

Call for expressions of interest for consultancy services: research, operational and strategic consultancy support for EaP CSF Working Group 3

Consultancy services: To provide EaP CSF Working Group 3 with research, operational and strategic support throughout its yearly activities which include Working Group meetings, participation in EaP Platform 3 meetings on strengthening institutions, good governance and security, and associated panels, implementation of work plans, country and region-focused input collection on sustainable development matters.

Closing Date: Monday, 10 May 2021

1. Title of the contracts:

Working Group consultant for EaP CSF Working Group 3 (WG3)

Duration: May-December 2021; potentially can be extended for 2022 and 2023

2. About EaP CSF and EaP CSF Working Groups

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (hereinafter EaP CSF or the Forum) is a community of nongovernmental organisations established in 2009, with the support of the European Commission. EaP CSF is open to bona fide non-governmental organisations from the six partner states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), as well as to EU member states civil society organisations (CSOs) which share the objectives of the Forum and value cooperation.

Every two years, 160 CSOs (20 from each EaP National Platform (total 120), and a maximum of 40 EU CSOs) are selected to participate in the life of the Forum as EaP CSF delegates. They are organised in 5 Working Groups in alignment with the official Eastern Partnership architecture:

- Democracy, human rights, good governance and stability (WG1);
- Economic integration and convergence with EU policies (WG2);
- Environment, climate change and energy security (WG3);
- Contacts between people (WG4);
- Social and labour policies and social dialogue (WG5)

Each WG is managed by two coordinators, one representing EaP-based organisations and one representing EU-based organisations.

3. About EaP CSF Working Group 3

EaP CSF Working Group 3 “Environment, climate change and energy security” provides expertise on a range of topics, including environmental governance issues, climate change, and green economy, energy efficiency and security, transport and road safety and sustainable development goals, advocating for policy reforms in EaP countries to harmonise it with EU *Acquis communautaire*.

WG3 has a number of policy priorities which it seeks to further promote in the EaP agenda, including:

- Achieving good environmental governance by improving government’s accountability, transparency, stakeholders participation in the environmental decision-making, effectiveness and coherence of environment, energy, transport and climate change policy;
- Supporting creation of stable and robust institutions and structures to deliver the above policy goals;
- Ensuring the implementation of EIA and SEA on projects and infrastructures, particularly hydropower plants;
- Promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in EaP countries;
- More secure energy supply via enhanced gas and electricity interconnectivity; energy efficiency; increased use of renewable energy (RES);
- Reduction of Greenhouse Gas emission in Partner Countries;
- Road safety and improvements of pedestrian and cycling infrastructures;
- Developing sustainable agriculture, in particular extending the organic lands area and integrating nature protection objectives into the agriculture policy.

To find out more about EaP CSF WG3, its membership, projects and publications, please check <https://eap-csf.eu/working-group-three/>

4. Responsibilities of the WG3 consultant and indicative deliverables

The selected WG3 consultant will perform the following duties in agreement with the EaP CSF Secretariat and the two coordinators of WG3:

Technical/ research support

- Support WG3 with technical expertise on several thematic areas (i.e. environment, climate change, energy and transport sustainability, sustainable development goals);
- Follow the relevant policy/political processes at the EU institutions level and identify those that have an implication for the EaP countries, and the thematic areas covered by WG3;
- Support to members in identifying key counterparts in EU institutions for advocacy in Brussels on EaP;
- Conduct desk research and collect input from members and from existing products of the Forum (i.e. re-granting projects, policy papers, statements) on dedicated topics at stake;

- Contribute to and review policy input drafted by WG3 members/ WG3 coordinators/ Secretariat staff;
- Provide a comparative regional analysis and perspective over given topics;
- Support the WG3 coordinators and the Secretariat in shaping the annual WG3 meeting agenda and the WG3 meeting during EaP CSF Annual Assembly;
- Design and draft written products such as i.e. WG3 meeting agenda, internal/ external event concepts and questions to speakers, research notes, policy briefs, statements, terms of reference, etc. in cooperation with WG3 Coordinators and Secretariat staff;
- Coordinate the collection of input from members for the Forum's participation in the EaP Platform 3 meetings on "Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change" and its respective Panels on: (1) Environment and Climate Change; (2) Energy; (3) Transport.

The list of indicative deliverables includes:

- Policy papers drafts;
- Detailed WG3 meeting concepts, agendas and reports;
- Desk-based and participatory research products (on a case by case basis);
- Suggestions for an improved participation of the WG3 in EaP Platform 3 meeting and its respective panels and other high-level meetings;
- Written contributions to the overall operation of WG3 and its activities;

This is not an exhaustive list of responsibilities and deliverables. Both are subject to review on a regular basis, in agreement with the Consultant.

5. General qualifications of the consultant

- Postgraduate university degree in environmental policy/ environmental management/ /environmental economics, or political science/public policy, economics, international relations etc. with demonstrated, relevant thematic expertise and work experience on environment, energy, transport and climate-related topics;
- Good understanding of the EaP policy and of the role of civil society in shaping it;
- Sound knowledge of the functioning of the EU institutions and EU's foreign affairs, in particular towards EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and any related flagship initiatives or programmes; contacts with EU stakeholders;
- Good understanding of indicators and capacity to provide qualitative analysis on given topics, such as environment and sustainable development, transport and energy;
- Experience of work in CSO not less than 5 years, good understanding of organizational structures operations and policies of non-governmental organisations and familiarity with EaP CSF processes and structures;
- Good understanding of principles of meaningful participation in public policy decision-making on the WG3 topics (such as environmental democracy e.g. the Aarhus Convention and its significance, civil society watchdogs on institutions in energy, transport, climate, environment etc.);

- Capacity to understand and assess the opportunities, challenges and limitations of structures such as EaP CSF Working Groups;
- Good desk and participatory research skills coupled with good drafting and reporting abilities;
- Good command of English (mandatory) and of Russian (desirable); knowledge of any other EaP and EU languages is appreciated;
- Ability to work independently and as a part of a team;
- Flexibility and ability to work under tight deadlines;
- Experience working with EaP CSF is a plus;

6. Duration and location of the assessment and estimated workload

Expected workload: between 2h/week and 20h/week, depending on the calendar of activities of WG3 and the agreed responsibilities with each consultant;

Duration of the assignment: until the end of 2021 (with possibility of extension in 2022 and 2023)

Location of the assignment: home-based

The current assignment does not involve travelling to the Eastern Partnership Countries.

7. Recruitment process

Qualified candidates are invited to apply by **10/05/2021, 23.59 CET** by sending the following documents to **applications@eap-csf.eu** (Subject line: **EaP CSF – WG3 consultant application**):

- CV (maximum 5 pages, in English)
- Motivation letter (maximum 1 page, in English, explaining why the candidate could be an asset for Working Group3)
- Financial proposal (specifying expected hourly rate)

Only pre-selected candidates will be contacted for a brief interview that will take place in the second half of May 2021.

EaP CSF applies a fair and transparent recruitment process that will take into account both the expertise and skills of the applicants, as well as their financial proposal. For any additional information, please contact admin@eap-csf.eu

8. References

For more information about EaP CSF Working Groups, please check: <https://eap-csf.eu/working-groups/>

For more information about the participation of EaP CSF in the EaP architecture meetings, please check: <https://eap-csf.eu/policy-dialogue/>