

Terms of Reference for a Final Evaluation

For "Cross-border and Cross-Sector Dialogue for Tolerance and Peace in Central Asia" project

Background information

The European Union funded project «Cross-Border and Cross-Sector Dialogue for Tolerance and Peace in Central Asia» aims to facilitate multi-stakeholder and cross-border dialogue and cooperation between Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan for the promotion of tolerance and prevention of radicalization. The project is implemented by a consortium led by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in partnership with three national partners: the National Movement «Yuksalish» (Uzbekistan), The Ecological Movement «BIOM» (Kyrgyzstan), and the Public Organization “Gender and Development” (Tajikistan).

The project aimed to promote multilateral cross-border dialogue and cooperation between Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to raise awareness about the causes of violent extremism, promote tolerance and understanding, prevent radicalization, and build the capacity of local civil society in the border areas of the three countries. The project increased the capacity of youth, educational institutions, initiative groups, media and civil society organisations for their active involvement in peacebuilding processes, and multicultural and interreligious dialogue in the border areas.

1. Project Overview

Project Partners	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V. BIOM Ecological Movement, Kyrgyzstan Yuksalish National Movement, Uzbekistan Gender and Development NGO, Tajikistan
Overall Objective	OO: To facilitate multi-stakeholder and cross-border dialogue and cooperation between Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan for the promotion of tolerance and mutual understanding and the prevention of radicalization.
Target Groups	The project will target the following target groups in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, especially in Fergana Valley: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth• Youth leaders and trainers• Educators• Higher education institutions• Civil society• Journalists• Decision makers and policy makers• Local communities and authorities
Duration	41 months (1st March 2020 – 25 July 2023)
Location	Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Specific Objectives	SO: To raise awareness of the roots of violent extremism and the importance of a good mutual understanding, to build capacities of local civil society in border region of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and to initiate and institutionalise different cross-border and cross-sector dialogue formats for promotion of tolerance, prevention of violent extremism and for a better cooperation between border communities and between civil society and local / national authorities.
Expected Results	<p>R1: Potential threats and causes of violent extremism related to different target groups are analysed, media and young people are sensitised and awareness among the population for the need of a peaceful coexistence has been raised.</p> <p>R2: Capacity of local civil society actors, in particular youth grass-root initiatives stakeholders in the educational field and local authorities to promote mutual understanding and to prevent violent extremism in the border region between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have been strengthened.</p> <p>R3: Different cross-border and cross-sector dialogue platforms for deepening people-to-people contacts, fighting stereotypes, confidence building and promotion of tolerance have been installed and are functioning.</p>
Main activities	<p>1.1: Needs assessment, situational analysis, baseline research for the project conducted</p> <p>1.2: Mapping of youth, conflict sensitivity of local authorities and the role of media conducted</p> <p>1.3: Media strategy on religious tolerance, prevention of extremism, border issues developed</p> <p>1.4: Capacity building for journalists on non-violent reporting conducted</p> <p>2.1: “Centres for Tolerance” in three pilot countries set-up</p> <p>2.2: Capacity of youth groups and civil society organisations to become active dialogue facilitators in border areas enhanced.</p> <p>2.3: Tolerance and peacebuilding, and good neighbourhood agendas introduced in the system of non-formal and additional education</p> <p>3.1. Debate clubs and discussion programmes organised</p> <p>3.2: Regional Youth forum on tolerance and non-radicalization held</p> <p>3.3: “Agenda of Tolerance” in the three pilot communities developed</p> <p>3.4: Trainings for local authorities and representatives of law enforcement agencies conducted</p> <p>3.5: Cross-border youth activities in pilot regions supported</p>

2. Purpose of the final external evaluations

The purpose of the evaluation is to provide a comprehensive overall assessment of the project including administrative and technical strategies and issues. In addition, the evaluation shall contain suggestions for a successful continuation and sustainable exit of the project.

The purpose of the final evaluation is to deliver a comprehensive overall assessment of the whole project.

3. Methodology of the evaluations

The final evaluation is expected to be undertaken through a combination of processes including a desk study, selected site visits, focus groups and interviews with target groups and main stakeholders. An online survey can optionally be introduced as well.

