



Open Call for Consultancy Services

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – STUDY ON REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF FORMER TERRORISTS AND VIOLENT EXTREMISTS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Reference Number: 014-017

Terms of Reference:	Study on rehabilitation and reintegration of former terrorists and violent extremists in South East Europe
Contracting Authority:	Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat
Starting Date:	1 June 2017
Reporting to:	Senior Advisor on Security Policy Issues
Duration:	1 June – 10 November 2017 (maximum 30 working days)
Application Deadline:	15 May 2017

I BACKGROUND

Purpose

The purpose of the consultancy is to assist in the implementation of the RCC commitments in prevention and countering violent extremism, as defined by the RCC South East European Regional Platform for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (SEE Regional CVE-FTF Platform).

The main expected output is the study on the needs and possibilities for disengagement, de-radicalization, rehabilitation, and reintegration of former FTF, terrorists and violent extremists in the Western Balkans. The situation with the former and current foreign terrorist fighters (FTF), terrorists and violent extremists currently living in the six jurisdictions of the Western Balkans should be assessed as regards their number and actual level of terrorist and violent extremist activities in the mentioned territories. Based on such an assessment, the report should identify the need for tailor-made programmes for disengagement, de-radicalization, rehabilitation, and reintegration of former FTF, terrorists and violent extremists in the Western Balkans. Existing action plans and programmes (those whose implementation are already underway, adopted but

not yet implemented, and those still in the drafting stage) are to be identified, listed, described, and assessed in the report. The study should also contain region-wide and jurisdiction-specific conclusions and recommendations for creation and implementation of current and future such action plans and programmes.

Background information

The interlinked phenomena of radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism pose a significant security risk for South East Europe. The risk is increased by many individuals from the Western Balkans who joined the ranks of FTF in Syria and elsewhere during the last couple of years. Due to the changed situation on the battlefields, but also stronger response of the national authorities and enhanced bilateral, regional, and international cooperation, the outflow of FTF from WB has effectively stopped. However, the movement in the opposite direction has started, with former FTF returning to their countries of origin or permanent residence.

In spite of more proactive, better planned, increasingly coordinated and successful response of the RCC and other international and regional organisations and initiatives, national authorities, civil society, religious communities, academia, and media, terrorists and violent extremists continue with their activities to lure, brainwash, infuse with extreme ideologies and finally radicalize people in the Western Balkans, especially youth. Their prey is in particular those feeling excluded, marginalized, and without perspective – and there are many young people in WB who feel so. Many among them are less educated, poorer, and in general “less successful” than most.

In addition to this, the prevailing socio-economic and political situation in the Western Balkans, with relatively slow economic growth, high youth unemployment, and quite widespread feeling of a lack of perspective among the youth contribute to creating a fertile ground for the propaganda of violent extremism.

The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) promotes mutual cooperation and European integration of South East Europe in order to enhance development in the region to the benefit of the citizens of the region.

Tasked by the Ministers of the South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP Joint Statement on Terrorism of SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Tirana, 24 February 2015; Joint Statement of the Conference of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers of the Brdo-Brijuni Process and SEECP, Budva, Montenegro, 17 April 2015), the RCC has developed the Regional Platform for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (SEE Regional CVE-FTF Platform), accepted by the RCC Board on its session on 15 October 2015. The activities performed under the Platform generally fall under two categories: 1) political and policy coordination of P-CVE activities in SEE, and 2) practical, results-oriented activities, such as workshops, conferences, and research.

II DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Objectives and Scope of Assignment

The main objective of the assignment is to produce a report on the needs and possibilities for disengagement, de-radicalization, rehabilitation, and reintegration of former FTF, terrorists and violent extremists in the Western Balkans. The situation with the former foreign terrorist fighters (FTF), and current and former terrorists and violent extremists living in the six jurisdictions of the Western Balkans should be assessed as regards their number and actual level of terrorist and violent extremist activities in the mentioned territories. Based on such an assessment, the report should identify the needs for tailor-made programmes for disengagement, de-radicalization, rehabilitation, and reintegration of former FTF, terrorists and violent extremists in the Western Balkans. Existing actions plans and programmes (those whose implementation are already underway, adopted but not yet implemented, and those still in the drafting stage) are to be identified, listed, described, and assessed in the report. The report should contain region-wide and jurisdiction-specific conclusions and recommendations for creation and implementation of current and future such actions plans and programmes, as well as examples of good practices at regional and European level.

