

Call for expression of interest

External evaluation

Project “Women Empowerment Action - We Act”

IREX Europe doing business as ERIM (hereinafter referred to as ERIM) is currently recruiting an experienced consultant for the external final evaluation of the project “Women Empowerment Action – We Act”.

1. About ERIM

ERIM is a French-registered non-profit, non-governmental organisation providing innovative programmes to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, foster pluralistic civil society development, and reduce conflict. The ERIM approach emphasizes partnerships with local development organisations to expand capacity, build sustainable institutions and affect change through training, partnerships, education, research and grant programmes.

2. Objectives and description of the project

Title: “Women Empowerment Action – We Act”

Duration: 26 months (from 15 January 2020 to 14 March 2022)

Location: Russian Federation

Partners: ERIM (the applicant) + 2 partners

Budget: 834k €

Overall Objective: To promote gender equality and women’s social and economic empowerment, supports the global objective of the call for proposals by contributing to the reinforcement of Russian civil society organisations (CSOs) as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society, for an inclusive and sustainable development and growth.

Specific Objectives:

1 – Russian women effectively use social enterprise as a tool to have greater access to resources and support needed to become self-confident, develop their social businesses, scale them up and make them sustainable.

2 – Women-run Russian CSOs and initiative groups working on social and economic empowerment of women and disadvantaged groups are empowered to use social enterprise as a tool for achieving financial sustainability and creating opportunities for and empowering women and disadvantaged groups.

3 – Female media workers have increased participation in, and access to decision-making in the media and help promote a non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media.

Estimated Results:

Result 1: At least 50 percent of project supported women run their registered ventures / social business projects by the end of the project; at least 30 percent of participating individual female entrepreneurs sustain themselves through their business income; at least half of participating CSOs have integrated social business elements in their financial model and make use of social enterprise to generate additional income, to reduce service costs and to offer social and economic empowerment to various disadvantaged groups; at least 150 individuals representing disadvantaged groups have benefited from goods and services provided by project supported social entrepreneurs by the end of the project; at least 30 new jobs have been created; 1/3 of travel fund beneficiaries have started cooperation with a new European, regional or Russian partner within one after the project funded trip;

Result 2: At least 180 persons representing disadvantaged groups indirectly benefited from services and goods provided by the project supported CSOs, and 80 of them have received direct training and/or employment; at least 10 percent of CSOs' income that integrated social enterprise in their financial model has been generated through social enterprise initiatives by the end of the project; at least 75% participants attending public events have increased their knowledge about the potential enterprise to empower women and disadvantaged groups and 50 % of participants established new contacts;

Result 3: At least half out of 15 regional media outlets whose representatives participated in the media management academy have fostered gender equality within their media organisations (e.g. gender balance at decision-making level, gender equality in work and working conditions, introduction of ethical codes and policies in favour of gender equality in their organisation) or/and improved women portrayal in media content (news, current affairs, advertising); 5 new gender-sensitive media initiatives have been launched; a community of Russian female media management has been set up providing technical and psychological support to its members; at least 600,000 persons have viewed media content produced by the project and increased their awareness of women's contribution and women's rights;

Target groups: Russian aspiring and promising female social entrepreneurs, female editors and journalists from independent regional media; Russian CSOs and initiative groups working on social and economic empowerment of women and disadvantaged groups; Independent media outlets in the regions; 50 social micro-enterprises with high potential for job creation and social innovation.

Final beneficiaries: representatives of disadvantaged groups such as vulnerable groups of women, representatives of sexual and national minorities, migrants, elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, homeless; Russian citizens.

3. Objective of the external evaluation

The aim of the external evaluation is to analyse the relevance, outputs, outcomes, and impact of the project in response to the project's objectives and targets as well as its sustainability. The evaluation report should include an assessment of the project impact, potential sustainability, identification of lessons learnt and best practices as well as proposed improvements for a possible extension of the project activities. The evaluation of the project should consider the following OECD/DAC evaluation criteria:

Relevance: Appropriateness of the project strategy to the actual needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries. Is the project strategy appropriate and logic to attain the objectives? Does the project appropriately respond to the needs and priorities of the target groups? What is the quality of the project design?

Coherence: Compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector or institution. Is the project duplicating current efforts in the field? Is the project compatible with the partners other projects and action?

Efficiency: Measures the outputs -- qualitative and quantitative -- in relation to the inputs. How well are the means/inputs and activities converted into outputs? Are the activities implemented in line with the plans? Are they implemented and the outputs delivered in a cost-efficient manner?

Effectiveness: Contribution of the project results to the achievement of the project objectives. To what extent are the specific objectives achieved / are likely to be achieved? What are the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives?

Impact: The positive and negative changes produced by the project, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. Main effects resulting from the project on the local social, economic, environmental and other development indicators. What is the project's likely contribution to the overall objective?

Sustainability: Likelihood of a continuation in the stream of benefits produced by the project after the period of external support has ended. Are the results, services and benefits of the project likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn?

4. Methodology and expected outcomes

The evaluation should include desk research, interviews and writing of draft and final report:

- Desk research: should include a review of all the material and documentation developed within the project, the reports of the events organised, the tools created or adapted, including web-tools and other relevant reports of activities, survey etc. The consultant should collect all quantitative data from the logframe (list of activities, number of participants, number of supports, etc.).

- Key Informant Interviews/Focus group discussions: The consultant should carry out interviews/group discussions with all project partners as well as with representatives of the target groups/beneficiaries. In light of the COVID-19 travel restrictions, we do not expect the consultant to travel to the regions in

order to interview the project target groups and beneficiaries. If such travel is envisioned, it should be included in the proposal

- Recommendations for project duplication/scaling up: The consultant should take in account while conducting the evaluation our will to replicate this project in the future in the same country and/or a neighbouring one. The final report should therefore include recommendations on duplication or scaling up of the Action.

- output of the evaluation: The consultant is requested to produce an evaluation report **in English between 20 and 30 pages**, including a table of contents, brief introduction, objectives and methodology, findings and conclusions per OECD criterion, lessons learned and best practices as well as a list of recommendations and annexes (e.g. acronyms, list of persons interviewed, TOR, methodology, calendar, etc.). An executive summary should also be included summarising the overall lessons learned and recommendations. And an oral restitution with the partners and donor will be organised online.

5. Timeline

Launch of call for expression of interest	07 January 2022
Deadline for the submission of applications	31 January 2022
Selection of the consultant	28 February 2022
Start of the evaluation	15 March 2022
Implementation of evaluation mission (including desk and field mission if any)	22 March 2022 – 14 April 2022 (final dates to be confirmed with your availability)
Submission of draft report	1 May 2022 (final dates to be confirmed)
Submission of final evaluation report	31 May 2022 (final dates to be confirmed)

6. Application

You can apply individually or as a team of evaluators. In either case your application should consist of the following:

- 1-page expression of interest (highlighting relevant experience, knowledge of the country context and of the project thematics, daily rate and stating where you would be travelling from).
- technical and financial proposal
- An updated CV(s)
- Fluency in English and Russian mandatory.
- Mention of your nationality due to visa restrictions
- Contact details for 2 references (per individual)

The maximum budget available for this evaluation is 8,000 EUR (including traveling). Applications received past the deadline will not be considered.