



WESTERN BALKAN ANTI-DISINFORMATION HUB
EXPOSING MALIGN INFLUENCES THROUGH WATCHDOG JOURNALISM

For the needs of the project Western Balkans Anti-Disinformation Hub Exposing Malign Influences through Watchdog Journalism financed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the basis of the Grant Agreement with reference number 4000005359, the Foundation for Internet and Society Metamorphosis Skopje announces

CALL FOR TENDERS

for procurement of services for mid-term evaluation of the project “Western Balkans Anti-Disinformation Hub Exposing Malign Influences through Watchdog Journalism”

1. Contracting Authority

Foundation for Internet and Society Metamorphosis Skopje, Western Balkans Anti-Disinformation Hub Exposing Malign Influences through Watchdog Journalism financed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the basis of the Grant Agreement with reference number 4000005359.

2. Project background

Metamorphosis Foundation from Skopje (North Macedonia) in partnership with ISAC – International and Security Affairs Centre, think tank from Serbia; Zašto ne (Why Not) from Bosnia and Herzegovina, founder of the fact-checking services Istinomjer.ba and Raskrinkavanje.ba (fcs); Center for Democratic Transition from Montenegro, founder of the fact checking service Raskrinkavanje.me (fcs); Faktoje.al, fact-checking service from Albania and Sbunker.net media publishing organization from Kosovo implement the project Western Balkans Anti-Disinformation Hub Exposing Malign Influences through Watchdog Journalism. The project **aims** to expose foreign malign influence in Western Balkans by debunking and mapping the flow of disinformation, misinformation and propaganda originating from external actors through the region.

The total **duration** of the project is 3.5 years (42 months) from November 2021 to April 2025.

Specific project goals:

- To increase the capacity of journalists and media outlets to identify, document, report and debunk foreign malign influences.
- Educate the public about the nature and effects of disinformation by external actors.
- Advocate for increased public debate and increased demand for constructive policy measures
- To develop a model for dealing with disinformation from foreign malign sources

Expected results:

- Increased awareness and public knowledge of disinformation ecosystems in the Western Balkans by providing a data-driven early warning infrastructure.



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- Production of informative and educational media content for exposure disinformation based on an innovative data-driven methodology for identifying, tracking and exposing foreign malign influences.
- Creation of a multilateral network composed of civil society representatives and media organizations, including fact-checkers and news outlets, think tanks and others stakeholders, which serves as a platform for joint media coverage, media monitoring and capacity building.
- A modern model for dealing with disinformation, based on a methodology for recognition and reporting of foreign malignant influence in the region of the Western Balkans (North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo) applicable outside the region where it was developed, especially in places where such toxic influence does not receive adequate attention from the media and the political elite.

Project activities:

- Development of regional infrastructure based on early warning data which will serve to prevent the harmful influence in the region from disinformation campaigns originating from foreign actors.
- Watchdog journalism – production of high-quality journalistic content in the form of reviews, analysis and research stories. Creating a multi-faceted network composed of representatives from civil society and media organizations, including checks of facts and news, think tanks and other interested parties, which serves as a platform for joint media coverage, media monitoring and capacity building.
- Research focused on mapping, documenting and explaining the sites of malignant foreign influence in each country and the WB as a whole. Collection and analysis of data that will result in the creation of an early warning infrastructure data-driven, centered around the database.
- Public information and advocacy – engaging the general audience and increasing the awareness through a promotional campaign for public education and information through social media; contributing to policy change through consultation on advocacy and public events that bring together relevant stakeholders to increase their awareness and engagement in the public debate about malignant foreign influences.

3. Subject of the contract for procurement of service

The subject of the contract for procurement of service is the mid-term evaluation of the project Western Balkans Anti-Disinformation Hub Exposing Malign Influences through Watchdog Journalism.

3.1 Tasks and results with a timeframe

Activities and tasks to be covered are shown in the table below. All submitted products must be in English.

Activities and tasks	Deadline for submission
A1. Creating and presenting a draft- structure of evaluations and a draft methodology that takes into account the guidelines from item 3. Methodology and approach.	2 weeks after the contract
A2. Draft - Mid-term evaluation - Assessment of the current progress in	30 April 2023



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realization of the set goals and results of the project from the beginning of implementation (November 1st, 2021 - December 31st, 2022).	
A3. Mid-term evaluation - Assessment of the current progress in the realization of the set goals and results of the project from the beginning of implementation (November 1st, 2021 - December 31st, 2022).	31 May 2023

Note: The timeframe is subject to change according to the needs of the project.

Any possible change initiated by the selected tenderer must be pre-approved by Metamorphosis.

