



Amnesty International Ireland

Terms of Reference

**Evaluation of EU-AMIF funded Vitality & Engagement - Developing Communities (VE)
Project: Strengthening the capacity of EU community sponsorship programmes through
targeted outreach, training and transnational cooperation.**

1. Background

Overview

The Vitality & Engagement - Developing Communities Project supports community sponsorship schemes at pilot and early implementation to develop into sustainably scaled programmes in each of the project's partner countries of Ireland and Portugal, as well as across other EU Member States. The project timeline is January 2021 to December 2023.

Implementing Project partners

Amnesty International Ireland (Lead coordinator)

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners, an end to torture, executions, disappearances, and extrajudicial executions. Amnesty International's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

Amnesty Ireland is supporting Ireland's Community Sponsorship Programme for Refugees through the incubation of The Open Community, a National Support Organisation for Community Sponsorship Ireland, with plans to launch The Open Community as a standalone organisation in 2024.

Portuguese Refugee Council

The Portuguese Refugee Council (CPR) is Portugal's leading Non-Governmental Organization for Development (NGOD) working exclusively with asylum seekers and refugees. CPR, operational partner of UNHCR since 1993, has had a long standing European and national presence.

CPR maintains strong links with central government, local authorities, NGOs and refugees and seeks to raise public awareness and mainstream refugee rights into public debate for a more inclusive society.

Advisory Partner: Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative

The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative works to assist and inspire countries around the world to open new pathways for refugee protection.

They do this by sharing Canada's history, experience, and leadership in private sponsorship and by supporting the creation of new programs that countries design to meet their unique needs.

Funding

The Vitality and Engagement Project is funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

2. Purpose of the evaluation

As part of the funding agreement, the Vitality and Engagement project was asked to commission an external consultant to gain a comprehensive independent review of the project after three years of operation.

3. Scope of evaluation

The Vitality and Engagement programme aims to strengthen capacities of community sponsorship schemes at the local and national level of each partner country and enhance the development and implementation of similar community sponsorship schemes in other EU Member States.

The three project objectives are as follows:

- Prospective community sponsorship group (CSG) members and new CSGs in partner countries are provided with quality information, guidance, support and training.
- National and transnational interactions are facilitated to ensure mutual learning and transfer of knowledge to encourage a whole of society approach.
- New, emerging and existing community sponsorship schemes in EU Member States have comprehensive guidance on development and implementation processes within the European context

The full project documentation will be shared with the selected candidate on award of tender.

The evaluation should assess evidence of progress against the project's agreed activities, outputs, outcomes and objectives.

The evaluation will cover the period from January 2021 – December 2023 as detailed above in the background information section.

Evidence for the evaluation should come from assessment of project documentation, previous evaluations, reports, and consultation with relevant programme partners and stakeholders.

5. Timing & Deliverables

The consultant is requested to carry out the evaluation in full and produce an evaluation report in word and pdf formats. The evaluation report should be completed by the end of January 2024. The overall report should be no more than 30 pages in length.

6. Budget

The tenderer should include a proposed daily rate, which should include all labour costs, design costs and any other expenses.

The total fee should be inclusive of VAT, where applicable, and the successful tenderer will need to submit a Tax Clearance Certificate within 7 days of offer. No contract will be awarded until a Tax Clearance Certificate is received.

7. Consultant/s Specifications

The consultant(s) should possess the following skills and qualifications:

- A master's degree in social sciences, community studies, development or related relevant fields.
- 3 years' experience in conducting evaluations of programmes.
- Demonstrated track record in results-based monitoring and evaluation, including organisational level performance management.
- Demonstrated project management skills.
- Research experience and the ability to analyse qualitative and quantitative data, including the ability to compile and summarize results.
- Excellent English language writing and communication skills.
- Adherence to agreed-upon timeframes and deadlines.

8. Application process

Consultant(s) should submit a CV and an Expression of Interest which includes:

- The relevance of their previous experience for this consultancy.
- A short methodology showing how they plan to approach the consultancy.
- A list of previously completed evaluations of a similar nature.
- Indicative timetable to conduct and complete the consultancy.
- Budget
- References

Expressions of Interest are to be submitted by Wednesday the 8th of November 2023.

Expressions of Interest should be emailed to Annie Marshall at amarshall@amnesty.ie with 'Expression of Interest– Evaluation' in the subject line of the email.

Selection of the consultant will take place by Wednesday the 15th of November 2023.

For queries, please contact amarshall@amnesty.ie