

CALL FOR TENDERS

MIDTERM EVALUATION OF THE EU FUNDED PROJECT REALISING SOCIAL EUROPE FOR ALL AND WITH ALL

1. INTRODUCTION

[SOLIDAR](#) is a European network of Civil Society Organisations, trade unions and social movements brought together by the common objective of advancing social justice in Europe and worldwide. In the framework of our work on *Realising a Social Europe for all and with all*, SOLIDAR is currently **looking for (an) External Consultant(s) to undertake the midterm technical evaluation of the first and second 12-month cycle of SOLIDAR's project *Realising a Social Europe for all and with all***, running from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023 and financed by the European Commission under the Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI).

The evaluation will focus on the assessment of the implemented activities (in accordance with the Agreement between the EU and SOLIDAR) and whether the activities lead to the achievement of the planned results as well as to the project strategic objectives. Recommendations from the evaluator/s are expected to improve the quality of future actions.

2. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

SOLIDAR has signed a 4-year Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the European Commission Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion in 2021 under the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). This Agreement includes a number of specific objectives and components defined by the EaSI Programme, which SOLIDAR addresses through a quadrennial strategic plan (2022-2025), broken down into yearly Work Programmes.

Through this programme SOLIDAR aims to:

- **Overall objective:** to contribute to foster social justice and combat poverty and inequalities in Europe.
- **Specific purpose:** to support the EU policy initiatives to put the EPSR's principles and related initiatives into practice through a just transition from 2022 to 2025 at EU, national and local level.

In order to achieve these objectives, our proposal is organised into three main components .



- **Component 1:** Social rights are more mainstreamed in EU policies and better implemented.
- **Component 2:** Strengthened capacity of member's organisations and partners, including the trade unions, in promoting social rights at the national and local levels.
- **Component 3:** Citizens and people living in Europe are more aware of social rights.

3. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

As indicated in the Grant Agreement, a detailed mid-term external evaluation (MTE) will be carried out after 2 years of implementing the programme and a final external evaluation (FEE) will be carried out at the end of the 4-year programme.

The MTE and FEE complement the internal monitoring mechanism set by SOLIDAR, according to which the Social Affairs team in SOLIDAR is in charge of collecting monitoring data related to the activities at European and national level. The external evaluator (s) will be responsible for collecting secondary data, largely through targeted online questionnaires addressing members.

The purpose of the evaluation is to:

- **Monitor the implementation and performance** (including the specific requirements on inclusivity, such as promoting gender mainstreaming and meeting the needs of disabled people).
- **Support the active organisational learning along the implementation of the strategic programme.**
- **Record and share lessons that will assist the SOLIDAR network in improving its work and quality of outcome.**
- Provide a preliminary indication of the impact of the activities carried out by SOLIDAR in the framework of the EaSI programme for our membership.

The MTE focuses on organisational learning aspects for involved members, on strategies to improve SOLIDAR members' involvement in the network, and the effectiveness of the communication channels used by the Secretariat.

The findings of the analysis are expected to be shared with members. The Secretariat will share and highlight best practices and will discuss options for corrective measures, following a participatory approach to further increase the ownership of the members for the programme perse. Members' needs and priorities will be feeding into the implementation **of the third and fourth 12-**

month cycle of SOLIDAR's *project Realising a Social Europe for all and with all*, running from 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2025.

4. FOCUS OF THE EVALUATION

The evaluation will seek to report on the effectiveness of the project in achieving its objectives and its sustainability; the efficiency of the project, in particular to evaluate how the inputs and resources (funds, staff, time) were utilized in achieving the outputs, and the relevance of the project to the priorities and needs of its recipients and the consistency with the attainment of its overall objective. It should discuss, and provide conclusions and recommendations on the following questions:

1. Effectiveness:

- 1.1. To what extent the objective of the project was achieved?
- 1.2. To what extent the planned activities contributed to achieving the objective and the expected accomplishments?
- 1.3. Were there challenges/obstacles to achieving the expected results?
- 1.4. Did something prevent the achievement of desired results?

2. Relevance

- 2.1. How effective and appropriate was the project approach?
- 2.2. Are the risks properly identified and well managed?
- 2.3. Has the project addressed the intended target group and what was the actual coverage?

3. Efficiency

- 3.1. Were the M&E tools appropriate and effectively used?
- 3.2. How well are the partnership and management arrangements work and how they could be improved?
- 3.3. Value for money: do project outputs and results are proportioned to the expenditures incurred?
- 3.4. How were the beneficiaries involved, how effectively was it implemented and what were the benefits of this involvement? Were there any downside or deficiencies?

