

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT
“REFORM OF THE ELECTORAL PRACTICE IN UKRAINE” (VC3372)**

CALL FOR EXPERTS/CONSULTANTS

Background

Early Presidential and Parliamentary elections were held in Ukraine in 2014. Local elections were held in 2015. Upon the results of election observation conducted by international observers¹, consideration of some electoral cases by national courts was inconsistent and lacked uniform application of existing legislation (in particular, due to some of its gaps and ambiguities) which consequently undermined legal certainty.

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 a national short-term legal consultant to summarize and analyze national court practice in cases on electoral matters.

Issues to be addressed

Under the general supervision of the Council of Europe Secretariat, the National Legal Consultant is expected to conduct the research and analysis of the national courts’ practice in election related cases, in particular, court cases regarding:

- 1) procedure and time frames for calling elections of all types;
- 2) election process management;
- 3) functioning of the Unified State Registry of Voters of Ukraine;
- 4) constitutional and legal status of subjects of electoral process;
- 5) exercise of passive electoral rights;
- 6) conduct of pre-election campaign and campaign financing;
- 7) voting, counting and recounting of votes, tabulation of voting results and establishing of election results;
- 8) participation in the electoral process of voters with disabilities and other underrepresented persons.

¹ OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report on Early Parliamentary Elections (26 October 2014), following the link <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/ukraine/132556?download=true>; Explanatory Memorandum to Observation of local elections in Ukraine by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (25 October 2015), following the link https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?p=&id=2420891&Site=COE&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864&direct=true#P65_3736;

The National Legal Consultant is expected to prepare a report outlining the main findings and conclusions of the research and analysis conducted where to suggest and/or develop possible mechanisms for solution of existing problems related to application of electoral legislation by national courts in a form either of recommendations on possible amendments to be made into the existing national legislation or practical steps to be taken by the national judiciary.

The deliverables are expected to be handed over by the National Legal Consultant by October 1, 2016.

Qualification requirements

- Master’s degree in law and/or in international law or equivalent (full university degree);
- A minimum of six years of relevant professional experience in the legal field in Ukraine, including a minimum of two years in litigation;
- Good knowledge of national electoral legislation, European electoral heritage and international standards in elections;
- Excellent interpersonal and analytical skills;
- Professional fluency in Ukrainian, with excellent oral and drafting skills; good knowledge of English;
- 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.

How to apply

To apply, send a short motivation letter and your curriculum vitae (including a list of three reference persons) to REPU@coe.int, indicating “National Legal Consultant” in the subject field. The closing date for receipt of applications is **18:00 (CET), June 15, 2016**.