

Terms of reference

Mid-term evaluation of “Strengthening Resilience to Radicalisation and Disinformation in Central Asia through Independent Media” project

DEADLINE EXTENDED: New deadline September 14, 2020 (3:00pm, GMT+4)

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

Project overview

In October 2019, Internews launched the second phase of an 18-month regional project “Strengthening Resilience to Radicalisation and Disinformation in Central Asia through Independent Media” funded by the European Union.

The regional project aims to strengthen the resilience of citizens to radicalisation narratives and disinformation leading to violent extremism through support to media, civil society organisations, government institutions, religious leaders and active citizens in Central Asia with specific objectives:

- to increase the availability of objective, conflict-sensitive information regarding preventing radicalisation leading to violent extremism;
- to increase and consolidate collaboration, content exchange and networking among practitioners in national and regional efforts on preventing violent extremism and radicalisation leading to violent extremism (RVE);
- to improve the critical media consumption skills of local communities in Central Asia.
- to counter misinformation, disinformation, rumour, xenophobia, and stigma towards migrants and their families, refugees and ethnic minorities affected by COVID-19 pandemic in Central Asia.

Evaluation Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this mid-term evaluation is to assess the performance and success of the project. It should also look at signs of potential impact of project activities on beneficiaries and sustainability of results and provide solid and evidence-based recommendations on any necessary corrections to the theory of change and activities to achieve overall objectives of the project.

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 local communities in Central Asia;

- Assess the 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 results;
- Provide recommendations for potential future interventions.

Also the mid-term evaluation will assess to what extent the Action has helped to raise awareness of the external policies and actions of the European Union in its role as a global player, and provided accountability and transparency on the use of EU funds to taxpayers and the citizens of partner countries.

Internews envisions a theory-driven evaluation that speaks to the international evaluation criteria, OECD/DAC (efficiency, potential for impact and sustainability,) and that pays particular attention to gender equality issues.

Evaluation Scope

The key evaluation questions are:

1. To what extent has the capacity building programme for national media professionals, civic activists, religious/community leaders and active citizens achieved the intended outcome of increasing capacity to produce quality content as well as improving media consumption skills of local communities in CA countries?
2. To what extent has the regional and national online media literacy campaign improved or contributed to critical media consumption among civil society organisations, government institutions, religious leaders and active citizens in Central Asia?
3. To what extent the project activities have progressed in countering misinformation, disinformation, rumor, xenophobia, and stigma towards migrants and their families, refugees and ethnic minorities affected by COVID-19 pandemic in Central Asia?
4. To what extent regional activities of the project contributed to increased and consolidated collaboration, content exchange and networking among practitioners in national and regional efforts on preventing violent extremism and radicalisation leading to violent extremism (RVE)?;
5. What does the current progress say about the potential for achieving impact and sustainability? Are there additional opportunities that should be considered?
6. To what extent the awareness of key stakeholders and the target population in Central Asia (CA) has been raised about the Action without compromising the EU's fundamental values and principles and jeopardizing the project impact?
7. How could the project implementation be improved (recommendations)?

Note: Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, all mid-term evaluation activities should be conducted online.

Timeframe and deliverables

Internews anticipates around 20-25 full working days will be needed to conduct this evaluation, in a flexible working manner as follows:

Activity	Timeframe	Comments
Launch of ToR and bids Reception	DEADLINE EXTENDED: New deadline September 14, 2020 (3:00pm, GMT+4)	

Appointment of the evaluator and initial debrief	Appointment: by 28 September 2020 Debrief: as soon as possible upon appointment.	The consultant is expected to have initial online meetings with staff in order to inform the inception report (see below)
Inception report	By 07 October 2020	Relevant documentation will be made available and the inception report will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review • Draft methodology • Data collection tools • Outline of final report structure
First draft report	By 27 October 2020	Internews staff will review the draft for further clarification and structure
Final draft report	By 3 November 2020	

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 copy to imamadov@internews.org
 Applications should include the below documentation. **Deadline: 14 September 2020:**

- 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 reference letters;
- 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 similar consultancies.

Essential qualifications

- Fluent in English and Russian;
- Bachelor's degree in media, journalism, international development, evaluation or related field;
- At least 3 years of experience conducting evaluations in difficult contexts, particularly for European Donors;
- Proven track record of conducting qualitative and quantitative M&E data collection and analysis;
- 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



Email info@internews.eu
Web www.internews.org
Telephone +44 (0)207 566 3300
43-51 New North Road, London,
N1 6LU, United Kingdom

- Proven track record of conducting evaluations for media development, or more than 5 years of experience as an evaluator.