

EOI/SEC/18/2020

PUBLIC CALL FOR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS TO PROVIDE A STRATEGIC
ANALYSIS ON FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ORGANIZED CRIME

Date of issuing: 3 December 2020

Date of closure: 17 December 2020 – (12:00 CET)**Ref#:** OSCE ExB Project n. 1102121 *“Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional co-operation in asset seizure, confiscation, management and re-use”*

In the efforts to understand the organized crime phenomenon and provide technical assistance, which can better respond to the contexts and needs of OSCE participating States (pS), the OSCE seeks to hire as Implementing Partner (IP), one experienced and internationally active organization engaged in researching and issuing strategic reports on organized crime with special focus on South-Eastern Europe. The main mission of the IP is **to provide an analysis on the financial and economic aspects of organized crime, with focus on the use of assets and illicit financial flows. These aspects can, in fact, impact society and legitimate economy and have transnational repercussions, thus requiring a common and coordinated response of different jurisdictions.**

The OSCE reserves the right to reject any or all applications received in response to this Public Call and to negotiate with any of the applicants in any manner deemed to be in the best interest of the OSCE.

1) Background information

Organized crime represents one of the biggest transnational threats to and a serious challenge for the countries across the OSCE region. Besides being drivers of illicit activities, criminal organizations have become an important economic player over the years. The importance of addressing the financial aspect of the organized crime in the efforts to effectively disrupt and dissolve serious and organized crime as well as to prevent the financing of terrorism, has been underlined by several OSCE Ministerial and Council Decisions¹. Targeting assets of the criminal organisations has proved indeed an effective strategy in preventing and repressing organized crime as it deprives criminals and their networks of financial power, thus limiting their ability to strengthen their criminal enterprise through corruption and reinvestment of profits in the legal and illegal economy. It also deters commission of further crimes, removing

¹ See for example MC.DEC/5/06; MC.DOC/2/12; MC.DEC/4/16; PC.DEC/1049; PC.DEC/1063

the incentive of financial gain and thus undermining the fundamental purpose of criminal organizations.

The OSCE ExB project: *“Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional co-operation in asset seizure, confiscation, management and re-use”* aims at improving the effectiveness of the fight against transnational organized crime by improving regional co-operation among five beneficiary countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. The project adopts an overarching approach to address the entire cycle of asset recovery by providing support in three areas of intervention: a) financial investigations, asset seizure and asset confiscation; b) asset management; c) asset re-use.

The call for an IP, which shall culminate in an IPA, is developed within the framework of the first component of the abovementioned project, namely Activity 1.1. *Review of the judicial practice on asset seizure and confiscation.*

The project is already carrying out a research of judicial decisions in the region to understand the reasons why financial investigations and asset seizure/confiscation provisions are not resorted to systematically. There appears to be a limited consideration of the importance of targeting assets, including financial flows, in the fight against organized crime, which leads practitioners not to systematically resort to seizure/confiscation when investigating such cases. The analyses of judicial practice helps to identify possible gaps in this regard. In order to address these gaps and better understand the impact of criminal activities, the project aims to extend the scope of the research to better understand how organized crime can affect OSCE pS.

2) Specific tasks of the implementing partners shall include:

In line with the ExB project’s *“Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional co-operation in asset seizure, confiscation, management and re-use”*, the Implementing Partner shall look at criminal markets and the flow of illicit activity in South-Eastern Europe region.

To this end, and under the overall supervision of the Transnational Threats Department and the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the selected Implementing Partner shall:

1. Review the existing national, regional and global research and documentations related to the financial and economic aspects of organized crime;
2. Develop a research methodology comprising socio-criminological approaches aimed at highlighting the specificities of the criminal phenomena. This will include both quantitative and qualitative analysis while ensuring no repetition of already existing research work;
3. Analyze a number of sources including but not limited to reports and data from police, prosecution and courts;
4. Co-ordinated the research with GIZ as they are active in all the beneficiary countries of the OSCE project, under the Global Program „Combatting Illicit Financial Flows“ G420 –

Governance and Human Rights, and with UNODC, which recently published the report on Measuring Organized Crime in the Western Balkans.

5. Summarize the findings in a research paper. The IP will be entirely responsible for the content and the structure of the research. The report will be the intellectual property of the OSCE.
6. Provide the OSCE with narrative and financial reports for the above-described service, upon completion of activities and according to the schedule that will be specified in the Implementing Partner Agreement, tentatively by June 2021.

3) Qualifications of the IP (mandatory requirements):

Applicants that will not provide the below mandatory requirements will not be evaluated.

Each applicant organization:

1. Shall be registered in one of the 57 OSCE participating States;
2. Shall have expertise on organized crime research at international level;
3. Shall provide records of involvement in other research projects on organized crime;
4. Shall ensure a proficient use of the English language, including technical language related to the topic;
5. Minimum four years of experience in researching organized crime in different countries and on different topics;
6. Shall ensure professionalism, transparency and accountability in managing funds provided by external entities.

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Experience in drafting and issuing researches and papers on organized crime
– 25 out of 100 points
2. In depth knowledge of research methodology and accessibility of expertise at international level
- 20 out of 100 points
3. Proven knowledge of South-Eastern Europe context and previous experience in the region
- 20 out to 100 points
4. Active involvement in other projects' activities in the fight against organized crime
- 10 out of 100 points
5. Experience in working with other international organizations and donor agencies
- 10 out of 100 points
6. Budget to complete activities related to tasks described under no. 2) of the present Call

4) The proposal should provide:

Technical Proposal (no prices should be included to the Technical Proposal):

a) Supporting documentation, as requested under no. 6) below.

Financial Proposal:

a) The Implementing Partner Agreement will cover 20,000 EUR for undertaking the tasks as per point 2).

b) The Financial Proposal shall cover all expenses to be incurred for performing the services as specified including, but not limited to the cost of the remuneration of the Bidder's personnel and all other compensations, insurance and social charges technical assistance, supervision costs, and any other costs incurred by the contractor's personnel for the purpose of performing the services; and shall show a detailed cost breakdown per price categories;

c) progress payment(s) based on the specific tasks described under no. 2) above and in particular: 50% upon signature of the contract; 50% upon approval of the mid-term narrative and financial report.

As the OSCE is always interested in delivering products of the highest quality, the applicants are welcomed to present any suggestions or comments on how to improve the delivering of the requested services.

5) Entities eligible to apply:

- Not-for-profit organizations/institutions active at international level, engaged in researching and promoting solutions in the fight against organized crime;
- No private company is eligible to apply;
- Applicants scoring below 80 will not be considered as eligible.

6) Supporting documentation:

Applicants shall provide information on their operational capacities:

- Registration certificate (accreditation)
- Statute (in English)
- Documentation proving experience in researching organized crime in English;
- A list of key personnel who will be involved in the project with CVs
- Bank account details.

7) How to apply and the procedures to follow:

- This document

Applicants must apply in English. Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Applications (Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal must be delivered in separate PDF files) must be delivered to tenders-at@osce.org on or **before 17 December 2020, 12:00 CET (local time)**.

Any application submitted after the deadline will be automatically rejected.

Please address all your queries or questions in writing to Laurence.roche@osce.org up to 5 days before the submission deadline and kindly refrain from any telephone calls or personal visits.