

Call for Proposals

Mid-term evaluation of the Action

“Building Inclusive Democracy: Civil Society, Parliamentarians, Media, and Youth Strengthen Good Governance in Bhutan”, funded by the European Union

Tender information

Title: Mid-term evaluation of the action “Building Inclusive Democracy: Civil Society, Parliamentarians, Media, and Youth Strengthen Good Governance in Bhutan”

Type of contract: service contract

Start Date: October 2025

Duration of assignment: The contract will be effective for 2 months from date of signing.

Deutsche Welle (DW)

DW Akademie

Asia

September 2025

DW Akademie and its partner **Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD)** are calling for proposals from consulting firms/individuals for the mid-term evaluation of their EU-funded action *Building Inclusive Democracy: Civil Society, Parliamentarians, Media, and Youth Strengthen Good Governance in Bhutan*. The Consortium invites interested and qualified persons to submit proposals.

1. Introducing DW Akademie and BCMD

DW Akademie is Deutsche Welle's center for international media development, journalism training and knowledge transfer. Its projects strengthen the human right to freedom of expression and unhindered access to information. The organization empowers people worldwide to make independent decisions based on reliable facts and constructive dialogue. DW Akademie is a strategic partner of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. DW Akademie also receives funding from the German Federal Foreign Office and the European Union and is active in 60 developing countries and emerging economies.

Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD) is one of the first registered Civil Society Organizations in Bhutan which works with a cross-section of society on issues that concern youth, environment, society, governance and education, using media as a modus operandi. It was established to nurture and improve the standard of the existing media in the country which would eventually foster the culture of democracy.

2. Evaluation Context and Objectives

The action called *Building Inclusive Democracy: Civil Society, Parliamentarians, Media, and Youth Strengthen Good Governance in Bhutan* is being implemented with the aim to strengthen the capacities of the aforementioned target groups to actively contribute to democratic processes and dialogue in the country. The three-year program is financed by the European Union under its External Actions and runs from February 2024 to January 2027. As the action is approaching the middle of its duration, a mid-term evaluation is scheduled to take place between October to November 2025, to assess if the program is on track to meeting its expected results and to identify areas for improvement. The assessment will look into selected focus areas of the program, which are identified to be key for the overall success of the project.

The evaluator will carry out a qualitative mid-term assessment of the program, focusing on activities implemented in the first 1.5 years. This evaluation will primarily examine components of the program targeting civil society organizations (CSOs). It aims to assess the relevance, effectiveness, challenges, and overall efficiency of these components.

The evaluator will collect insights from different stakeholders, including the participating target groups and the project implementing team in Bhutan (BCMD staff). These diverse

perspectives will help identify opportunities to enhance the relevance and impact of CSO-related activities for the further course of the project.

The evaluation will assess the extent to which current activities address the actual needs of CSOs and contribute to the overall project objectives. The evaluator is expected to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the project's approach and provide practical recommendations for improvement.

3. Project Summary

Project title	Building Inclusive Democracy: Civil Society, Parliamentarians, Media, and Youth Strengthen Good Governance in Bhutan
Location(s) of the action	Thimphu and other locations in Bhutan
Total duration of the action (months)	36 months
Objectives of the action	Overall Objective: To empower CSOs and the Media as key actors of inclusive democracy and development in Bhutan. Specific Objective: Enhanced structured participation of CSOs, the media and youth citizenship in inclusive policy dialogue with Bhutan's Parliament
Target groups	TG1: Members of the Bhutanese Parliament (National Council and National Assembly) and their research assistants TG2: Members of all registered Bhutanese civil society organizations TG3: Media actors in Bhutan TG4: Educators and youths in three regions of Bhutan Final beneficiaries: All citizens of Bhutan will benefit from the action.
Expected results	Output 1.1: OP1.1: Strengthened CSO's and Parliament's mutual awareness and their capacities on evidenced-based policy dialogue, gender-sensitive and inclusive policy reform, and media and citizen engagement. Output 1.2: Strengthened CSO's capacities and opportunities for evidence-based research, advocacy, policy input and document their contribution to SDGs. Output 1.3: Strengthened engagement opportunities between decisionmakers (Parliament, government officials, local elected representatives) and CSOs, media actors, youth and international institutions for governance and development dialogue.

	Output 1.4: Strengthened capacities and skills of journalists, educators, young citizen journalists and Media and Democracy Clubs (MDCs) to communicate and engage the Bhutanese public at the national level and in three regions.
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4. Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation should be undertaken through a combination of desk study, selected site visits, and guided interviews (with members of CSOs, representatives of the media and the government, project partners, and other participants where applicable).

- Desk study: review of relevant project documentation, such as revised log frame, activity reports, training manuals, training reports, 1st interim report.
- Assessment of the performance of the project against the 'Indicators of success' presented in the revised log frame.
- Visits / observation of selected activities in Thimphu if available at time of study
- Interviews with stakeholders: participants of selected activities (representatives of CSOs, the media and the government), recipients of third-party funding (CSOs), project staff at BCMD (Project Manager, Program Coordinator).

5. Deliverables

- Inception report / Field Work Plan
- Draft report: The evaluator shall provide DW Akademie with a comprehensive draft report for review by the project team. This draft should be seen as a working document. Comments, additions, and clarifications by the consortium should be considered by the evaluator and incorporated into the final report.
- Final written report, which must include:
 - Executive summary.
 - Purpose of the evaluation and the methodology.
 - Main findings.
 - Key recommendations for improvement for the remaining duration of the project.
 - Appendices should contain the details of the data collected (minutes of interviews conducted, data collected, recorded, and analyzed, as appropriate)

Regular communication between the project team and the evaluator ensures a good understanding of the project activities and the evaluation recommendations. In this context, we envisage at least two meetings:

- Kick-off meeting: the evaluator explains his/her approach and methodology for the evaluation. The project partners share their expectations and areas of interest.

- De-briefing (last day of the field phase): the evaluator shares his/her preliminary findings and recommendations. The project partners answer final questions and create context where needed.

6. Qualifications of the Evaluator

- University degree in a relevant field.
- Knowledge of Bhutan's civil society, political, and economic context.
- Understanding of and experience in working with civil society organizations.
- Experience in evaluating EU-funded projects.
- Proven experience conducting qualitative research, preferably in international development projects.
- Proven technical expertise and experience in conducting external project evaluations.
- Language skills: Fluency in English is required; knowledge of Dzongkha is an advantage.
- Ability to work and communicate effectively in international settings.
- Strong organizational and time-management skills.

7. Timeline and Duration

The evaluation should be conducted between October and November 2025 including the following activities:

- Kick-off meeting with DW Akademie and BCMD
- Desk review of project documentation
- Designing the interview questionnaires
- Interviews with partners and key stakeholders
- Activity visit as available and debriefing meeting with DW Akademie and BCMD
- Writing of draft report and submission to project team
- Finalizing report incorporating comments from project team

8. Reimbursement of Professional Services

The evaluator's services will be paid in USD or Euros. Payment will be made upon submission of an invoice, based on the agreed daily rate as specified in the contract.

9. Submission of Offers

Interested evaluators are required to submit their proposals in English language no later than September 30th, 2025. Proposals should include the following:

- A cover letter confirming interest and availability.
- A detailed CV, highlighting past experience in similar projects (max. 5 pages).
- Contact details of at least two professional references.
- Financial proposal indicating the proposed daily fee.

Please submit your application to dw-akademie.bhutan@dw.com with the subject line “Mid-term evaluation EU Bhutan”.

For further clarification, please also contact dw-akademie.bhutan@dw.com.