

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Title of Consultancy:** Thematic review: Detection of illegal and illicit funds in political finance  
**Application Closing Date:** 21 May 2024  
**Location of Consultancy:** Remote/home-based

## BACKGROUND

Transparency International (TI) is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. Through more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, Germany, TI raises awareness of the damaging effects of corruption and works with partners in government, business, and civil society to develop and implement effective measures to tackle it.

The Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S) in Berlin is conducting consultations to update its 2009 [Standards for Political Funding and Favors and Political Finance Regulations: Bridging the Enforcement Gap](#). Participants in consultations to date have raised concerns over the inadequate policies aimed at detecting illegal and illicit funds entering politics through political finance and election campaigns. These sources often originate from organised crime groups and carry significant corruption risks. Lack of legal mandate and resources to investigate or insufficient cooperation between relevant agencies contribute to low rates of detection of illicit and illegal funds entering politics. To inform consultations and fill in that gap, TI-S seeking a consultant to support research on different types of illicit funds in politics, their impact on political competition and political integrity and measures to counter them.

The consultancy seeks to elaborate a Thematic Review on the 1) types of illegal and illicit funds in politics, 2) impact of illicit funds in politics, and 3) measures to detect such funds, drawing from extant research, international best practice and standards on electoral integrity, inter-agency cooperation and combatting organised crime. The review will contribute to strengthening global efforts to combat the infiltration of illegal funds in politics, promoting political integrity during electoral processes worldwide.

## ASSIGNMENT

The consultant shall produce a thematic review comprising the following elements:

### Scope:

- a) Types of illicit funds in politics. For each type of illicit sources of funds in politics the consultant will provide a summary of the mechanism used to make illegal donations, and the reasons why it goes undetected. Types of illicit funds in politics can include:
  - i. Undeclared or under-declared donations.
  - ii. Money-laundering through political finance.
  - iii. Circumventing banned types of donations (as defined in national legislation for example foreign, corporate, etc)
- b) Measures. The consultant will propose and describe measures to detect and counter illicit and illegal funds in politics, including at least:
  - i. Strengthened legal mandate and resourcing (including human, capital and technological) for Political Finance oversight institutions to detect illegal funds in party and campaign finance.
  - ii. Inter-agency cooperation (data-sharing and joint investigations with Financial Intelligence Units, Tax Authorities, Law Enforcement and Prosecution).
  - iii. International cooperation (bilateral and multilateral agreements, other cooperation mechanisms and practices).
  - iv. Preventive measures (such as political finance transparency, closing loopholes such as anonymous and foreign donations).

### Modalities for data collection, review and analysis

The consultant shall propose the parameters for the review considering:

- a) Sources to be included in the review are constitutional and legal frameworks, international recommendations and standards, comparative research articles, credible media reporting,

- domestic and international electoral observation reports from both authoritarian and democratic contexts, low and middle-income countries -preferably over last four years.
- b) Interviews with up to three international stakeholders (electoral observers, experts, etc) to identify key areas for assessment, gather insights and lessons learned.
  - c) Data collection tools (e.g. interview questionnaires, datasets).
  - d) Collect, validate, and analyse quantitative to substantiate the review, and identify trends and patterns in simple visualisations.
  - e) Actionable recommendations.

## **EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE**

The duration of the consultancy is 8 working days. During that time, the consultant will incrementally provide the following four deliverables:

- a. An annotated outline (max. two pages), accompanied with a workplan note (max 1 page) explaining the steps and tools to carry out the review.
- b. A First Draft report following the agreed outline, with a clear presentation of the analysis, findings, country examples and provisional recommendations.
- c. Final Report addressing all feedback received, including a 500-word executive summary, key findings illustrated with examples from selected countries, including recommendations.

The consultant is expected to provide regular updates upon request from TI-S.

All deliverables are to be submitted in **English**, in electronic form, in accordance with the deadlines stipulated above. The Consultant is responsible for editing and quality control of language. The TI Secretariat retains the sole rights with respect to all distribution, dissemination, and publication of the deliverables. The final report is not to exceed 15 pages and should highlight the main findings and recommendations derived from the empirical and desk-based research. The report will be published and shared at conferences, and with the target audiences, principally within the anti-corruption community of practice.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Consultant should have the following qualifications:

- Minimum of 7 years research experience in issues related to elections, gender, political finance and/or anti-corruption;
- Familiarity with a variety of research methodologies and proven experience in applying them for policy and evaluation purposes in a variety of contexts;
- Experience of working with clients in civil society, particularly advocacy-oriented NGOs;

## **REMUNERATION AND COSTS**

This work will be remunerated at the daily rate of **EUR 450/day**.

We expect no more than 8 (eight) days of work for this assignment.

### **For candidates based in the EU, EEA, UK, and Switzerland**

Transparency International e.V. (Secretariat), (TI-S) is registered as a Business Entity in Germany with VAT identification number DE273612486. EU reverse charge applies. Service providers should issue invoices with zero VAT. Candidates who are based in Germany and do not charge German VAT must confirm their small entrepreneur status.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

The application should include the following documents:

1. **Motivation letter** and note regarding availability in stated assignment period
2. **Curriculum Vitae** or Consultancy profile as well as a sample of relevant previous work (confidentiality guaranteed)

Please indicate '**Research Consultant: Financial barriers for women candidates**' in the subject line of your email application. Applications should be sent in English by email to [cme-tender@transparency.org](mailto:cme-tender@transparency.org) by close of business of **21 May 2024**.

## Data protection

*When you respond to this tender and submit your application, you provide consent that Transparency International e. V. keeps your application materials for the period of ten years according to German legal requirements. Afterwards Transparency International will delete your application and any personal data included in it. If you have any questions, please reach out to [dataprotection@transparency.org](mailto:dataprotection@transparency.org)*

## Guidelines for handling overhead and travel expenses

### Overhead

Regular overhead expenses associated with the Consultants maintaining their place of business, such as rent, telephone, utilities, or stationery, are included in the Consultant's professional fee, except where explicitly agreed otherwise in the contract.

### Travel

Travel and accommodation expenses will as far as possible, and where applicable, be recovered from the institutions and companies hosting events or using the outputs provided by the Consultant.

Where such cost recovery is not possible, all travel is subject to prior approval by TI-S staff responsible for the financial management of the Project or TI Budget Line that will support the costs of travel. TI shall not issue travel advances to the Consultants. For accommodation or travel by air, rail, or coach, they will instead have to contact TI-S that will make travel arrangements on the Consultant's behalf.

All travel booked by TI-S will include **travel health and accident insurance** with worldwide coverage and Economy class only; accommodation will aim to achieve best value for money up to a 4-star category.

Consultants shall be entitled to invoice TI-S **only** for local transportation and visa cost (if applicable).

Subsistence allowance (per diems) and expenses for individual meals cannot be claimed. These are part of Consultant's business expenses.