

**PUBLIC CALL FOR
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS TO CONDUCT ACTIVITIES IN THE AREAS OF
JUDICIARY, HATE CRIME, AND COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN
NORTH MACEDONIA**

Date of issue: 14 February 2022

Date of closure: 07 March 2022 (12:00 CET)

Ref: IPA/OMSk/01/2022

OSCE Mission to Skopje Project No. 2601001 “Strengthening the rule of law and human rights in North Macedonia II”

In efforts to achieve the objectives of the Project “Strengthening the rule of law and human rights in North Macedonia II”, the OSCE Mission to Skopje (the Mission) seeks to engage up to three experienced and locally active organizations, engaged in the areas of rule of law and human rights, as Implementing Partners (IPs). The main objective of the IPs is to contribute towards the achievement of the following project objective:

Rule of law and human rights protection are at an advanced level through implementation of applicable international standards and OSCE commitments in the areas of the judiciary and fundamental rights.

This objective shall be achieved *inter alia* through: (1) Supporting the Basic Criminal Court in Skopje in the process of anonymization of judgments and decisions and monitoring the implementation of the international fair trial standards through application of digital tools in the judiciary; (2) Monitoring and registering hate-motivated incidents and raising awareness on the detrimental effects of intolerance; and (3) Reaching out to street children as potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

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

The Mission may include suitable applicants in its roster of implementing partners for their future engagement and co-operation in other relevant projects.

The selected applicant(s) will sign the standard OSCE Implementing Partner Agreement (IPA) with the Mission. Nothing in or relating to this Public Call shall be construed as a waiver of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by the OSCE.

1) Background Information

An Implementing Partner (IP) is a non-government entity from one of the 57 participating States that supplements the work of the OSCE by helping to carry out project implementation in line with the OSCE's objectives and outcomes. IPs engaged by the Mission shall be not-for-profit organizations that operate in conformity with the national and international legislation in areas in which they are active and mandated. For the purpose of this Call, the IPs will be engaged to implement a component of a broader project, by undertaking a day-to-day management of the project components; including the management of funds and human resources, planning, and execution of project activities, as well as self-evaluation and monitoring of its activities. In this role, the IP will act as a project implementer.

This Project seeks to address several aspects that influence the development of a balanced and equitable judiciary, while ensuring the fulfilment of fundamental rights. The identified project needs correspond to a variety of topics in the domains of judicial independence and impartiality, criminal justice, judicial digitalization, anti-corruption, anti-discrimination, gender equality, the rule of law, and fundamental rights in North Macedonia. Three of the project results cover a spectrum of comprehensive rule of law and fundamental rights issues, namely:

- Judicial reform and improved functioning of the judicial system are supported through trial monitoring and targeted research;
- Improved implementation of the OSCE commitments pertaining to hate crime and hate speech at the national level through awareness-raising, prevention, data collection, victim protection and professional learning initiatives; and
- Improved protection from human trafficking through preventive actions reaching out to street children as potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

2) Specific tasks for the Implementing Partners

The overall timeline for this call for proposals is **up to 9 months** from the signing of the IPAs with the Mission, up to a maximum of 35,290 EUR in total for all selected IPs during this timeframe.

This Public Call for IPs, which shall culminate in signing and executing of an IPA, is developed to receive support for the lots listed below. A single applicant can apply for one or more lots.

LOT 1: Implementing Partner in the area of Judiciary

Activity 1 Support the Basic Criminal Court Skopje in the process of anonymization of judgments and decisions

The Mission will engage an IP to work in the premises of the Basic Criminal Court Skopje (BCCS) for 60 hours per week to anonymize at least 1800 enforceable judgments so they can be published on the court's website. The IP will need to provide up to three persons to work as anonymizers, and make any necessary legal arrangements with the court in order to regulate the access of the anonymizers to the court decisions and the personal data contained therein through the Automated Court Case Management System (ACCMIS), in compliance with the applicable legal framework. The court should provide the anonymizers with facilities, equipment, and necessary training for completion of their task.

Activity 2 Monitor the implementation of the international fair trial standards through application of digital tools in the judiciary

In 2021, the Mission supported the purchase of necessary ICT equipment for a total of five courtrooms in five pilot basic courts with extended competence (two courts in Skopje, one in Strumica, Kavadarci, and Shtip) to enable audiotaping of court hearings and the conduct of future online or hybrid hearings. As a follow-up, the Mission will support trial monitoring in the five pilot courts in question, with the aim of assessing the utilization of the equipment in regard to its efficiency, and observe whether the use of the ICT equipment is indeed beneficial for court procedures, and how it affects fair trial standards. To that end, the Mission will engage an IP that is qualified and experienced in trial monitoring. The IP will need to provide up to five trial monitors to conduct trial monitoring in the pilot courts. Data and reports collected and prepared by the monitors will be analysed by the Mission with the IP support, as needed.

Budget: up to 12,790EUR

LOT 2: Implementing Partner in the area of Hate Crime

Activity 3 Monitoring and registering hate-motivated incidents and raising awareness on the detrimental effects of intolerance

Between 2013 and 2021, the Mission registered over 800 hate related incidents in North Macedonia. Interventions by the IP in the next stage will include: independent monitoring and registering of hate crimes and incidents; contributing to ODIHR's annual report on hate crimes; developing and maintaining a database of hate crime incidents; producing monthly bulletins on hate crime; providing free legal aid to victims; monitoring hate crime related trials; marking international days related to tolerance, and preparing an annual report on hate crime in the country. The Mission will devise the partnership as a means of supplementing its own efforts and activities, with a view to creating further synergies.

