

OPIC AND SOLIDAR

CALL FOR EXPERT to develop a STUDY ON STRATEGIES TO COUNTER SHRINKING SPACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

I. INTRODUCTION

In the framework of Organising International Solidarity programme financed by the European commission, OPIC and SOLIDAR are looking for an expert(s) to develop a study on strategies for civil society to counter shrinking civic space in Southeast Asia. The aim of the study is to present, through interviews and research, existing strategies/modalities carried out by representative, independent and democratic CSOs and trade unions to counter narrowing space for their action and freedom in the target countries of the programme (Myanmar, Hong Kong, Philippines and Thailand).

Deadline for submission of **expression of interest: 08 May 2023.**

Deadline for submission of **the study: 31st of May 2023.**

II. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Representative, independent and democratic civil society organisations are essential for the achievement of SDGs and their contribution is vital to fulfil the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, civic and democratic spaces for independent CSO are shrinking worldwide, and this is critical for the implementation of SDG and sustainable development. In Southeast Asia narrowing space for civil society is part of a general authoritarian pushback against democracy and human rights. Strategies to counter this phenomenon are needed to ensure the capacity of civil society organisations and trade unions to act freely.

Human rights activists and civil society are continuing their efforts to push for fundamental improvements to their rights and freedoms. From workers to feminist activists to journalists, many are facing similar struggles in fighting for their rights as they experience repression and



crackdowns from the state. Sharing experiences and strategies among rights-based groups in Asia and building networks within the region remains paramount.

The programme “Organising International Solidarity” affirms the indispensable contribution of civil society to the achievement of SDGs and aims to foster local civil society efforts to counter shrinking democratic and civic space in their countries. The programme aims to reinforce solidarity at national, European and international level, as well as underpinning local civil society actions for their freedom.

The expert will be required to develop a study on existing strategies to counter the shrinking civic space looking specifically at the labour movement, migrants and women networks experiences and actions.

III. REQUIREMENTS

Description of the output:

The selected expert(s) will be responsible for producing a study (maximum 30 pages) on strategies that local CSO and trade unions have undertaken to counter shrinking civic space in their own country. The research should include interviews to actors of independent and democratic civil society organisations and trade unions located in the following countries in Asia: Myanmar, Hong Kong, Philippines and Thailand. Moreover, at the end of the study an *advocacy map* should be presented, containing possible advocacy actions and opportunities to be undertaken in order to further the impact and the results of the programme in the future.

The deadline for the submission of the study is **31st of May 2023**.

Application Process:

Applications need to be submitted electronically to Michael Hauer (michael.hauer@palmecenter.se) and Barbara CARACCILO (barbara.caracciolo@solidar.org)

no later than 08 May.



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To apply we ask the candidate to send:

- CV (or CVs of all members of the team applying) and a cover letter **as one pdf document**;
- The **research proposal** containing the following information:
 - a. Outline of the research
 - b. Methodology of the research
 - c. Detailed calendar for the realization of the study
 - d. Financial proposal

Time Frame:

Activities	Timeline
Publication of the call for tenders	25 April 2023
Deadline to submit an application	8 May 2023
Communication of results of selection	9 May 2023
Final version of the study	31 May 2023

The OPIC and SOLIDAR reserves the right to interrupt the selection process at any time prior to deadline for the expression of interest, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected proposer or proposers or any obligation to inform the affected proposer or proposers of the grounds for OPIC and SOLIDAR's action.

IV. BUDGET

The proposal shall be within a maximum budget of EUR 5000,00 (VAT and all taxes included).



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V. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE PROPOSAL AND THE EXPERT(S):

1. Previous experience in developing advocacy-oriented studies.
2. Experience to work with CSOs and/or Trade Unions in the Global South.
3. Familiarity with EU policy frameworks and tools to promote civic space is a strong asset.
4. The proposed methodology is appropriate/adequate to the expected result.

For further information and informal queries, you may contact us at the earlier mentioned email address.



SOLIDAR is a European network of 50 NGOs working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the concerns of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the policy sectors social affairs, international cooperation and lifelong learning. For more info <https://www.solidar.org/>

