

## Annex 10 to Internews Europe Procurement policy & procedures

### Terms of Reference (TOR)

## Regional research into the problem of radicalisation leading to violent extremism in Central Asia

Internews, in the framework of the project “Strengthening Resilience to Radicalisation and Disinformation in Central Asia”, implemented by Internews and funded by the European Union is planning to conduct ***a regional research into the problem of radicalization leading to violent extremism in Central Asia.***

### Services provision

#### 1. GOAL

1.1 **Goal of the research:** to study the meanings / meanings, ideas and views, messages and content created and distributed by banned extremist groups offline and online among local communities of the Central Asian region.

#### 1.2 Objectives of the research:

- analyse narratives spread through social media, informal personal networks, and traditional media;
- identify how these narratives engender values and perceptions among different members of the targeted communities, specifically young women and men;
- explore who, how, when, where, and to whom radicalising narratives target; and
- suggest appropriate communication strategies to respond to radical messaging on traditional media, social networks, as well as offline and community activities.

#### 1.3. Context and overview

It is assumed that the research planned under the project will be based on the results of two regional researches conducted as part of the completed “Contributing to Peace and Stability in Central Asia” Project, which was implemented in 2018-2019. The first one [“Information Flows and Radicalization Leading to Violent Extremism in Central Asia”](#) was conducted by Search for Common Ground in Kyrgyzstan: the study provides the understanding of the link between information ecosystems and radicalization through the identification and analysis of local factors of extremist sympathies, reliable sources of information and the necessary types of support to moderate local votes.

The second research [“Violent Extremism in Central Asia”](#) was carried out by the SecDev Group, and Public Foundation Civil Initiative on Internet Policy. The study includes an analysis of the publicly available content of social networks, blogs and online forums that used to promote the ideologies of violent extremism and terrorism.

Based on the findings and recommendations of the abovementioned researches, it is suggested that the following issues will be explored in a new study:

- Values and ideas generated and cultivated by radical groups among youth in the target countries, and why they resonate with the audience offline and on social media: closed communities, public groups or open professional groups;
- Sources and language of radical ideology on local and external (content targeting local population and global audience that is posted and distributed on social media and messengers) communication channels (social media and instant messaging applications);
- Hate speech and its role in radicalisation; The discourse of banned radical groups on social networks and in instant messaging applications, dynamics and changes in their communication strategies after defeat of ISIS;
- Evidence on ways to strengthen local young voices offering alternatives to radicalisation and isolation. Communication strategies to promote positive narratives among groups that are vulnerable to radicalisation (with a focus on youth).

## 2-SCOPE

### 2.1 The research should include:

#### 1. *Desk study:*

Analysis of available researches in this area published during the last 15 months. Researches conducted by international and non-profit organizations, governmental and independent structures of the CA countries. Analysis of government programs and concepts in the field of preventing radicalization leading to violence in five countries of Central Asia.

#### 2. *Content analysis of narratives*

- Analysis of narratives that have been disseminated by extremist groups in the past 12 months in all target countries (except for Turkmenistan).
- Analysis of the features of the hate speeches, grievances and values of the banned organizations attracted by the youth of the countries of Central Asia;
- Analysis of fakes, disinformation disseminated by the banned organizations.

#### 3. *Field study*

Development of a questionnaire in Central Asian languages (Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Tajik, Kazakh, Russian). Regional representation for each country (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) is minimum for each country - 1,000 respondents, considering gender balance, selection of regions (oblasts) from each country including justification why the specified region (oblast) of each country was selected?

#### The questionnaire should include the following areas:

1. What views, concepts, ideas, values, content distributed by banned extremist organizations on the Internet and why they are attractive for young people in Central Asia;
2. What social groups and youth communities are targeted for banned extremist organizations on the Internet.
3. What communication channels in the countries of Central Asia (social networks, messengers) become a place for polemic and discussions, calls of banned radical groups;
4. What alternative narratives distributed through online and offline contribute to the prevention of radicalization in Central Asian countries.

The findings and recommendations will be shared with media professionals, state authorities, civic activists, religious leaders and citizens, through public presentations in target countries.

**4. *Communication strategies*** to respond to radical messaging on traditional media, social networks, as well as offline and community activities of banned groups and organizations that can be used by media professionals, state authorities, civic activists, religious leaders and active citizens. Changes and adjustments to narratives in the media and media space. Recommendations for media workers,

government officials, civic activists, religious leaders, and active citizens on how to develop communication strategies online and offline to prevent radicalization leading to violent extremism in their communities through the development of positive stories and in line with international politics.

## 2.2. Expected outcomes

1. Regional study conducted in five countries.
2. Recommendations to media professionals, state authorities, civic activists, religious leaders and active citizens on how to develop communication strategies online and offline to prevent radicalisation leading to violent extremism in their communities through the development of positive narratives and in line with international policies.
3. One compiled analytical report, covering all research findings of Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).
4. Five analytical reports (one per target country) along with the recommendations will be produced and disseminated among key stakeholder groups.

**Important! Research and other related reports should be provided and agreed in Russian, final versions of researches and all annexes should be submitted in English.**

**2.3 Period of contract:** 1 February – 15 September 2020.

## 3. DELIVERY PLAN

3.1. The stages of implementation:

Activity	Period	Comment
Methodology of research	1-1,5 month	The first report should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Methodology</li> <li>o Tools for data collection</li> <li>o Questionnaire</li> <li>o Detail schedule of the research</li> </ul>
Desk study, content analysis, field study	3-4 months	A preliminary report, first findings and baseline data are expected before the final draft report is submitted.
Development of communication strategies	1 month	
First draft of one compiled report and five analytical reports	At the end of 6-7 <sup>th</sup> month	
Final report	At the end of 8 <sup>th</sup> month	

**Important! Research and other related reports should be provided and agreed in Russian, final versions of researches and all annexes should be submitted in English.**

## 4. PAYMENT CONDITIONS

4.1. Payment schedule

Instalment	Requirement	Timeline for deliverables
First instalment (50 %)	Methodology of research is submitted	By March 15, 2020
Second installment (30%)	First draft of the research including desk study, content analysis, field study and communication strategies	By July 15, 2020
Final report (20%)	Final report submitted and approved	By September 1, 2020

## 5. OTHER CONDITIONS

### 5.1 Performance monitoring requirements:

1. Gender considerations have to be mainstreamed in all activities listed above.
2. Representatives of IEU or donor should be engaged during normal business hours and upon prior written notice given to any such visits to monitor research activities and participating during field survey activities.