficient for the targeted beneficiaries?*
- *Do interventions implemented reach the most isolated and most at-risk defenders – as defined by the Project?*
- *Is ProtectDefenders.eu's strategy well-adapted to the context where defenders operate?*
- *Are ProtectDefenders.eu programmes and activities flexible enough to adequately respond to supervening needs confronting defenders, such as those arising from the COVID19 crisis?*

**Effectiveness and efficiency:**

- *How effective has the project been in achieving the objectives?*
- *How efficient was the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism's set-up and strategy for achieving the programme's objectives (consortium structure, number of Partners, necessary resources (human, material, financial))?*
- *How does the implemented partnership model provide added-value to the programme's objectives?*

**Impact:**

- *What has been the impact of the assistance provided on the security of the HRD/organisations supported?*
- *What has been the impact of the assistance provided on the ability of the HRD/organisations supported to continue/strengthen their work in promoting the Human Rights Agenda, taking into account the different Project components?*
- *What potential multiplying effects could be observed?*
- *Are there external opportunities and challenges that have impacted positively or negatively by the project?*

**Coordination:**

- *How effective was ProtectDefenders.eu's cooperation and coordination with other relevant stakeholders (EU institutions, Human Rights INGOs and NGOs, representatives of Protection mechanisms, representatives of the EU Temporary Relocation Platform)?*
- *Did the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism contribute to the strengthening of coordination among human rights organisations? Did it offer increased networking opportunities for assisted human rights defenders and human rights organisations?*
- *How effective was the internal operational coordination and cooperation among ProtectDefenders.eu's Partners, and with the donor? What best practices can be identified and what lessons have been learned?*

**Sustainability:**

- *What is the level of sustainability in the project interventions? How will the project ensure the sustainability of interventions after the end of the project?*

## METHODOLOGY

The consultant should use the following methodologies to conduct the assessment :

- 1 **Desk review:** The desk review should include all available internal documentation (proposal, Project strategies, quarterly reports, interim and final reports from ProtectDefenders.eu to the Donor).
- 2 **Key Informant Interviews and field visits:** Interviews should take place with the Donor, with ProtectDefenders.eu implementing Partners and Secretariat, with a relevant sample of Project's beneficiaries, and with partner organisations, including human rights INGOs, EU delegations in the field, mandate-holders of international and regional protection mechanisms and representatives of the EU Temporary Relocation Platform. Interviews can be organised online, but should also take place on the ground, in particular with beneficiaries. At least three field visits should be organised to produce country-case studies and to meet in person with individual human rights defenders and human rights local NGOs that benefited from the Project. For these visits, a geographical balance is to be observed, as well as a balance in the categories of human rights defenders met. The field visits are to be organised together with ProtectDefenders.eu Partners and Secretariat so that security considerations are duly addressed, both for the consultant and for the concerned beneficiaries.

## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the overall supervision of ProtectDefenders.eu's Board, the consultant is expected to:

- Prepare a workplan for the implementation of the assignment;
- Provide an update on the evaluation's progress in the monthly meetings of ProtectDefenders.eu's board;
- Deliver the following outputs during the evaluation assignment/process:

i. Inception report

ii. Comprehensive evaluation report (30-50 pages excluding annexes) including:

- 1 Executive summary (including main findings and recommendations)
- 2 Introduction
- 3 Methodology
- 4 Evaluation of the EU HRD mechanism including a presentation of the findings and their analysis
- 5 Lessons learned and good practices
- 6 Recommendations
- 7 Annexes

iii. Two presentations to be delivered summarizing methodology and findings:

- 1 Presentation of the draft report
- 2 Presentation of the final report

iv. Feed back to the project beneficiaries involved in the process

## CONTACT POINT

The evaluation will be facilitated by ProtectDefenders.eu's Secretariat and carried out under the supervision of ProtectDefenders.eu's Board. The Secretariat will provide all necessary material for the desk review, as well as contacts for key informants and will help organise field visits.

### **TENTATIVE TIMELINE**

The timeline for the consultancy is tentatively as follows:

- Start of the evaluation – 20 June 2022
- Submission of the inception report and finalised workplan (including for field visits) for the evaluation – 10 July 2022
- Submission of a first full draft of evaluation report and 1<sup>st</sup> presentation – 7 September 2022 (full draft), 15 September 2022 (presentation)
- Feedback on draft evaluation report and Board Response – end September 2022
- Submission of final evaluation report (including comments/feedback) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Presentation – end September 2022/ early October

\* The final timeline will be agreed upon by the submission of the inception report.

### **PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

Payments will be scheduled against deliverables:

- Signed Contract – 30% up-front.
- Draft Evaluation Report including first presentation – 40%.
- Final Evaluation Report - 6 hard copies -1 PDF soft copy – Second presentation – 30%.

