



Foundation for Internet and Society

Regional Call for Investigative Journalism Stories

The Metamorphosis Foundation for Internet and Society announces a Regional Call for Investigative Journalism Stories.

1. Subject to purchase

Within the framework of this Call, a bidder will be selected who, in the period March 2023 - October 2023, will be responsible for the creation of:

- 1 (one) investigative story

A description of the subject of procurement is given below, in the Detailed Overview of the Bidder's Obligations and Timeline of the Engagement, which is an integral part of this Call.

1.1. Topic of the investigative story

Identify, follow and investigate the sources and flow of disinformation in the Western Balkan region. Research the relationship of certain media with anti-democratic and corruptive structures and their influence.

2. Registration conditions

Legal entities and individuals who offer services in the field of investigative journalism and research have the right to apply for this Call. Individuals can also register in groups of a maximum of 4 people.

The legal entities and individuals should reside or have specific knowledge of the current happenings in one of the countries in the Western Balkans region (North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Monte Negro).

2.1. Individuals must meet the following conditions:

- To have relevant professional experience in journalism (minimum 5 years of experience in a newsroom and/or media organization) and to submit a list of previously prepared and published content (including but not limited to investigative stories)

2.2. Legal entities should meet the following criteria:

2.2.1. Personal condition of the bidder

- In the last 5 years, the bidder has not been sentenced for participating in a criminal organization, corruption, fraud or money laundering;
- The bidder has not been imposed a secondary penalty, a temporary or permanent ban on performing a separate activity;
- The bidder is not in bankruptcy or liquidation proceedings;
- The bidder has no unpaid taxes, contributions or other public charges;
- The bidder has not been sentenced with a misdemeanor sanction - a ban on performing a profession, activity or duty, that is, a temporary ban on performing a separate activity.



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The bidder confirms the fulfillment of the criteria for determining personal status with a statement submitted in addition to the offer (the statement is attached to this tender documentation - Annex 2).

In addition to the statement, the bidder does not have to submit documents to prove his personal status together with the bid. The Commission may ask the selected bidder to submit the necessary documents to determine the personal situation for verification of these criteria.

2.2.2. Technical ability

The bidder must meet the following minimum conditions:

- To have relevant professional experience in journalism and conducting investigative stories, and to submit a list of previously prepared and published content (including but not limited to investigative stories)

3. Deadline and method of registration

The offers, together with the list of previously prepared and published content (including but not limited to investigative stories), should be submitted via e-mail to the following e-mail address: nina@metamorphosis.org.mk no later than February 15th, 2023, with the Subject "Offer for Investigative story". All documents should be submitted in Macedonian or English. Offers that contain incomplete or untidy documentation, are not in Macedonian or English, as well as offers submitted after the deadline established in this Call, will not be considered. Metamorphosis Foundation reserves the right to contact only selected candidates.

4. Elements of the offer

4.1. To apply for the Call, individuals should submit:

- Short professional biographies of the person/persons who will implement the activities that are the subject of the contract;
- A list of previously prepared and published content (including but not limited to investigative stories);
- Financial offer according to the form given in Annex 1.

4.2. To apply for the Call, legal entities should submit:

- Short professional biographies of the person/persons who will be hired to implement the activities that are the subject of the contract;
- A list of previously prepared and published content (including but not limited to investigative stories);
- Financial offer according to the form given in Annex 1;
- A statement by which the bidder confirms that the criteria for determining personal status is met, according to the form provided as Annex 2;
- Document for registered activity or current status.

5. Criteria and method of choosing the most favorable offer

All timely, complete and orderly applications will be thoroughly reviewed and evaluated according to the following criteria:

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- Quality of offer – Previous experience in journalism production (demonstrated through CV or CVs of applicants and the list of published content) – 50 points and
- Financial offer – 50 points.

An agreement will be concluded with the candidate who will receive the most points according to these criteria, in which mutual rights and obligations will be determined in more detail.

6. Clarification of the tender documentation

If you need additional information regarding this Call, you can contact nina@metamoprphosis.org.mk.

7. Amendment and addition to the tender documentation

Metamorphosis reserves the right, no later than 2 days before the deadline for submission of offers, at its discretion or on the basis of submitted questions for explanation submitted by the bidders, to amend or supplement the tender documentation, for which it will immediately publish the amendment and will notify potential bidders who have submitted a request for clarification.

In case of amendment of the tender documentation, Metamorphosis may extend the deadline for submission of the offer upon request if there are justified reasons for this and it will make an appropriate announcement.

8. Payment method and conditions

Payment will be made after the submitting of the final edited version of the investigative story.

9. Notice to Bidders

The selected most favorable bidder will be notified via the email address specified in the bid. The Metamorphosis Foundation reserves the right to contact only selected offers.

Detailed Overview of the Bidder's Obligations and Timeline of the Engagement

• Objective

The overall objective of this engagement is to collect and publicly share evidence of illegal/corrupt activities or misuse of power, including unethical conduct by a certain authority, leader or in broader terms a center of power in the media sphere in the countries of the Western Balkan region (WB).

• Methodology and topic selection

The selected journalist(s) will be required to follow the research methodology of the project, that is based on the Metamorphosis approach of combining different journalistic genres with experiences from human rights advocacy projects to achieve maximum effect and citizen engagement.

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A document explaining the tentative research questions and draft research topics of the investigative stories will be provided to the selected journalist(s) and in collaboration with the editors-in-chief the selection of the topic will be finalized.

- **Provided materials and support**

The journalist(s) will be provided with the content and research published throughout the year by Metamorphosis and its partners. Metamorphosis Foundation will support the journalist(s) with all available resources and contacts during the engagement timeframe.

- **Editorial policy and publication**

The investigative stories will undergo an editing process by the editors-in-chief of Metamorphosis's in-house media and/or the editors-in-chief the partners' organization/newsroom.

The investigative story should be submitted in the working language of the journalist(s) no later than September 30th 2023.

The investigative story will be published on the in-house media of Metamorphosis Foundation and the media platform where the journalist(s) currently work at.

- **Timeline**

Month	Activity	Explanation
March 2023	1 day training	The training will be held by the editors-in-chief. The goal of the training is to introduce the journalists to the Methodology and the tentative research topics. Attendance at the training is mandatory.
March 2023 – September 2023	Writing of the investigative story	Preparation of the story with support and provided resources by the Metamorphosis team.
September 2023	Submitting the final version of the story	The journalist(s) will submit the final version of the story
October 2023	Editing of the final version of the story	Upon receiving the story with editors remarks the journalist(s) has 10 days to implement them and submit the final edited version ready to be published
October 2023 – December 2023	Publishing of the story	Publishing the investigative story on the media platform where the journalist(s) work and the Metamorphosis's media.

A precise timeline will be determined through agreement of the journalist(s) and Metamorphosis Team.