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# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## Partner country

Republic of Albania

## Contracting authority

“Qendresa Qytetare” is a non-profit organization founded by a group of young professionals in 2016, who come with different experiences from civil society, uniting their knowledge and energy to contribute to the country and Albanian society.

Our mission is to encourage and empower civic engagement and civil society in general through policy advocacy, raising awareness, and civic participation. Our vision is to develop a wider community of knowledgeable, motivated, and committed people who actively address societal concerns by monitoring and advocating public policies at the central and local levels.

## Current situation in the sector

The landscape of public participation and accountability in Albania's governance sector is marked by both progress and persistent challenges. The "Support Participation, Accountability and Civil Society Empowerment (SPACE)" project, launched in January 2023 with funding from the European Union, stands as a pivotal initiative addressing these issues. Over the past year, efforts have been concentrated on enhancing public involvement in the formulation, execution, and oversight of legislative agendas, governmental strategies, and budget allocations—a comprehensive approach aimed at bolstering transparency and accountability throughout the policy cycle.

Despite notable strides, certain hurdles remain. While there has been increased recognition of the importance of citizen engagement, particularly from grassroots Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), there are lingering gaps in their capacity and accessibility. Many local CSOs, especially those in remote regions, still face challenges in effectively participating in decision-making processes and holding authorities accountable.

Under the leadership of the Together for Life (TFL) organization, in collaboration with implementing partners BIRN Albania, Qëndresa Qytetare, and Destiny Center for Excellence, the SPACE project continues to play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges. Through capacity-building initiatives, advocacy efforts, and innovative platforms for dialogue, the project aims to empower CSOs and amplify their voices in governance processes. However, sustained commitment and collaboration from stakeholders across government, civil society, and the international community will be essential to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of these endeavors.

## Related programmes and other donor activities

NA

# OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED OUTPUTS

## Overall objective

* The overarching objective of SPACE is to strengthen the engagement of CSOs in public policy processes/cycle through evidence-based advocacy and monitoring of reforms.

## Expected outputs to be achieved by the contractor

This action will provide the following results:

* Outcome 1: Civil society organizations will work better to demand improved accountability and budget transparency of public institutions (health and education sectors)
* Outcome 2. Increased public pressure on authorities to respond, change behavior and reduce corruption.
* Outcome 3: CSOs, media, youth, state/non-state stakeholders work together to improve the budget transparency and accountability, leading to the better quality of services for the Albanian citizens.

# SCOPE OF THE WORK

## General

### Description of the assignment

In the framework of SPACE project, Qendresa Qytetare is seeking to contract a research expert to prepare the methodology and support the other experts to prepare the monitoring report of the National Education Strategy 2021-2026.

## Specific work

More specifically, the Health Expert is expected to conduct a monitoring report of National Education Strategy according to following steps:

* Designing instruments for data collection in line with the methodology developed by research expert;
* Conducting desk review and data analyses;
* Preparing a draft report;
* Collaborate with legal and research expert to prepare the final monitoring report of the National Education Strategy.
* The final monitoring report is submitted to the project staff and is accepted by the latter when it is assessed that it is in line with the general objectives formally and in terms of content.
* Designing instruments for data collection in line with the methodology developed by research

### Responsible body

Qendresa Qytetare

### Management structure

Decision-making process is regulated by Contracting Authority.

### Facilities to be provided by the contracting authority and/or other parties

N/A

# LOGISTICS AND TIMING

## Location

The Expert will be located in Tirana.

## Start date & period of implementation of tasks

The assignment will start in 05/02/2024 until 06/05/2024. Please see Articles 19.1 and 19.2 of the special conditions for the actual start date and period of implementation.

# REQUIREMENTS

## Staff

Note that civil servants and other staff of the public administration of the partner country, or of international/regional organisations based in the country, shall only be approved to work as experts if well justified. The justification should be submitted with the tender and shall include information on the added value the expert will bring as well as proof that the expert is seconded or on personal leave.

### Key experts

Qualifications and skills

* University degree in a relevant field such law, or a related discipline.
* At least 5 years of experience as a researcher in this area or relevant sectors.
* Proven expertise in conducting monitoring of the health policies or similar position (work experience with the Civil Society sector will be considered an asset).
* Good knowledge of the education sector.
* Good analytical and writing skills;
* Proficiency in report drafting.
* Ability to work in a team and to perform in respect of deadlines.

### Proposal

The research expert is expected to submit a proposal, including:

* Letter of Interest, including a summary of approaches to be implemented for the successful fulfilment of the assignment;
* Financial offer which indicates the fee per day for this duty (in Euro). The service provider should submit a Financial Offer as described in Annex A.
* CV of the expert in EU format, including a summary of expertise areas as per requirements of this ‘Term of Reference”.

### Fee-based

This is a fee-based contract based in the number of days – 20 days in total.

### Other experts, support staff & backstopping

N/A

# REPORTS

## Submission and approval of reports

The report referred to above must be submitted to the project manager identified in the contract. The project manager is responsible for approving the reports.