

# Call for Proposal

Research of digital security attacks on NGOs, human rights defenders, social change agents and activists

## DW Akademie

DW Akademie is part of Germany's international broadcaster Deutsche Welle and is Germany's leading organization for international media development. We support free and transparent media systems and quality journalism in close to 50 countries in developing and emerging countries.

With our projects and as a strategic partner of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), we strengthen the right to freedom of expression and access to information. We enable people to form their own opinions based on reliable facts and via a free flow of ideas so that they can present their views in social debates. This enables them to play an active and equal part in social and political developments and thus improves their standard of living.

## Scope of work

DW Akademie, in cooperation with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), is currently implementing a project to support people working for NGOs, civil society organizations or as human rights defenders and journalists to protect themselves and their projects against digital threats. Within the scope of the project, we are developing a new resource that will help people working in the development sector to analyze their project-related digital security risks through the process of threat modeling. When it comes to sensitive information, NGOs have plenty to protect – from donors' financial information to personal details like social security numbers and more up to secure communications with sources.

We believe that sharing real-life digital security incidents against people working for NGOs, civil society organizations or as human rights defenders or journalists can be a powerful way to raise awareness of the importance of strong security measures. Knowing real-life examples of security breaches, hacking attacks or surveillance of employees may help to convince organizations and their staff to incorporate digital security concepts within their projects.

Therefore, DW Akademie is seeking to conduct research of digital security incidents that happened in projects of development cooperation all over the world to integrate them into our project (guide, training etc.).

This could be, for example,

- the interception of communication of staff members,
- the remote hacking of computers or smartphones to obtain data,
- the legal cooperation between states and companies such as email provider, social networks or ISP to get data (user data, log ins, conversations etc.)
- device seizure of staff members, e.g. while crossing borders at the airport,
- data breach due to a hack of a server or a successful phishing attack,
- (temporary) arrest of people for not handing out digital devices,
- loss of money due to digital attacks (e.g. hacking) of project banking accounts,
- violation of data protection laws due to recklessness
- examples of security training participants being targeted by authorities

We know that researching security incidents can be an intimidating experience for the interviewed organizations. As a researcher, it's important to create a safe space for interviewees to discuss difficult topics. Please be aware how the technologies you use could be attacked and lead to data harm.

The deliverables for the research are a written report of findings (around 4 pages & 4 cases per research). The attacks are preferable not known already and documented somewhere, but investigated for this research for the first time. Even though we won't publish any names or personal information of the organizations involved, we need specific information about the attacks. We will take care in securing our online communication and provide you with an easy and secure way to share information with us. Details will be discussed before the start of the research.

### **Timeline, Working Days and Deadline**

Please submit a short application in electronic form only to [Lina.Hartwieg@dw.com](mailto:Lina.Hartwieg@dw.com) , no later than **October 1, 2019**. Upon notification, the work will begin immediately and must proceed quickly to meet the project timeline. A total of 4 working days are planned. The deliverables (around 4 pages & 4 cases) should be submitted no more than **one month after engagement** (latest by the end of November).

Proposals must contain:

- Name
- Contact information
- Brief Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Work sample demonstrating successful and effective research and written analysis in the topic area
- Brief research proposal (region and country that you have expertise in; timeline; financial offer with an indication of the honorarium for a total of 4 working days)

Follow up with candidates may be conducted to obtain any necessary clarification on items described within the application.

We are looking forward to your proposals!

Kind regards  
Lina Hartwieg  
Project Manager  
Digital Innovation and Knowledge Management  
Policy and Concepts  
DW Akademie

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