The report should contain: (i) brief narrative general introduction explaining the current level of the risk of radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism in the Western Balkans, with particular regard to “returnees” (former FTF); (ii) description of the situation in each of six jurisdictions; (iii) identification of needs for disengagement, de-radicalization and rehabilitation and existing and planned such programmes; and (iv) conclusions and recommendations (general, for the RCC, and for the relevant national authorities).

The expert conducting the study should carefully explore the needs and possibilities for inclusion of local communities into the programmes for rehabilitation and reintegration of former FTF, terrorists and violent extremists in the Western Balkans. Conclusions and recommendations in this respect should be included in the report. Possibilities for inclusion of education in such programmes should also be researched and included in the study, especially as regards education and training for skilled trade qualifications for people participating in rehabilitation and reintegration programmes (whether imprisoned or not).

Tasks expected to be carried out

- Conduct a desk research on the state of play in the researched area.
- Conduct on-the-ground research in all six WB jurisdictions, with consultations at expert level, where needed, by travelling to the region (maximum six trips).
- If necessary, perform on-the-ground research at appropriate locations in Western Europe, with consultations at expert level, by travelling to the locations agreed with the RCC Secretariat where there is a considerable experience in disengagement and de-radicalization programmes (maximum two trips). Purpose of such visits, if found necessary, would be to

identify good practices which may be used as a guidance for similar programmes in the Western Balkans.

- Prepare the first outline, than the whole report, keeping to the schedule (deadlines) set by the RCC.
- Integrate any comments received from the RCC into the *final* version of the report.
- Prepare the final version of the report.

The envisioned level of effort is set at a maximum of 30 working days.

Deliverables

The following deliverables will be produced and transferred to the RCC during the course of the assignment:

- Outline of the report (introduction, structure and the methodology of the report) produced 15 calendar days after the assignment.
- Draft of the whole report produced 80 calendar days after the assignment.
- Finalisation of the document expected 7 calendar days after receiving the final set of comments from the RCC.
- Presentation of the results to the Group of National CVE-FTF Focal Points and publishing of the report at the RCC websites.

Timeframe

The total duration of the engagement will be approximately five months, starting on 1 June 2017 and finishing by 10 November 2017.

III COMPETENCIES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ University degree in political science, international relations, security studies, law, or related field. Advanced degree with thesis directly related to the subject of engagement would be an advantage. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Proven record of theoretical knowledge and practical experience and expertise in the areas described herein; minimum of 10 years of work experience, out of which 5 years of experience related to the scope of work; |

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrable drafting skills; ▪ Proven analytical skills and ability to conceptualise and write concisely and clearly; ▪ Proven communication and presentation skills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fluency in English, as the official language of the RCC. Knowledge of one or multiple languages of the Western Balkans would be an advantage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Familiar with MS Office applications

Core Competencies

- Demonstrates professional competence to meet responsibilities and post-requirements and is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results;
- Results-orientation: Plans and produces quality results to meet established goals, generates innovative and practical solutions to challenging situations;
- Communication: Excellent communication skills, including the ability to convey complex concepts and recommendations in a clear and persuasive style tailored to match different audiences;
- Team work: Ability to interact, establish and maintain effective working relations with a culturally diverse team; and
- Client orientation: Ability to establish and maintain productive partnerships with regional and national partners and stakeholders and pro-activeness in identifying the needs of beneficiaries and partners, as well as matching them to appropriate solutions.

Core Values

- Demonstrates integrity and fairness by modelling RCC values and ethical standards;
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.

IV QUALITY CONTROL

The expert should ensure an internal quality control during the implementing and reporting phase of the assignment. The quality control should ensure that the draft reports comply with the above requirements and meet adequate quality standards before sending them to stakeholders for comments. The quality control should ensure consistency and coherence between findings, conclusions and recommendations. It should also ensure that findings reported are duly substantiated and that conclusions are supported by relevant judgment criteria.

The views expressed in the report will be those of the Contractor and will not necessarily reflect those of the Regional Cooperation Council. Therefore, a standard disclaimer reflecting this will be included in the report. In this regard, the expert may or may not accept comments and/or

proposals for changes received during the above consultation process. However, when comments/proposals for changes are not agreed by the expert, he/she should clearly explain the reasons for his/her final decision in a comments table.

Quality Control by the Regional Cooperation Council

The consultant outputs shall be reviewed by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). The RCC may also engage one or more outside reviewers.

