

COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT
“REFORM OF THE ELECTORAL PRACTICE IN UKRAINE” (VC3372)
CALL FOR EXPERTS/CONSULTANTS

Background

On October 8, 2015, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine No. 731 – VIII “On amending certain legislative acts of Ukraine as regards prevention and countering political corruption” (hereinafter – the “Law”). The Law introduced new rules for political parties financing in Ukraine. In particular, it introduced state funding of political parties, stringent requirements on financial reporting, monitoring of assets and liabilities of political parties. Besides, it enables political parties successfully elected to the Parliament to receive reimbursement for funds spent on their pre-election campaigning. This new legislative framework has been positively assessed by GRECO¹, in particular, establishment of public funding to political parties has been considered as a major achievement.

The Law lays down that the state funding of statutory activities of political parties shall be commenced as of July 1, 2016. Pursuant to the Law, political parties which overcame the 5 % threshold upon the results of the early parliamentary elections in 2014 and obtained seats in the Parliament, will have the right to receive state funding for their statutory activities, provided that such political parties have fully complied with the requirements of the Law as regards submission of documents, reports on the assets, income, costs and other financial obligations, as well as amendments to be made to the statutory documents of a political party.

Issues to be addressed

The Council of Europe Project “Reform of the Electoral Practice in Ukraine”, implemented within the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2015 – 2017, is looking for an international expert/consultant to develop a methodology for a Ukrainian CSOs to monitor implementation of the Law *inter alia* with respect to:

- (i) allocation of funds to political parties having seats in the Parliament upon the results of 2014 early parliamentary elections;
- (ii) political parties’ compliance with their reporting, audit and other obligations under the Law;
- (iii) regulations, resolutions and/or decisions etc. adopted by the National Agency for Prevention of Corruption pursuant to its powers prescribed by the Law.

The expert/consultant is expected:

- 1) to conduct desk research including analysis of the Law (could be done remotely),
- 2) to undergo a 5 day mission to Kyiv (Ukraine) in June 2016 (dates to be confirmed) in order

¹ GRECO RC-III (2015) 22 E “Third Evaluation Round. Second Compliance Report on Ukraine. “Incriminations (ETS 173 and 191, GPC 2)”. “Transparency of Party Funding” following the link:
http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/greco/evaluations/round3/GrecoRC3%282015%2922_Second_Ukraine_EN.pdf

- to meet with relevant stakeholders and
- to develop the above-mentioned methodology in close cooperation with a CSO (CSOs) selected by the Council of Europe for the purpose of implementing the monitoring activities.

The Methodology should be provided to the Council of Europe and respective CSO (CSOs) shortly upon the completion of the mission.

Qualification requirements

- Master's degree in law, political science, international law, international relations, business administration, management or any other related field of study;
- Previous experience in providing assistance to civil society organizations/activists in monitoring of political parties and campaign finances; and/or in providing assistance to political finance regulators in implementation of political finance regulations/legislation; and/or in providing trainings for political parties' representatives on political finance and financial management; respective experience in EaP countries will be considered as an advantage;
- Excellent interpersonal and analytical skills;
- Professional fluency in English, with excellent oral and drafting skills, knowledge of Ukrainian and/or Russian will be considered as an advantage;
- Computer literate with practical experience using Microsoft applications;
- Ability and willingness to work as a member of a team, with people of different cultural and religious backgrounds, different gender, and diverse political views, while maintaining impartiality and objectivity.

Selection procedure and Fees

Applicants are required to submit a short motivation letter and a CV in English.

The selection process will be guided by the respect of principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment and transparency. The selection procedure will be conducted on the basis of assessment of the candidates' education, relevant experience and skills in terms of their compliance with the qualification criteria.

The fees will be established depending on the professional background, experience and qualifications of the selected candidate following budget limitations of the Project.

Any task-related travel will be reimbursed and subsistence expenses paid according to the Council of Europe's rules and regulations.

How to apply

To apply, send a short motivation letter and your curriculum vitae in English (including a list of three reference persons) to REPU@coe.int, indicating "Political Parties Finance Expert" in the subject field. The closing date for receipt of applications is **18:00 (CET), 3 June 2016**.