The engagement includes follow-up meetings with project coordinators and partners in each country and the Metamorphosis Foundation team. Meetings can be conducted online or face-to-face.

3.2 Methodology and approach

The project evaluation should be based on the following:

- Reports from partners in the project;
- Interviews with partners in the project;
- Monitoring reports from partners in the project;
- Journalistic contents;
- Materials from events, trainings, advocacy meetings;
- Other project documents.

The above mentioned documents will be submitted by the project team and partner organizations from the region. During the evaluation, the selected institution, individual, team of experts, company or similar organization should consider the following elements:

- Performance (Balance between benefits/products and costs);
- Process (Focus and style of participation);
- Impact (The relationship between products and results);
- Strategy (Did the activities reach the goals?).

The basis for measuring the impact and progress is the the Logical Framework included in the project's project application.

4. Conditions and criteria for participating in the call

To participate in the contract award procedure, bidders must meet the following criteria for determining their eligibility:

- Previous experience with project evaluation (at least 5 project evaluations in the last 5 years);
- High level of knowledge and application of English (oral and written);



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- Knowledge of the area will be considered an advantage;
- Positive attitude and ability to work with strict deadlines;
- Willingness to participate in project-related meetings and events, online, in-country and abroad (if conditions permit).

5. The tender should contain the following elements:

- a. The financial offer should be prepared according to the form given in Annex 1.
- b. A statement by which the bidder confirms that he meets the criteria for determination of personal status according to the form given as Annex 2.
- c. CV/summary for each expert, which must contain a detailed and clear explanation of the required qualifications specified in the instructions to tenderers. Metamorphosis has the right to request evidence of any qualification listed in the CV of the proposed experts.

Each tenderer can participate with only one tender.

The tender, as well as all correspondence and documents related to the tender that are exchanged with the tenderer, are written in Macedonian or English filled in manually or electronically.

Those tenders that will not contain the necessary elements or are not made according to the propositions of the call, will not be considered for further evaluation.

6. Period during which tenders are binding

The tender binding period should be at least 90 days from the day of the deadline for submission of tenders during which period the bid in all its elements are binding for the tenderer.

7. Clarification of the tender documentation

All requests for clarifications of the tender documentation can be sent to e-mail: nina@metamorphosis.org.mk , no later than 11.03.2023, 16:00. The requested clarifications after the tender documentation will be published no later than 2 days before the deadline for submission of tenders in the same way as this call was published.

8. Amendments to the tender documentation

Metamorphosis reserves the right, no later than 4 days before the deadline for submission of tenders, at its discretion or based on the submitted explanatory questions by the tenderers, to amend or supplement the tender documentation. This will be published immediately and potential tenderers who have submitted a request for clarification will be notified.



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

9. Manner of submitting tenders

- Tenders are submitted in Macedonian or English.
- Tenders should be submitted electronically by e-mail to nina@metamorphosis.org.mk, by courier service or in person in a sealed envelope marked "DO NOT OPEN" for " Western Balkans Anti-Disinformation Hub Exposing Malign Influences through Watchdog Journalism" Project-Competition for project evaluation.
- Tenders must be original and signed, and if submitted electronically, the signed originals must be scanned.

10. The deadline for submission of tenders is 15.03.2023 until 16:00.

The tenders that will arrive after the stated deadline will not be considered for further evaluation.

11. Method and conditions of payment

The payment will be made after the realization of the service, i.e. after submitting a report on the work done and its approval by the project.

50% of the tender amount will be paid upon submission of the mid-term evaluation report and its approval by the project. The remaining 50% of the tender amount will be paid after the submission of the final evaluation report and its approval by the project.

12. Criteria for contract awarding

The selection of suppliers will be done by evaluating the qualitative and financial offer (80 points for quality offer and 20 points for financial offer).

Element	Maximum points
1. Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Previous experience with project evaluation presented through the submitted CVs- Similarity of the projects that the experts evaluated in their own career with the project to be evaluated	80



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2. Price	20
Total (1+2)	100

For the quality criterion, the following aspects will be evaluated:

- Previous experience with project evaluation presented through the submitted CVs
- Similarity of the projects that the experts evaluated in their own career with the project to be evaluated

The tenderer who will receive the most points in total (quality + price) will be selected.

The Metamorphosis Foundation reserves the right not to select a tenderer if the Commission decides that none of the tenders meets the criteria set out in the Task Description above (2).

13. Notification of the tenderers

After the evaluation of the submitted tenders, the Commission will submit to all participants in the tender a notification with information about the selected most favorable tenderer, as well as the reasons for non-selection of other tenders. The notice will be sent to the email address provided in the tender.