Terms of Reference: Outcome Evaluation of EHRAC’s Capacity Building Programme in Georgia, Russia and Ukraine

Summary of Evaluation Needs

We are looking for an experienced evaluator to carry out at outcome level evaluation of our international litigation capacity building programme in Georgia, Russia and Ukraine. The evaluation will focus on two projects implemented between 2018-2019, one funded by the European Commission (European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights – EIDHR) and the other by a foreign ministry. The evaluator should use the data collected by EHRAC throughout the project as part of the evaluation, whilst also carrying out additional independent desk based data collection.

About EHRAC

We are a team of expert lawyers and NGO-management professionals, specialising in international human rights law, focusing primarily on the European Convention on Human Rights. We operate as an independent human rights centre, based within Middlesex University School of Law, London.

We use international legal mechanisms to challenge serious human rights abuses in Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Ukraine, in partnership with committed local lawyers and NGOs, see our 2018 annual report for a full list of local partners and cases. We aim to secure justice for victims of human rights violations and their families, and bring about lasting systemic change in the region.

We build and strengthen the expertise of human rights lawyers and NGOs operating in challenging circumstances by providing long-term legal mentoring, bespoke training, and ongoing advice and support. Working in close collaboration, we take ground-breaking cases on behalf of vulnerable and marginalised communities. We set new international legal precedents which improve human rights standards, and advocate to ensure that state authorities fulfil their human rights obligations.

Scope

This evaluation relates to two of EHRAC’s funded projects which end in December 2019, one which focuses on Georgia, Russia and Ukraine and the other on Ukraine only. The evaluation should focus on the mentoring and capacity building components of EHRAC’s work in these three countries only, and on activities carried out during 2018 and 2019 calendar years. Although these are separately funded projects with distinct actions, the capacity building outcomes and results are to an extent indivisible, considering the same lawyer may have been mentored or trained under both projects.

In addition, the wider EIDHR funded project outcomes should also be considered in the evaluation.

The programme

EHRAC’s mentoring and capacity building programme seeks to ensure there is a well-equipped legal community that is able to hold those in power to account in our target region. We do this by enhancing the litigation skills and capacity of human rights lawyers to challenge human rights violations at international fora through peer-to-peer mentoring, tailored training and bespoke resources for high-quality litigation.

Between 2018-2019, EHRAC will have:
Delivered 11 legal trainings
Mentored at least 22 lawyers from 12 organisations, and 9 individual lawyers in these countries (total 31)
Delivered two Legal Skills Development Programmes (our flagship training programme in Strasbourg)
Developed and shared a range of guides, resources and case related updates on our website, social media

Evaluation Questions and Requirements
There are two key components to this evaluation

1. Under EHRAC’s wider capacity building programme in Georgia, Russia and Ukraine:
   a) What has EHRAC achieved (on an outcome and impact level) as a result of its capacity building programme?
b) Are there any unexpected negative outcomes, associated with EHRAC capacity building activities?
What is the added value of EHRAC’s mentoring and capacity building for a) the individual lawyers b) the organisations they are part of?
How can EHRAC better assess and identify improvements in the quality of litigation by mentored partners?

2. Under the EIDHR project:
What traction have EHRAC and the Regional Centre for Human Rights, RCHR (co-implementing partner) made in achieving the desired project outcomes?
What unexpected results or outcomes can be identified?
How can EHRAC and RCHR improve its management and collaboration on jointly-delivered projects?

Methods
EHRAC routinely collects the following data that could be used as part of the evaluation:

- Narrative assessments of legal drafts by partners
- Pre and post surveys following trainings and legal clinics
- Completed feedback forms following mentoring activities
- Quarterly partner reports from the RCHR

Given the limitations of some of the data collected, we would like the evaluator to collect additional data (primarily desk-based) consisting of:

- Desk research
- Document review
- Interviews and/or surveys

We would be particularly interested in developing a framework or system to assess improvements in the litigation quality/legal drafting skills of our partners which could then be

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1 This question relates to the impact of developing the skills of one lawyer within an organisation, on the wider organisational capacity, strategy, quality of litigation - for example are enhanced litigation skills then used to build the capacity of other more junior lawyers, or to develop higher quality strategic litigation strategies (as opposed to EHRAC providing organisational capacity support and the result of this).
2 Currently this is only done via self-reporting of the lawyers themselves, or anecdotally by our legal team.
implemented beyond this specific evaluation. We would also welcome ideas or proposals for other less traditional methods deemed appropriate for this evaluation.

Budget

EHRAC has a budget of up to £5000 available for this evaluation.

Timing

The evaluation should be completed by the end of December 2019/Early January 2020.

Governance and accountability

This evaluation will be overseen by a steering group, led by EHRAC’s Head of Programmes, and will consist of the Head of Programmes, EHRAC’s Programme Support Officer, and EHRAC’s Legal Director. In addition, the Executive Director from the Regional Centre for Human Rights (Ukraine) will be a key contact for the evaluation focused on the EIDHR Ukraine project evaluation.

Qualifications and Experience

- Experience of evaluating human rights, rule of law or litigation focused programmes
- Experience of evaluating capacity building programmes and projects
- Excellent quantitative and qualitative analysis skills
- The ability to write clear, concise and evidence driven reports
- Russian, Ukrainian or Georgian language skills would be an advantage

Deliverables

1. A concise Evaluation Report (including executive summary, findings, data limitations, conclusions, recommendations, and at least two case stories/in depth profiles)
2. A "sub"-report on EIDHR Ukraine project evaluation only

Application and Selection

To apply, please send the following to P.Regan@Mdx.ac.uk by 20 Oct 2019:

- A CV or summary of your or your agency’s experience
- An example of a completed evaluation
- An expression of interest letter, summarising your proposed approach and suitability (we will request further details for bids we find to be the strongest).

For questions or queries please contact Patrick Regan, Head of Programmes on 0208 411 6923 or P.Regan@Mdx.ac.uk

Summary project documents are available on request, please email P.regan@mdx.ac.uk to request these to prepare your bid.