**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A CONSULTANCY TO CONDUCT END OF PROJECT EVALUATION**

**Responsible to**:       ECA Senior Programme Officer at ARTICLE 19
**Key relationships:**   Senior MEL Officer, ARTICLE 19 Europe Director, ECA Programme Assistant
**Duration:**           January – March 2024
**Location:**           Remote

ARTICLE 19 is seeking a consultant to conduct an end of project evaluation of a 54-month project "Expression on Trial: Legal Defence in Online Censorship Cases in Turkey".

## 1.  About ARTICLE 19

ARTICLE 19 is a global human rights organisation, with nine offices worldwide, which promotes and defends freedom of expression and information. ARTICLE 19's vision is a world in which all people can freely express themselves and actively engage in public life without fear or discrimination. You can find more information about the organisation's strategy [here.](#) ARTICLE 19 has been working on Turkey for over 20 years, and has implemented a series of projects with a number of local partners.

## 2.  About the Project

Since October 2019, ARTICLE 19 has worked with local partners in Turkey to implement a project with the overall objective "[to] ensure that the public has increased access to information of public interest from a wide selection of sources." The project is set to end on March 30th 2024.
Project activities focused on the following areas:
- Legal advocacy to support online freedom of expression cases
- Submitting legal interventions to domestic and international courts
- Monitoring and documenting violations of online freedom of expression in Turkey
- International advocacy

## 3.  Project Outcomes

The project seeks to achieve its overall objective with three specific outcomes which focus on civil society, international mechanisms, and Turkish authorities.

## 4.  Evaluation Objective

This evaluation will have multiple aims including:
- **Meeting objectives and key findings:** Assess the implementation of activities, outcomes achieved and challenges faced. This assessment should be completed with reference to the project's initial framework and other planning/proposal documents, and in line with the indicators set out in the project's log frame.
- **Lessons learned:** Identify lessons learned for ARTICLE 19's future planning.
- **Key Recommendations:** Provide recommendations to build on the results and achieve sustainability.

Evaluation results will contribute to ARTICLE 19 and partners' internal learning, enabling more informed decision-making and strengthening future work on Turkey.

To this end, the evaluator should prioritise the following key evaluation questions, subject to their weighting (they may add additional questions they consider relevant in consultation with the project team).

**Results (weighting 70%)**
- **Relevance**
  - To what extent were project activities and outcomes relevant to the internet freedom situation in Turkey?
- **Impact and effectiveness**
  - To what extent did the project contribute to its intended impact?
  - What were the intended and unintended outcomes achieved and how do they compare to the original project proposal?
  - How has the progress of actual activities compared to planned activities?
  - Were there any risks that limited the project's overall impact and were they anticipated?
- **Sustainability**
  - How durable are the outcomes of the project?
- **Partners and relationships with stakeholders and beneficiaries**
  - What have been the strengths and weaknesses of the relationship between:
    - Formal partners of this project (i.e. partners that have signed a partnership statement or MoU)?
    - ARTICLE 19/partners and different types of stakeholders? How has this relationship affected the project?
    - ARTICLE 19/partners and end beneficiaries and target groups?

**Learning (weighting 30%)**
- What lessons can the key project implementation team learn for future projects aimed at protecting and promoting online freedom of expression in Turkey and potentially the wider Europe and Central Asia region?
- Have the project activities been effective? Have some been more effective than others, why and what lessons can be learned?
- How could outcomes and impact have been further improved?

## 5. Process, Methodology and Deliverables

The evaluation will be a combination of desk based research and interviews, online and in person if needed. The evaluation will be structured by program objectives and outcomes, and the evaluator will be expected to conduct a review of all documents gathered during the lifetime of the project, collecting additional data where necessary. The evaluator will also conduct interviews with project implementers, target beneficiaries and other internal and external key stakeholders with a view to assessing the extent to which the project achieved its results. The evaluator will assess the potential long-term impacts, effectiveness and sustainability of the project, as well as test the validity of the assumptions that underpin it. ARTICLE 19's Senior Programme Officer for Europe and Central Asia will work closely with the consultant and ensure that the consultant has access to all necessary project documents, facilitate setting up meetings with interviewees, as well as providing other support as required. Subject to agreement between ARTICLE 19 and the evaluator, the evaluator might travel to the region prior to the conclusion of the project so they are able to at least observe one project activity and interact with project beneficiaries.

The evaluator will produce a final report recording the key challenges faced by the project, the extent to which they were anticipated, and the responses to them, arriving at recommendations for future initiatives. This will ensure there is space for reflection and incorporation of lessons learned.

The methodology will adhere to the principles of full participation, and include both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

The duties of the evaluator and the methodology used will include the following:

- Design and deploy evaluation questionnaires if required
- Comprehensive review of supplied project documents
- Online or in-person interviews with ARTICLE 19 staff, and representatives of partner organisations, social media platforms, and at least 3 x project beneficiaries from the target country

## 6. Evaluation outputs

*Evaluation report:* The report is to be presented in English. The structure can be adapted from what is set out below in consultation with the MEL Officer but must include findings, analysis, conclusion and recommendations.