The final (second) draft shall be reviewed by the Regional Cooperation Council taking account of the previous comments made and how the expert has handled these comments. The approved final report will be subject to a quality assessment by the Political Department of the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat, upon whose endorsement the report would be distributed and made public.

Relevant documents and useful links:

- <http://www.rcc.int/p-cve/>
- <http://www.qkss.org/en/Occasional-Papers>
- Azinović, Vlado – Jusić, Muhamed: *The Lure of the Syrian War: the Foreign Fighters' Bosnian Contingent*, preliminary study, Sarajevo, Atlantic Initiative, 2015 – to be provided on demand to perspective bidders
- <http://www.osce.org/what/terrorism>
- <http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/>
- <http://www.strategicdialogue.org/>
- <http://www.againstviolentextremism.org/>
- <http://www.eurasia.undp.org/>
- <http://csd.bg>
- <http://racviac.org/>
- http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/index_en.htm
- <http://www.hedayah.ae/>

V APPLICATION RULES

Qualified candidates are invited to send an application via e-mail to ProcurementforRCC@rcc.int no later than: **15 May 2017, at 17.00** Central European Time.

The consultancy will be awarded to the highest qualified applicant based on the skills, expertise, and the quality of the concept note and the cost-effectiveness of the financial offer;

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

The application needs to contain the following:

- Letter of interest for the assignment;
- CV(s) including information on relevant knowledge and experience, as well as list of publications if applicable;
- Reference list including contact details (e-mail addresses) of referees;
- An outline work programme of a maximum of 3 pages describing the main issues, a possible structure of the document, sources of information to be used, research tools to be employed by the consultant.
- Application Submission Form, Annex 1;
- Financial offer.

When preparing the financial offer, the applicant should take into account the following:

- The proposed budget should include daily fee rate for consulting services; the fee rates should be broadly consistent with the EU framework rates for these types of professional services.

VI EVALUATION AND SELECTION

The application is evaluated on the basis of the profile and competencies of the candidate and the responsiveness to the Terms of Reference (ToR).

1. Profile and Competencies
2. An outline work programme
3. Financial evaluation based on Annex II.

The best value for money is established by weighing technical quality against price on a 80/20 basis.

Technical Evaluation

EVALUATION GRID	Maximum score
University degree in political science, international relations, security studies, law, or related field. Advanced degree with thesis directly related to the subject of engagement would be an advantage.	30
Proven record of theoretical knowledge and practical experience and expertise in the areas described herein; minimum of 10 years of	30

work experience, out of which 5 years of experience related to the scope of work;	
An outline work programe maximum 3 pages Demonstrable drafting skills; Proven analytical skills and ability to conceptualise and write concisely and clearly; Proven communication and presentation skills.	30
Fluency in English, as the official language of the RCC. Knowledge of one or multiple languages of the Western Balkans would be an advantage	10
TOTAL SCORE	100

In addition to the results of the application, a competencies based interview will be held with the selected candidates.

Financial Evaluation

Financial Proposal/ cheapest price has maximum score	100
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ANNEX I:

APPLICATION SUBMISSION FORM

REF: 014-017-017 Open Call for Consultancy Services

One signed copy of this Application Submission Form must be supplied.

1 SUBMITTED by:

Name	
Surname	
Address	
Telephone	
Fax	
e-mail	

3 **DECLARATION**

[Name] _____ hereby declares that we have examined and accepted without reserve or restriction the entire contents of the Open Call for Consultancy 014-017.

And we are not in one of the following situations:

- (a) Bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) Have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) Have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the Contracting Authority can justify;
- (d) Have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the Contracting Authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;

- (e) Have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity.
- (f) Are civil servants or other agents of the public administration of the RCC Participants, regardless of the administrative situation, excluding us from being recruited as experts in contracts financed by the RCC Secretariat.

We offer to provide the services requested in the open call for consultancy on the basis of supplied documentation subject of this call, which comprise our technical offer and our financial offer.

Name and Surname	
Signature	
Date	

ANNEX II: BUDGET BREAKDOWN

REF: 014-017

No	Cost categories	Daily fee rate	Total Cost
2	TOTAL COSTS		
3	VAT (if applicable):		
	GRAND TOTAL (2+3):		

NOTE:

Proposed daily fee rate for consulting services should be broadly consistent with the EU framework rates for these types of professional services.

It is estimated that experts would conduct the field visit. Costs of the trip(s) will be treated separately based on actual costs of each trip i.e. accommodation, meals and transport. These costs are not subject to the price ceiling.