



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
High Commissioner on National Minorities**

RfP/HAG/007/2019

The Hague, 14 June 2019

Request for Project Proposals

The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) is seeking a qualified partner to map integration indicators in the OSCE region.

Background: The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) provides “early warning” and, as appropriate, “early action” at the first signs of tension involving national minority issues. The High Commissioner’s holistic approach to conflict prevention takes a longer term perspective to address the root causes of ethnic tension. As part of this long-term approach towards conflict prevention, consecutive High Commissioners have recommended that the OSCE participating States adopt measures and implement policies aimed specifically at promoting the integration of diverse groups within society. In 2012, the HCNM summarized the institution’s experience in this area in a landmark publication entitled *The Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies*. The Ljubljana Guidelines provide guiding principles and practical advice on how to elaborate and implement policies that facilitate the integration of society. They cover institutional, policy, legal, social and cultural measures that together promote the integration of society. Integration is understood as being a dynamic, multi-actor process of mutual engagement that facilitates effective participation by all members of a diverse society and fosters a shared and inclusive sense of belonging at national and local levels. The HCNM has advised on, and supported, the development and implementation of integration strategies in several OSCE participating States, including Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova. Data is important in this process. Understanding baselines and setting targets are prerequisites to defining concrete measures to implement integration strategies. Indicators guide data collection and can thus inform decisions on where to invest resources. This is vital for the development of evidence-based policies.

The short-term objective of this project is to map integration indicators which fit within the framework of *The HCNM Ljubljana Guidelines on the Integration of Diverse Societies*. The longer term objective is not for HCNM to evaluate the policies of OSCE participating States but rather to be able to provide technical assistance to the participating States in this regard.

The Republic of Moldova for example, by virtue of its National Strategy for the Consolidation of Interethnic Relations 2017-2027, has committed to monitor the implementation of the strategy but is yet to develop a comprehensive set of indicators as well as appropriate instruments to measure progress. In such situations, the HCNM would benefit from having reference material/a list of relevant indicators that can inform his advice to the participating States on how to track the progress and impact of their integration (or related) policies. The indicators should be widely applicable, although they need not be applied in all contexts.

The HCNM is therefore looking for an implementing partner to map existing indicators for each of the policy areas mentioned in the Ljubljana Guidelines (Annex I), i.e.:

1. Anti-discrimination and full and effective equality
2. Citizenship
3. Effective participation
 - a. Participation in public affairs
 - b. Social and economic participation
 - c. Participation in cultural and religious life
4. Language
5. Education
6. Security and law enforcement
7. Access to justice
8. Media
9. Diversity of symbols and their use in the public domain

The HCNM is aware of numerous instruments developed by the participating States, academia or think tanks to measure the integration of diverse societies, whether implicitly or explicitly. Many of these contain indicators for one or more of the policy areas addressed in the Ljubljana Guidelines.

None of the existing monitoring instruments cover the entire scope of the Ljubljana Guidelines. Some are designed to measure the progress or impact of specific policies; others seek to collect data for international comparison. Many focus on the integration of new minorities rather than autochthonous communities. Nonetheless, these may contain individual indicators related to the Ljubljana Guidelines and therefore relevant to different communities. The mapping exercise should be broad and take into consideration instruments from all corners of the OSCE. To extrapolate relevant indicators from existing instruments that measure (aspects of) integration, assess their applicability for the Ljubljana Guidelines and to then structure them in line with the Ljubljana Guidelines is thus the key activity entailed by this project.

Each indicator identified at the mapping stage should be defined, with an explanation of its relevance for the relevant policy area, including guidance on how to collect and analyse relevant data and potential difficulties with either data collection or analysis. The mapping exercise should also include references to where each indicator has been used (reference to multiple monitoring tools is possible as identical or similar indicators are widely used, e.g. on participation in economic life).

The mapping exercise should also point to gaps in indicators or policy areas where the indicators are insufficient to cover the Ljubljana Guidelines. These gaps should be made explicit in the mapping exercise.

Project coverage area: OSCE participating States

Deliverables: The final output is expected to be a report of no more than 80 pages with a clear structure presenting the indicators for each of the Ljubljana Guidelines policy areas and then providing the above requested information per indicator with a final section pointing to potential gaps. The exact format of the report can be further defined together with the consultant experts/implementing partner.

The attached Project Proposal (Annex II) represents the basic framework for the project. Prospective applicants are expected to specify the project plan and timeline.

Timeframe: to be determined, starting preferably on 1 September 2019.

Funding: up to EUR 25,000 (maximum)

Who Can Apply: non-profit, civil society organizations, think-tanks and higher education institutions with demonstrated relevant experience in the field of national minorities.

Procedures: The documents mentioned in the application instructions have to be submitted by email to procurement.hcnm@osce.org by **19 July 2019 12:00 CET**. Proposals received after this deadline will not be accepted.

Questions regarding this call can be submitted to sarah.stephan@osce.org until **12 July 2019 12:00 CET**. HCNM will then share all questions and answers with all interested parties in writing.

Application Instructions: Applicants should submit the following, in a free format unless otherwise indicated:

1. Project Plan and Timeline

2. Staffing Plan

- Roles and Responsibilities;
- CVs of Key Staff.

3. Institutional Capability

- Describe the applicant's technical and administrative experience and capabilities in conducting projects similar to the project proposed.
- Reference to previously successfully completed projects of a similar nature.

4. Completion of 'Implementing Partner Questionnaire'

- See provided form.

5. Budget

- Provide a detailed budget explaining the use of funds per activity. Please use the template provided.

Evaluation Process:

During the selection process, at the initial stage organizational qualifications and attachments to the questionnaire will be evaluated based on pass / fail criteria. Only those applicants who pass the initial evaluation will move forward for a further evaluation of their professional capacity criteria, including financial and project management.

All submissions will be reviewed, based on:

- Project feasibility and impact
- Project proposal clarity and applicability
- Staff and organizational capacity

- Budget clarity and adequacy

Candidates showcasing the necessary capacity through their submitted documents will be shortlisted and invited to participate in interviews in the second half of August 2019.