All deliverables should be provided in English.

### **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

- Advanced University degree in Human Rights, International Relations, Law, Political Science or related field;
- At least seven years of work or academic experience in a professional capacity in Human Rights, International Relations, Law, Political Science or related field;
- Extensive experience in conducting evaluations of human rights projects preferably involving multiple partners and the European Union as a donor, including designing and employing both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods, which are participatory and sensitive to the needs of the target group;
- Deep understanding of non-governmental organisations, human rights organisations, call for proposals procedures, legal and practical aspects of funding frameworks and Project management;
- Experience liaising with different stakeholders, including individuals, governmental and international entities and civil society;
- Advanced critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis skills required to draw conclusions from several sources of information and data;
- Fluency in written and spoken English. Ability to express clearly and concisely ideas in written materials and presentations; working knowledge of French/ Spanish is an asset.
- Proven skills in interpersonal communication and networking.

### **SUBMISSION OF OFFERS AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

Applicants are requested to send their submissions to [recruit@protectdefenders.eu](mailto:recruit@protectdefenders.eu), with the subject "Evaluation consultant" by 10 June 2022.

Applications must include:

- A cover letter

- A statement (3 pages maximum) detailing the understanding of the task, the proposed study methodology, a work plan and the proposed evaluation team (CVs annexed)
- A detailed financial proposal in Euros including consultancy fees and other eligible costs (transport and accommodation for field visits, printing, etc)
- Three samples of abstracts of previous relevant research/work.

The review of the submissions will take into account the following criteria:

- Understanding of the ToRs (10%)
- Suggested methodology (30%)
- Experience of the suggested team (30%)
- Quality of submitted samples (10%)
- Financial offer (20%)

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

All information presented, obtained and produced concerning the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism, the Partners and beneficiaries during the Evaluation process/Consultancy is to be treated as confidential. The selected consultant will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement upon signature of the contract. The selected consultant should also observe the communication and online digital security protocols established for the project, particularly in their interactions with beneficiaries of the project and in the management of sensitive information.

## OVERVIEW OF THE EU HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS MECHANISM

### Objective

Human rights defenders (HRDs) at high risk and facing the most difficult situations outside of the European Union/ worldwide, and the local actors who strive to promote and defend them, are supported by means of a global, stable, comprehensive and gender-sensitive EU mechanism. With a particular focus on HRDs working in the most difficult countries and those who are particularly targeted including women human rights defenders, defenders of LGBTI rights, land rights and environmental rights defenders, HRDs defending the rights of indigenous peoples, minorities, , trade unionists promoting labour rights, lawyers, journalists, bloggers and others promoting fundamental freedoms, HRDs challenging violations of economic, social and cultural rights, and defenders in remote areas and those particularly isolated, the Consortium delivered the following activities, outputs and results in 36 months:

### *Support to HRDs in the field*

The mechanism delivered a fast and permanent EU response to support HRDs including through a 24/7 helpline and emergency grants ensuring that HRDs can access and implement urgent security measures to protect themselves, their family and their work. An EU temporary relocation programme is established and HRDs at risk are able to relocate inside their country, in the region or outside the region in case of urgent threat. HRD organisations were provided with the financial and material means to implement activities adapted to changing local developments in order to advance a human rights agenda or to counter violations (including contesting laws, restrictions, sanctions and administrative provisions restricting their work). Entities and organisations at the regional level have been funded or trained to consolidate their capacities for the temporary relocation of defenders in their geographical area of influence.

### *Training, monitoring and advocacy*

HRDs received support with capacity building including with regards to security and protection, digital security, stress management and financial and organisational management, and were supported in the field through advocacy and fact-finding missions and ongoing accompaniment. The EU, the international community, other NGOs, the media and the public are more knowledgeable on the situation of HRDs collectively and individually through both public and silent mobilisation and advocacy initiatives. Intergovernmental institutions, international, regional and national human rights mechanisms, influential states took action on individual cases and on legal, political and administrative provisions affecting HRDs.

### *Coordination and synergies*

HRDs can better network and coordinate between themselves and with EU and international organisations and the coordination between HRDs initiatives and actors supported by the EIDHR is strengthened and there is greater sharing of lessons. The network of entities and institutions working on temporary relocation of human rights defenders grouped around the European Union Temporary Relocation Platform (EUTRP) is strengthened

### *Outreach and visibility*

The EU mechanism was promoted in such a way that it has high visibility and HRDs who are less well connected are able to access practical support. The HRD mechanism ensured the security of communications and information with regards to beneficiaries who may be at additional risk because of international support.