Budget: up to 14,500EUR

LOT 3: Implementing Partner in the area of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Activity 4 Reaching out to street children as potential victims of trafficking in human beings

National and international reports on the situation with human trafficking in North Macedonia contain serious indications that Romani girls and boys are forced into begging and street vending. To address this issue, and alert both the potential child victims and the public, the Mission will engage an IP to assist the country in adhering to the OSCE commitments in the area of anti-trafficking. Interventions by the IP will include: conducting workshops aimed at increasing awareness amongst children and their parents, especially those marginalized and on the street, about the dangers of human trafficking; screening awareness-raising movies; explaining the concept of the recruitment process in human trafficking; organizing public discussions on the different forms of exploitation and the consequences of human trafficking; publishing human stories; devising preventive measures and ways to implement them in practice; and, informing children about the protective services available to them in the country. The activity should reach a minimum of 100 children.

Budget: up to 8,000 EUR

3) Qualifications of the IPs (mandatory requirements):

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

Each applicant organization shall:

1. Be registered in one of the 57 OSCE participating States. The entities established/incorporated outside of North Macedonia need to have a registered office in North Macedonia;

2. Have a minimum three years of appropriate experience in the respective thematic area/Lot of application (judiciary, hate crime, countering trafficking in human beings).
3. Provide records (e.g. reference materials, contracts, etc.) of involvement in other similar projects;
4. Have a staff with proficient knowledge of English language, with emphasis on the technical language related to the topics; and
5. Ensure professionalism, transparency and accountability in managing funds provided by external entities.

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Proven knowledge of the national human rights context, previous monitoring experience in the country, and existing links to relevant local CSOs (25 out of 100 points)
2. Proven experience in projects dealing with the thematic area/Lot of application, i.e. judiciary, hate crime, or countering trafficking in human beings (25 out of 100 points)
3. Proven experience in working with other international organizations and donor agencies (10 out of 100 points)
4. Assessment of the submitted proposal including the description and cost-effectiveness of the budget (40 out of 100 points)

Applicants that score below 70 points will not be considered as eligible.

Applicants assessed as suitable with a score above 50 points may be included in the Mission's roster of IPs for engagement in future projects and activities.

4) The proposal should provide:

1. Technical Proposal (no prices should be included to the Technical Proposal):
 - a) A statement detailing the proposed activities and outlining products, reports, and results, as well as how the change in skills, attitudes, and practices will be measured (max. 1000 words).

Considering that the OSCE takes pride in delivering products of the highest quality, applicants are welcome to present in the statement any suggestions or comments on how to improve the methodology and delivery of the requested activities and objectives.

- b) An indicative timeline outlining the timeframe of the specific activities as detailed in the statement (Gantt chart), based on the following template:

Activity	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	December

2. Financial Proposal:

The Financial Proposal should include budget breakdown in accordance with the budget estimates mentioned under 2) above. The Financial Proposal shall (i) cover all direct project expenses foreseen to occur in performing the project activities as specified including, but not limited to the cost of the remuneration of the Applicant's personnel and all other compensations, insurance and social charges technical assistance, supervision costs, and any other costs expected to be incurred by the Applicant for the purpose of implementing the project activities; and (ii) show a detailed cost breakdown per price categories.

The Mission will fund all direct costs that can be attributed in full to the project activities, and are necessary to achieve the results and objectives of the component of a broader project. Eligible direct costs are those costs that arise as a consequence of implementation of the project, and are not linked to the normal functioning of the IP. Indirect costs are not directly attributable to the specific project, rather supporting IP's day-to-day operations, i.e. the costs that would exist absent an IPA, will not be funded by the Mission.

Progress payments will be based on the specific tasks described under No. 2) above and in particular: 40% upon signature of the contract; 40% upon approval of the mid-term narrative and financial reports; and, 20% after the approval of the final narrative and financial reports. IPs must have sufficient financial capacity to meet their obligations within the specified project duration.

The Budget initially proposed by the selected IP may be adjusted/negotiated so that it complies with the OSCE financial rules, budget allocations and the terms contained in the standard IPA.

5) Entities eligible to apply:

Civil society organizations/institutions active at national level, engaged in monitoring, registering, and reporting on rule of law and human rights issues in North Macedonia.

6) Supporting documentation:

Applicants are required to provide the following information on their operational capacities:

- Registration certificate (extract from Central Registry not older than 3 months);
- Articles of Incorporation/Association (preferably in English);
- Statement of the applicant's mission and vision;
- A list of previous projects/activities dealing with judiciary, hate crime, or countering trafficking in human beings, related to the LOT for which the Applicant is applying. Within the list the Applicant should include the donor, implementation period, short description of the projects/activities/results and the total projects budget during the past three years in English;
- A list of all Board Members, key management personnel, and proposed project staff with CVs;
- Copies of the most recent financial statements for the Applicant and/or audit reports, if available (documents, which confirm that the Applicant has sufficient financial capacity to meet its obligations); and
- Bank account details.

7) How to apply

Applicants must apply in English via e-mail on or before 07 March 2022, 12:00 CET (local time). All applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

The Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal must be delivered as separate PDF files. The supporting documents should be submitted in one PDF file, ordered as described under 6) above. All three PDFs should be sent to the email address below clearly marked as follows:

OSCE Mission to Skopje

Deadline: 07 March 2022, 12:00 (local time)

E-mail: info-MK@osce.org

Ref: IPA/OMSk/01/2022

Please address all your enquiries in writing at Elena.Brmbeska-Spirkoska@osce.org, up to 5 days before the submission deadline and kindly refrain from any telephone calls or personal visits.