

Public Invitation to Tender

Mixed-Methods Study in Niger as Part of the Initiative for Transparency and Freedom of Expression, Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

DW Akademie is calling for bids for a research consultancy for a mixed-methods study in Niger. Data collection is supposed to take place in late Jan/Feb 2023, the ensuing data analysis is supposed to be finished by mid-March 2023. Qualified media and communication experts with a research background are kindly requested to send in their proposals. The project will include co-developing a study design, supervising a research institute during the implementation of the study and analyzing the collected data in the final study report. The study is expected to be finalized after a period of 2.5 months.

Position information

Title: Research consultant for a mixed-methods study in Niger

Type of Contract: service contract

Start Date: 01.01.2023

Duration of Assignment: The contract will be effective from date of signing for 2.5 months.

Working Days: 15

Introducing DW Akademie

DW Akademie is Germany's leading organization for international media development. We support the development of free and transparent media, quality journalism, and also offer programs to boost media skills.

Our goal is to ensure every human can express their opinion free from discrimination and oppression and has access to independent sources of information. We view this as an important prerequisite for peace and democracy. If citizens can inform themselves and voice their opinions in public without fear, then they can demand further human rights. They can live their lives, give shape to their society and receive a fair chance for development. Human rights are at the heart of what we do and are the focal point of all our projects (human rights based approach).

Our strategies are aimed at structural and sustainable changes to support and enhance free, independent and plural media landscapes. In order to do this, four strategic fields are covered: Political and legal frameworks, qualification, professionalism and economic viability of the media

sector and participation in society. Each field of action contributes to freedom of expression and access to information. The interplay of these diverse approaches enables sustainable structures to be created that are a prerequisite for freedom of expression and access to information.

DW Akademie currently runs media development projects in close to 50 countries on four continents around the world.

Background and summary of project

As part of its Initiative for Transparency and Freedom of Expression, DW Akademie supports innovative formats for crisis communication and dialogue. The Sahel is marked by insecurity and social conflict. More than two million internally displaced persons are on the move in the region. This increases the pressure on resources, which are already severely depleted due to climate change. Insecurity and social conflicts determine the everyday life of the Sahel inhabitants.

Now, the war in Ukraine is likely to worsen hunger crises that could exacerbate simmering conflicts and trigger further refugee movements.

Against this background, DW Akademie's partner in Niger aims to create spaces for exchange where conflicts can be discussed directly between the affected groups, such as internally displaced persons, representatives of the host society and representatives of the authorities. These "dialogue spaces" are turned into interactive radio formats that allow for issues to be addressed in a conflict-sensitive manner and for coming up with approaches to solutions. An important role in this process is played by young representatives of listener clubs, who meet regularly before and after the radio broadcasts to prepare and discuss them. They are involved both in selecting topics and in helping to disseminate approaches to solutions.

The overall aim of this innovative dialogue format is to give marginalized populations a voice in public discourse.

Research design

The study is supposed to be based on a mixed-methods design guided by the following questions:

- What share of speaking do the various groups represented in the dialogue program have? (In short: Who speaks and for how long?)
- What topics are addressed in the programs?
- What proposals for resolving conflicts are made in the programs and by whom?
- Are the topics negotiated in the programs dealt with in a conflict-sensitive manner that is in line with the previously agreed criteria, or to what extent are there deviations?

- Which criteria are used for selecting the overall topics for the programs?
- Which criteria are used for selecting program guests and callers?
- What did the representatives of the various groups gain from participating in the program?
 - To what extent do the representatives of the internally displaced persons who were guests on the program or who called in feel that they were able to appropriately express their point of view?
- How did participating in the program affect the representatives' perception of the other groups represented?
 - To what extent did the dialogue format raise awareness of the concerns of members of the host population among the internally displaced persons who were guests on the program or who called in?
 - To what extent did the dialogue format raise awareness of the concerns of internally displaced persons among the invited representatives of the authorities? What concrete measures are they considering?
 - To what extent did the dialogue format raise awareness of the concerns of internally displaced persons among members of the host population represented in the listener clubs?

Principles of the Project

The principles underlying this DW Akademie project are laid out by the ICC/ESOMAR Code of Practice (see here: https://www.esomar.org/uploads/public/knowledge-and-standards/codes-and-guidelines/ICCESOMAR_Code_English_.pdf). These principles include, but are not limited to:

- **Duty of care:** Researchers must ensure that data subjects are not harmed as a direct result of their personal data being used for research
- **Children, young people and other vulnerable individuals:** Researchers must obtain the consent of the parent or responsible adult when collecting personal data from children or anyone for whom a legal guardian has been appointed
- **Data minimization:** Researchers must limit the collection and/or processing of personal data to those items that are relevant to the research
- **Primary data collection:** Researchers must identify themselves promptly and data subjects must be able to verify the identity and bona fides of the researcher without difficulty

- Data protection and privacy: Researchers must ensure that personal data cannot be traced nor an individual's identity inferred via deductive disclosure
- Transparency: Researchers must provide clients with sufficient technical information about the research to enable them to assess the validity of the results and any conclusions drawn
- Professional responsibility: Researchers must be honest, truthful and objective and ensure that their research is carried out in accordance with appropriate scientific research principles, methods and techniques
- Legal responsibility: Researchers must conform to all applicable international and national laws, and local codes of conduct and professional standards or rules

Services

The list of services that DW Akademie expects from prospective research consultants are as follows:

- Support with developing the overall study design;
- Developing codebook and guidelines in consultation with DW Akademie and local research institutes;
- Quality assurance during training of coders, moderators and/or interviewers;
- Consultancy during reflection and revision of instruments after pre-test
- Coordination of studies
- Reporting on progress;
- Support with data quality control;
- Support with data analysis;
- Co-authoring the report.

Deliverables

- Inception Report (refined application detailing budget, timeline and design, two weeks after award)
- Instruments for the selected methods such as codebooks, guidelines and/or questionnaires

- Data sets with raw data
- Written analysis of the results to inform the final study report

Application Requirements

a) Applicant's Profile

Applicants should have proficient knowledge of information and data collection and analysis, as well as excellent analytical skills. Regional knowledge is a prerequisite. Desirable is media research experience, a proven record of conducting research in the region and profound knowledge of empirical methods. Besides having proficient French language skills, the applicant should also be a competent user of the English or German language.

b) Documents

The following documents should be included in the proposal:

- A cover letter, conveying the motivation and eligibility of the applicant for the project;
- A list of projects, documenting relevant experience as detailed above (including contact details of reference persons);
- Proposal for a study design including methodology, relevant research questions and a preliminary time schedule; and
- A list of expected expenditures, broken down into personnel, material and travel costs, also detailing the number of working days allocated to the project.

c) General Information

A digital copy of your proposal should arrive by Dec 5, 2022, and be sent to Ines Drefs (ines.drefs@dw.com) with Dennis Reineck in cc (dennis.reineck@dw.com). A total of 15 working days are planned for the consultant. The data collection phase is scheduled for late January/February 2023. The contribution to the final report should be finished by mid-March 2023.