

## Invitation to Tender

### **Data Collection for a 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 from qualified media and market research organizations for a mixed-methods study on the effectiveness of dialogical radio formats in Niger's border region with Mali and Burkina Faso. The tenderers are expected to provide advice in finalizing the research instruments (codebook, focus group guides, in-depth interview guides), to recruit and train coders, interviewers, and moderators and to conduct the data collection in Feb 2023. Proposals are requested by Jan 30, 2023.

#### **Position information**

**Title:** Data collection for a mixed-methods study in Niger

**Type of Contract:** service contract

**Intended Start Date:** Feb 1, 2023

**Duration of Assignment:** The contract will be effective from date of signing for 6 weeks.

#### **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.

Against this background, DW Akademie's partner in Niger – a network for conflict sensitive journalism – 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. Community radio stations turn these "dialogue spaces" 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 local "committees for dialogue and consultation", 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 focuses on five community radios in Niger's border region with Mali and Burkina Faso and their project activities since Sep 2022. The study shall be based on a mixed-methods design including a content analysis, focus groups and in-depth interviews.

### **Quantitative content analysis**

The data source for this method is the content of the dialogical radio programs produced twice per month by five radio stations between Sep 2022 and March 2023. Recordings of the broadcasts will be made available by DW Akademie. Coders will be trained by a separate consultant. The content analysis will be based on 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?)

- 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?

### **Focus groups**

So-called “meeting days” take place in between each dialogical radio program for follow-up and preparation. They are held by local “committees for dialogue and consultation” consisting of representatives from the respective radio stations, listeners club, communities of internally displaced persons (IDPs), civil society organizations, and local authorities. Focus group discussions with at least six participants from each “committee for dialogue and consultation” will be conducted (5 focus groups in total). The tenderer will also be in charge of training focus group moderators and recruiting the participants. Recruitment of participants will be supported by DW Akademie’s partner in Niger, a network for conflict-sensitive journalism. Guiding questions will be:

- How do the “committees for dialogue and consultation” decide on the overall topics for the radio programs? Which criteria do they use and why?
- According to which criteria/considerations do they select program guests as well as callers and why?
- How did participating in the “meetings days” affect the representatives’ perception of other groups (IDPs, representatives of the host society, representatives of local authorities)?

### **In-depth interviews**

Between Sep 2022 and March 2023, the five Nigerien community radio stations produce interactive radio programs (e.g. debates, roundtable discussions) featuring guests and callers from different societal groups. In-depth interviews will be conducted with three previous guests/callers of these programs per radio station (15 interviews in total). Each interviewee should represent one of the following groups:

- internally displaced persons
- host population
- local authorities

The interviewees will be recruited by the tenderer in cooperation with the network for conflict-sensitive journalism. Prior to the field work, interviewers should be trained. In-depth interview guides will be based on the following questions:

- 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 interviewees' perception of the other groups represented?
  - In the case of internally displaced persons: To what extent did the dialogue format raise awareness of the concerns of members of the host population?
  - In the case of representatives of the authorities: To what extent did the dialogue format raise awareness of the concerns of internally displaced persons? What concrete measures are the interviewees considering?
  - In the case of representatives of the host population: To what extent did the dialogue format raise awareness of the concerns of internally displaced persons?

## **Questionnaires**

Demographic data and quantitative ratings of the dialogue format's effectiveness are supposed to be collected after each focus group discussion and interview. The tenderer is expected to make sure that short questionnaires are filled in for each focus group participant and interviewee based on paper-and-pencil interviewing (a minimum of 45 filled-in questionnaires in total). Interviewers should be prepared to bring print outs or mobile devices with the questionnaires, read the questions to the respondents and fill the answers into the questionnaires.

## **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](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 providers are as follows:

- Advice on optimizing codebook, guidelines and questionnaires
- Organization of national permits and security provision for studies;
- Conduct coder, moderator and interviewer training;
- Recruitment, incentivization and reminders for participants of focus groups and in-depth interviews;
- Organization of suited premises for conducting focus groups and in-depth interviews;
- Translation and back-translation of instruments into and from local languages;
- Filling in coding sheets based on provided recordings of the programs;
- Reflection, revision and translation of instruments after the first focus group;
- Audible recording and transcription of focus groups and in-depth interviews;
- Filling in questionnaires based on paper-and-pencil (or mobile) interviewing;
- Provision of technical and logistical means for focus groups, in-depth interviews and surveys if needed;

- Conducting five focus groups, 15 in-depth interviews and at least 45 quantitative interviews;
- Coordination and organization of study in respective regions;
- Supply of ample staff (including back-ups) to do the study;
- Reporting on progress;
- Data quality control.

## **Deliverables**

- Inception Report (refined application detailing budget, timeline and design, two weeks after award)
- English and French translation of completed coding sheets as well as SPSS data set
- English and French translation of filled-in questionnaires as well as SPSS data set
- Written transcriptions and audio of the focus groups and in-depth interviews
- Short summary in English and French to be delivered after every focus group discussion
- English and French translation of the transcriptions of the focus groups and in-depth interviews (to be handed in one month after focus group / interviews)
- Photo documentation of the focus groups

## **Application Requirements**

### **a) Applicant's Profile**

Applying media and market research organizations should have a proven record of conducting qualitative and quantitative research in Niger and document profound knowledge of empirical methods. They should have a proficient knowledge of information and data collection and analysis, as well as excellent analytical skills. Qualified staff should be presented, capable of fulfilling the tasks required. Regional knowledge and knowledge of local languages are prerequisites. Experience conducting focus group discussions in rural areas is required. Media research experience is an advantage.

## **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);
- A list of personnel qualified to handle multiple studies taking place simultaneously;
- Proposal for a refined study design, including relevant research questions, methodology, 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 Jan 30, 2023, at the latest and be sent to Ines Drefs (ines.drefs@dw.com) with Dennis Reineck in cc (dennis.reineck@dw.com). This tender does not imply that a contract will be concluded with the applicants. The data collection phase is scheduled for February 2023.