CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Independent Evaluation of the European Union – League of Arab States Project

Combating the Illicit Trade in and Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Member States of the League of Arab States

Summary

The Small Arms Survey (SAS)—a global centre of excellence that generates evidence-based, impartial, and policy-relevant knowledge on all aspects of small arms and armed violence—is seeking an experienced evaluator or small team to undertake the external ex-post evaluation of the European Union (EU) – League of Arab States (LAS) project on illicit small arms.

The evaluation will assess the impacts of the EU-LAS project as mandated by EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1789 (annex, sec. 3.8), available here. The primary users of the evaluation will be the EU (member states, Commission, European External Action Service), the three implementing agencies (SAS, INTERPOL, and WCO), and the LAS Secretariat. Detailed terms of reference for the evaluation are currently being developed in consultation with the EU.

The EU-LAS project was launched in 2019 with the aim of supporting LAS Member States in combating the illicit trade in, and proliferation of, small arms and light weapons (SALW). The EU funds the project and entrusts its implementation to SAS (project coordinator), INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO), working in collaboration with the LAS Department of Arms Control and Disarmament. The project responds to the needs and priorities identified by LAS Member States regarding illicit small arms, as identified within the framework of the EU-LAS Strategic Dialogue on Weapons of Mass Destruction, SALW, and Arms Control and reflected in EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1789 of 19 November 2018.

Conditions permitting, the evaluator/team will travel to the capitals of four LAS Member States (2 days per city) and the headquarters of the three implementing agencies (Brussels/WCO, Geneva/SAS, and Lyon/INTERPOL) (1-2 days per city) in order to conduct relevant interviews. Attendance at the project’s final, two-day meeting in July 2021 is required (online event, tentatively scheduled for 12-13 July). As needed, in-person travel will be supplemented and/or replaced by remote communication (phone, email, online videoconferencing).

The evaluator/team will have access to relevant project documentation after signature of a confidentiality agreement.

Qualifications

The successful candidate/team will have extensive professional experience in the conduct of formal project impact evaluations, including those based on interviews. As the final report will be in English, candidates with fluent English and Arabic (spoken and written) are strongly preferred.
Knowledge of the Arab Region and of project-related topics, in particular small arms control, is an asset.

The Small Arms Survey is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity. It does not discriminate on the basis of age, marital status, disability status, race, national origin, colour, gender, sexual orientation, or religion.

Remuneration

The project will pay for 40 days of work and cover all travel costs associated with the evaluation (transport, accommodation/per diem, visas, travel insurance, etc.). The level of remuneration (daily rate) will depend on professional experience.

Timelines

Outline expressions of interest must be received by midnight Geneva time on Sunday, 6 June. A contract will be agreed with the selected evaluator/team as soon as possible after this date. The evaluator/team will prepare a workplan and inception report, based on this call and the full Terms of Reference currently in preparation, detailing the outputs and methodology for the evaluation. The evaluator/team are also expected to attend the project’s final ‘wrap-up’ meeting, to be held online in July 2021 (tentatively, 12-13 July). The evaluator/team should complete all travel/interviews by early October 2021, submitting a first draft of the evaluation report by mid-November and the final draft by mid-December 2021. A more detailed schedule will be finalized once the evaluator/team starts work.

Applications /further information

Expressions of interest or questions should be submitted to MEL@smallarmssurvey.org

Expressions of interest should include:

- a CV with details of recent relevant evaluation work, including any work involving Arab countries;
- at least two references from people who have contracted you for evaluation work; and
- a short note of 500-1000 words (maximum) explaining why you are interested in, and qualify for, this assignment, highlighting any specific skills or experience you think are important.

Please indicate your expected daily rate, and for a team the expected number of days for each person.