The methodology for the mid-term evaluation will cover the following areas:

- Desk study review of all relevant project documentation (but not restricted to): project application, grant contract, log frame matrix, inception report, interim reports, project materials, training reports, sub-grant applications and reports, etc.
- Assessment of the performance of the project against the “Indicators of success” presented in the log frame matrix
- Focus group discussions / group interviews with project beneficiary groups
 - Youth
 - Young trainers
 - Teachers
 - Journalists
- Interviews with stakeholders
 - Project director and manager
 - Implementing partners (BIOM, Yuksalish, Gender and Development)
 - Representatives of target groups, such as:
 - Management of educational institutions hosting centers for friendships and tolerance
 - Responsible staff and youth at the centers for friendships and tolerance
 - Grantees under youth, media, and community directions
 - Representatives of the relevant authorities
 - Program officer representing the donor (EU)
- At least one site visit should be planned per centers for friendships, which are located at:
 - Osh, Kyrgyzstan
 - Khujand, Tajikistan
 - Fergana, Uzbekistan

Questions to be answered by the evaluator

Final evaluation

- Have the activities scheduled for the whole project duration been implemented (taking into account reported adjustments to the agreed timeframe)?
 - Please report in detail about the quality of the main implemented activities.
- Did the activities carried out in the framework of the project sufficiently contribute to reaching the estimated results of the project?
- Has the target group been adequately chosen and addressed by the Project Team? Has the target group been adequately involved in the whole project?
- Were there any framework conditions (team processes, language problems, partner structures etc.) hindering the achievement of the estimated results of the project?
 - For all three questions, please indicate how the suggested improvements from the midterm evaluation have been implemented.

4. Deliverables

The evaluator will provide KAS with a comprehensive draft report in English for review and comments the final evaluation. The suggestions made by KAS are expected to be taken on board and incorporated in the final report of the evaluation.

The final report should be preceded by an executive summary and should include:

- Purpose of the evaluation and methodology.
- Main findings: project relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact of project activities and sustainability.
- Recommendations for future actions and interventions, and improvements in the project implementation processes.
- Appendices to the draft/final report should contain the details of the data collected:
 - o Minutes of conducted interviews and focus groups
 - o Details of data collected, recorded and analysed, as appropriate

Note: We encourage regular contact between the implementing team and the evaluators to ensure a good understanding of the project activities and the evaluation recommendations. In this context, at least two meetings are expected to take place for the final evaluation:

- Briefing (first day): the evaluators will present/explain the approach and methodology for the evaluation and the implementing team will share expectations/areas of interest.
- De-briefing (last day of the field phase): the evaluators will share the raw main findings and recommendations, which will be developed in the draft report and KAS will provide a first reaction to them, as appropriate.

5. Duration and timing

Proposed timeline for the final evaluation

Activity	Dates
• Brief meeting with Project Team online and desk review	Third week of July, 2023
• Designing the interview questionnaires	Last week of July, 2023
• Assessment (Interviewing the partners and key stakeholders, conducting focus group discussions)	First and second weeks of August, 2023
• Writing of draft report (give one week for KAS team to provide comments to the draft report)	Second-third weeks of August, 2023
• Address comments from KAS team and finalise the report	Forth weeks of August, 2023

The Project Team will facilitate the planning of the field trips. The costs associated with the field trips and meetings should be included in the financial offer.

6. Qualifications of the evaluator

- Proven technical expertise and experience in conducting external project evaluations funded by international donors,
- At least 7 years of experience in evaluating international donor funded projects, including EU-funded grant projects;
- Understanding of and experience in working with stakeholders in the development sector;
- Knowledge of the political context in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Knowledge of Russian and English languages is a must; knowledge of the language any of the target countries is an advantage;

Note: The above experiences and qualifications will be taken into consideration for the final selection of the evaluator as well as the most cost-effective offer.

7. Budget

The budget foreseen for the final evaluation is 6000 Euro. This amount includes expert fee, travel and accommodations, as well as.

8. Submission of offers

Applications in English shall include

- CV of not more than 5 pages;
- A cover letter describing motivation and relevant experience for the task;
- Evaluation proposal detailing the methodology;
- Example of an analytical work;
- Contact details of 2 recent relevant references

The deadline for submitting offers is 14 of July, 2023 (23-59 Bishkek time).

Offers should be sent electronically to project manager **Mira Karybaeva** - karybaeva.mira@gmail.com and project assistant **Iusupova Nadiia** - nadiakg@gmail.com