4. Impact and spillover

- 4.1. To what extent has the project reached its purpose thus far?
- 4.2. To what extent has the project contributed to awareness of social rights, for whom and what was the impact?



4.3. Who were the direct and indirect/wider beneficiaries of the project?

4.5. Where there any unforeseen positive/negative effects of the activities?

5. Sustainability

5.1. Could the results be further sustained after the funding ends? In particular:

5.1.1. What are the prospects for the benefits of the project being sustained? Did this match the intentions?

5.1.2. Is the stakeholders' engagement likely to continue, be scaled up, replicated or institutionalized?

5.1.3. To what extent do the partners and beneficiaries 'own' the outcomes of the work?

5.1.4. How has the project built in resilience to future risks?

5.1.5. What were the major factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of the sustainability of the project?

6. Synergies

6.1. To which extent were synergies achieved with other activities, as well as with local/international policies and donor policies?

7. Lessons Learned: Key lessons learned throughout the evaluation period which can be utilized to guide future project management.

7.1. Information, Dissemination and Networking: Detail the mechanisms used for dissemination to outside project stakeholders.

7.2. Have lessons been shared during the life of the project – with whom, and to what effect?

8. Recommendations: for improvements based on observations during the evaluation process (e.g. for sustainability, future project design and management).

5. DELIVERABLES

The external evaluator will produce a narrative report (no more than 10 pages) which will consist of a detailed description of the progress against the defined performance measure indicators, as well as those indicated by the European Commission. The report should include:

- **Executive Summary.**
- **Evaluation objectives and methodological approach.**
- **Findings: in terms of progress made to date and management of the programme.**
- **Key observations, lessons learned and recommendations.**



The evaluation of the work programme will be structured according to the quadrennial work plan, and will be based upon the indicators established within the performance measurement plan and the activity report template.

6. HOW TO APPLY

Applications need to be submitted electronically to programme coordinator Carlos ROLDAN (carlos.roidan@solidar.org) no later than 29 September 2023 at 17:00.

The proposal should include 2 sections:

1. The technical proposal:

1.1. A document that contains the following information:

- A cover page with title, name (s) of the consultant(s) and addresses.
- A short abstract of no more than one page.
- A summary of the proposed methodology
- A proposed timeline.

1.2. A copy of (each) expert's resume.

1.3. Proof of similar assignment(s) handled in the past years.

2. The financial proposal, including the breakdown of costs (e.g. personnel, travel, equipment, maintenance, other).

7. IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

The evaluation should be completed by 9th February 2024.

No.	Activities	Timeline
1	Publication of the call for tenders	6 September 2023
2	Deadline to submit an application	29 September 2023
3	Evaluation of proposals	2-6 October 2023
4	Communication of results of selection	10 October 2023
5	Cooperation Agreements signed	16 October 2023
6	Data Collection and Desk review of core documents 2022-2023 and Analysis	16 October 2023 – 31 January 2024
8	Draft Report	1 February 2024
9	Final Report	9 February 2024

During all stages of the evaluation cycle, SOLIDAR will be kept informed of all important steps and developments. The consultant(s) will liaise closely with and report to the Social Affairs team.



8. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The maximum available budget for this consultancy is EUR 5.000, all costs and taxes included (VAT amounting to 21% of the net amount will be directly paid by reverse charges by SOLIDAR in Belgium through a so called “déclaration spéciale à la TVA” as required by the Belgian VAT authorities).

9. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The payment shall be made with the following instalments:

1. 30% of the total financial support paid after the cooperation agreement is signed.
2. 70% of the total financial support paid after the submission of the final paper approved by SOLIDAR team.

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

a. Evaluator(s)

- An advanced university degree or equivalent background in relevant disciplines, with specialized training in areas such as evaluation, project management, social statistics, advanced statistical research and analysis.
- The consultant(s) has at least 3 years of proven experience in the field of monitoring and evaluation.
- He/she/they have a background in working with civil society organisations and/or trade unions.
- Good knowledge of and experience in social issues and social rights at EU and national level.
- Relevant professional experience in design and management of evaluation processes with multiple stakeholders, survey design and implementation, and project planning, monitoring and management.
- Demonstrated methodological knowledge of evaluations, including quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis for end-of-cycle project evaluations.
- Working languages (written and spoken proficiency): English.
- High degree of independence, flexibility and ability of self-evaluation.

b. Proposals

- **Overview**

The description of the methodology is clear and appropriate

- **Added value**

- Originality
- Innovativeness

- **Quality of Proposed Methodology**

Relevant and reliable data used to support the evaluation.

Effective data-gathering processes

- **Value for money**

We reserve the right not to accept any of the bids received.

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