- *Executive summary*: The executive summary should summarise the main findings and recommendations in a concise manner, not exceeding two pages.
- *Introduction:* The introduction should describe the background and context of the project (summary of overall project concept and design) as a basis for the analytical and evaluative sections that follow. This should include a short explanation of the purpose and objective(s), and the evaluation methodology.
- *Findings and Analysis:* This section should include the findings related to the questions listed above under 'Evaluation Objective'; and an analysis of the findings by the evaluator. All analysis of achievements/consequences (inc. unintended) must be supported with relevant data, including the data source.
- *Conclusions:* The conclusions should follow logically from the findings and the analysis, but they should be clearly distinguishable from these. The conclusions should provide answers to the main evaluation questions. Please use Table 1 below for the assessment of the different criteria. (see Table 1).
- *Recommendations:* The recommendations should follow logically from the conclusions. They should be actionable and prioritised to help develop ARTICLE 19's work.
- *Annexes (incl.* Terms of reference, List of persons interviewed and documents reviewed, Evaluation team's work schedule)

*Table 1 Project review rating*

Please use the following table for scoring the project's performance.

| Criteria | Scoring* | Explanation/Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Relevance | | |
| Impact | | |
| Effectiveness | | |
| Sustainability | | |

| Partners and relationships with stakeholders and beneficiaries | | |
|---|---|---|

* Scoring:

| | |
|---|---|
| 🟩 | Highly Successful |
| 🟨 | Successful |
| 🟧 | Partially Successful |
| 🟥 | Unsuccessful |

*Briefing and debriefing session:* The consultant is required to schedule a briefing and a debriefing session with ARTICLE 19 to discuss the final agenda of the evaluation and methodology (briefing) and findings (debriefing) (via Jitsi or other secure method of communication).

*Management Response:* It is ARTICLE 19's policy to provide a management response to all evaluations undertaken on its projects within 60 days of the submission of the final evaluation report. The consultant will not be required to respond to this.

*Transparency:* It is ARTICLE 19's policy that external evaluations contribute to its aims of becoming a transparent and accountable organisation. Evaluation reports are shared with donors and external stakeholders unless there are security risks with doing so.

## 7. Evaluation Duration

The proposed evaluation (document review and interviews) would need to start by mid-January 2024. The submission of the draft evaluation report should take place by the end of February 2024 and the final report should be agreed by 22 March 2024, so that the findings can be incorporated into A19's final report to the donor.

| | *Activities* |
|---|---|
| 1 | Review documents, develop and refine questionnaires, agree on interview timeline |
| 2 | Submit workplan and inception report detailing further evaluation, discuss agenda and methodology in briefing session with ARTICLE 19 |
| 3 | Conduct interviews via a secure online platform/ Travel to Turkey for further interviews if needed, subject to agreement between ARTICLE 19 and the evaluator |
| 4 | Prepare Analysis and Report |
| 5 | Share initial findings with ARTICLE 19 (interim report) |
| 6 | Submit draft report |
| 7 | Incorporate ARTICLE 19 and partner feedback and finalise report |
| 8 | Hold post-report debriefing session to discuss findings with ARTICLE 19 |

## 8. Budget

The Consultant will be paid **7,500 USD**.

### 9. Supervision

The consultant will be supervised by ARTICLE 19's Director of A19 Europe and will work in close cooperation with the Senior Programme Officer for Europe and Central Asia as well as the Senior Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer.

### 10. Confidentiality

All outputs e.g. reports, documents, information etc produced by this evaluation will be treated as ARTICLE 19 and partners' property and will consequently be confidential. No outputs or any part of them may be sold, used or reproduced in any manner by the consultant without prior permission from ARTICLE 19.

### 11. Skills Required

- Relevant academic background (Master's Degree in relevant discipline preferred)
- Demonstrated experience and expertise in the design and undertaking of programme evaluations
- Knowledge of human rights trends, particularly on freedom of expression and access to information, in the Europe and Central Asia Region (knowledge of human rights trends in Turkey is an advantage)
- Knowledge of international human rights law and awareness of mechanisms for the protection of human rights at international and regional level
- Knowledge of historical context and recent political, economic and social developments in Europe and Central Asia (knowledge on Turkey is an advantage)
- Excellent analytical, interpersonal and communication skills
- Written and spoken fluency in English
- Fluency in Turkish is desirable

### 12. How to Apply

Applicants should send:
- CV and covering letter introducing the evaluator and how they meet the skills and competencies described above, with concrete examples
- A two page outline of the proposed evaluation process, proposed timeline and methodology
- A detailed budget
- One recent example of a previous evaluation
- Two referees we can contact to verify experience

**Application deadline: Sunday, 14 January 2024**

Applications to be submitted to: eca@article19.org

### 13. Attachments/Annexes:

The Consultant will be provided upon appointment with a list of interviewees. Key project documentation shall be shared with the evaluator to facilitate the process of evaluation, including:
- ARTICLE 19's Theory of Change
- Full Project Proposal (narrative inputs, log frame and budget)
- Quarterly Donor Reports (financial and narrative)
- Reports and advocacy/communications pieces produced during the project