

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

## EXTERNAL EVALUATOR/ EXPERT

### CO.RE QUALITY ASSURANCE AND EVALUATION

Transparency International Portugal (TI Portugal) is seeking to hire an External Consultant to support Quality, Evaluation and Validation of the EC funded project “Corruption Risk indicators in Emergency” - GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 101038790 — CO.R.E — ISFP-2020-AG-CORRUPT

This document represents the terms of reference for the prior consultation for the selection of the External Evaluator/Expert.

#### 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CO.RE is an international project co-financed by the European Commission within the framework of the Internal Security Fund –Police 2020 AG – CORRUPT “Call for proposal on the fight against corruption”. The duration of the project is 24 months, from December, 2020.

##### Project Partners

- Università degli Studi di Perugia
- Fondazione Centro Studi Villa Montesca
- info.nodes
- Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
- Oficina Antifrau de Catalunya
- Transparency International Portugal
- Dublin City University

##### Objectives of the project

CO.RE aims to develop and validate a replicable procedure for computing a Composite Indicator (CI) of corruption risk in public procurement in time of pandemic, based on a collection and cross-processing of public procurement data. The CI procedure is intended at enhancing earlier detection of corruption risk and fostering a stronger evidence base for policy reform, by serving primarily anti-corruption authorities and law enforcement agencies, but also journalists and the general public/citizenship for accountability objectives.

This will be achieved by allowing users:

1. reliable comparisons of corruption risk at the territorial level (regions, States, contracting bodies etc.) and per categories (i.e., contracting stations);

2. consistent appraisals of trends over time, providing insights on the ways past, present and emerging corruption risk schemes relate to current risk drivers.

## Main Activities

To achieve the project's goals, the project team is currently working:

1. to provide software codes, a descriptive practical guide and real data examples to carry out the statistical analyses involved within the CI construction;
2. to clarify European and State Members legal frameworks of procurement data quality, reusability and interoperability;
3. to identify the limitations/best practices of the use of procurement data to the fight against corruption;
4. to implement a data visualization dashboard with Interactive maps, in order to provide information about the indicators of corruption in a simple, accessible and captivating way;
5. to involve journalists and investigative journalism networks in the design, evaluation and improvement of both the indicators and the business intelligence platform developed within the project.

## 2. SCOPE OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION

The objective of the external evaluation is to assist the implementation of the Quality, Evaluation and Validation Plan for CO.RE (Quality Plan) developed within the scope of the *WP6 - Quality assurance, evaluation and validation* of the project, in compliance with the project description and all applicable rules and guidelines.

Under the coordination of TI Portugal, acting as WP6 leader, the External Evaluator/Expert has extensive experience & knowledge on the project's topics and is expected to develop the following key activities:

- a) support the WP leader to oversee monitoring, evaluation strategy and creation of monitoring tools;
- b) assess the progress and success of the activities of the different WPs aligned with the project indicators and to propose actions to improve the overall effectiveness of the results;
- c) analyze and interpret data on the project to identify achievement of results and weaknesses, document the status of the project in reports and make recommendations;
- d) indicate shortcomings and constraints in the implementation of the project while, at the same time, identifying the remaining challenges, gaps and needs for future courses of action.

## Deliverables

1. Partnership Meetings (attendance): the external evaluator/expert will attend online partnership meetings in order to establish direct contact with the partners' teams, to be able to ensure the quality of his/her evaluation, and to give feedback and offer recommendations to CO.RE Quality Assurance Committee if needed;
2. Mid-term External Evaluation Report (January 2023): the mid-term external evaluation report shows the results of the project process and assesses the quality of the work since the start of the project. The document presents a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the project and includes assessments and recommendations and corrective measures to be taken.



3. Final External Evaluation Report (November 2023 or by end project): The final external evaluation report presents the final results of the project activities and the impact they have on the target groups. The document presents an assessment of the quality management of the project as a whole.

### 3. DATA PROTECTION & CONFIDENTIALITY

In carrying out the evaluation activities, the External Evaluator/ expert must respect data protection and confidentiality rules agreed by the project partners', and does not have any right to use, disclose or publish the data or results obtained in the course of his/ her activity.

### 4. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are required to submit an expression of interest that should include mandatory:

- A detailed CV
- Documents supporting the candidate's CV: experience/professional competence/expertise, reference projects, etc.
- Financial proposal for the execution of the tasks.

Applications should be sent to [karina.carvalho@transparencia.pt](mailto:karina.carvalho@transparencia.pt)

Subject of the email: *Application\_CORE External Evaluator\_Name*

Deadline: **15 December 2022**

### 5. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the following conditions:

- Have in-depth knowledge of the EU anti-corruption policymaking in the field of Public Procurement;
- Have already participated in projects, external evaluations and/ or contributed to studies on quality assurance in the thematic area of Public Procurement;
- Fluency in oral and written English.

Candidates will be selected on the basis of the above criteria, and the contract will be awarded to the most economically advantageous proposal (best pricequality ratio).

### 6. BUDGET

A maximum budget of 5.000€ (euro) has been allocated for this evaluation activity. No supplement will be provided for travel and subsistence costs for participating in partnership meetings, thus they need to be included in the financial proposal.



## 7. CONTRACT DURATION

- Start date of the assignment: as soon as possible
- End date of the assignment: November, 2023 or at the end of the project (in the case of an extension of the project)

## 8. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payments will be made on the basis of invoices sent by the expert and on presentation of the deliverables, as follows:

- 20% upon signature of the contract;
- 40% upon submission of the Mid-term External Evaluation Report;
- 40% at the end of the project and submission of the Final External Evaluation Report.