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Promoting comprehensive human rights- based
concept of freedom of expression in BiH
Freedom of Expression HUB

Call for proposal

Terms of Reference: Desk Research and Educational Module Content Development Consultant

About the project

The project "Freedom of Expression Hub" promotes a comprehensive, human- rights based understanding of freedom of expression that creates trust in democratic institutions and empowers civil society (youth in particular) to understand and promote the right to freedom of expression but also its limitations through partnership with media professionals and representatives of the judiciary/ institutions. It also capacitates media professionals to address misinformation, hate speech, misogyny, and defamation. The right to freedom of expression (henceforth FoE) is declared in **Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and enshrined in several international and regional human rights instruments**. It is a fundamental pillar of any democratic society and plays a crucial role in safeguarding individual rights, promoting social progress, and ensuring the healthy functioning of democratic institutions. FoE empowers individuals, fosters accountability and transparency. However, **freedom of expression must** not be abused or exploited in ways that cause harm, spread misinformation, incite violence, or infringe upon the rights of others. The abuse of FoE has significant negative consequences for individuals, communities, and society. States may restrict the right to FoE under very limited circumstances. Criminalizing defamation and blasphemy laws are unlawful restrictions to freedom of expression.

*The **Overall objective** of the project is to contribute to a comprehensive, human- rights based understanding of freedom of expression that creates trust in democratic institutions.*

***Specific Objective 1** is to support and empower civil society (youth and youth CSOs) in BiH to understand and promote the right to freedom of expression and its limitations through partnership with media professionals and representatives of the judiciary; and*

***Specific Objective 2** is to create a knowledge-based hub and develop capacities of youth and media professionals to address misinformation, hate speech, misogyny, and defamation.*

Call

JaBiHEU is seeking for a qualified **Desk Research and Educational Module Content Development Consultant to** conduct desk research on freedom of expression (FoE) and to develop content for digital educational modules. The objective is to enhance understanding and critical thinking skills regarding freedom of expression, misinformation, hate speech, misogyny, and defamation among youth and young journalists in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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SCOPE OF WORK

The Consultant will be asked to carry out following Task 1:

- Comprehensive desk research report detailing findings and analysis for each task outlined above.
- Online survey results including analysis and recommendations.

Preparation of desk research:

The desk research will combine qualitative and quantitative research methods. It will employ both primary and secondary research techniques, including online surveys with 20 youngsters and journalists.

- Identify and compile a list of reliable sources relevant to freedom of expression, including legal documents, scholarly articles, case studies, and reports.
- Analyse legal frameworks on freedom of expression in different countries, including any limitations or exceptions imposed.
- Review and analyse relevant case law from domestic, regional, and international courts pertaining to freedom of expression.
- Conduct a comparative analysis of legal frameworks and their application in different countries.
- Review and analyse topical EU-funded programs and projects related to freedom of expression to identify good practices, innovative approaches, and lessons learned.
- Analyse the potential impact of the recent re-criminalization of defamation in the Republic of Srpska.
- Investigate and analyse the position of youth and media regarding freedom of expression.

Task 2: Develop content for each educational module, including text, multimedia elements, and interactive features.

- Module 1: Understanding Freedom of Expression
- Module 2: Combating Misinformation
- Module 3: Addressing Hate Speech
- Module 4: Combating Misogyny
- Module 5: Defamation and Freedom of Expression

Consultant needs to ensure each module includes clear learning objectives, engaging content with relevant examples and case studies, interactive activities, assessments, and recommendations for user-friendly features.



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Task 3: Develop recommendations for policy implications and potential areas for further research

Based on the Task 1 and task 2, the consultant will outline recommendations for policy implications

Duration of engagement:

The engagement will spread over a period of 5 months, with work being undertaken on an as-needed basis.

Qualifications and skills:

General professional experience:

- ✓ At least 5 years of experience in the field relevant to the objective of the research.

Specific requirements:

- ✓ Demonstrated experience in conducting desk research, particularly in the field of human rights, peacebuilding, freedom of expression, or related areas with a minimum of 5 projects completed in this field.
- ✓ Experience in designing educational materials, with a focus on user experience and accessibility with a minimum of 5 projects completed in this field.
- ✓ Strong analytical skills with the ability to interpret complex legal documents and case law.
- ✓ Familiarity with relevant international and regional legal frameworks.
- ✓ Previous experience working in the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina or similar regions will be considered an asset.

Open positions

1 (one)

Workplace

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Note:

All the documents produced must satisfy European Union visibility requirements including European Union logo, information on funding as well as disclaimers



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Selection criteria:

The applicant companies or individuals are required to provide their CV and portfolio of relevant work, proposed methodology, and budget proposal. The evaluation will be made based on the consultant's qualifications, proposed methodology, relevance of past experience, and budget considerations.

Intellectual Property

All deliverables produced during the assignment, including educational module content, shall be the property of the European Union.

Contact Information

For inquiries or clarification regarding this Terms of Reference, please contact Hana Čengić at hana@jabiheu.ba.

The applications need to be submitted by email: info@jabiheu.ba, or directly to JaBiHEU, Ćumurija 2, Sarajevo, no later than 25 March, 2024.