



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Civil Rights Defenders is looking for experts in Serbia to develop policy papers in the area of education in the field of human rights and the rule of law in Serbia**

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Project:** South East European Legal Days 2.0 (SEELD 2.0)

**Country:** Serbia

**Type of contract:** Individual contracts

**Deadline for applications:** 12 January 2021

### BACKGROUND

The project South East European Legal Days 2.0 (SEELD 2.0) is funded by the USAID Rule of Law Project and is implemented by Civil Rights Defenders.

**Civil Rights Defenders** is a human rights organization that defends people's civil and political rights on four continents. The organization has worked with different human rights projects in the Western Balkans since 1995 and its overall goal is to improve people's access to freedom and justice through greater respect for their civil and political rights. The approach of Civil Rights Defenders entails facilitating and striving for coordination and coalition-building with other NGOs, media organisations, human rights organisations, and other civil society initiatives for the purpose of advancing human rights through research, policy development, advocacy and campaigning.

### THE PROJECT

This project aims to contribute to the improved respect of the rule of law principles in the Western Balkans. In order for this to happen, an open discussion between relevant stakeholders on issues such as impunity, corruption and general lack of respect for fundamental rights and to propose recommendations on how to combat them. This goal will be accomplished by focusing on the following, particularly focusing on Serbia:

1. Increasing capacities of legal professionals and duty holders in the Western Balkans;
2. Strengthening regional cooperation and exchange of experiences among legal professionals and duty holders in the Western Balkans;
3. Raising visibility of the key obstacles for the respect of the rule of law in the region.



## THE ASSIGNMENT

In order to increase the body of knowledge and provide reliable recommendations for the relevant stakeholders, Civil Rights Defenders is seeking to engage experts (researchers, policy analysts, activists etc.) from Serbia to develop 4 policy papers that focus on education in the field of human rights and rule of law in Serbia, with addition of regional perspective in comparing best practices.

### Topics for policy papers:

**1) Human rights in elementary and secondary school education in Serbia**

*Analysis of subjects that include human rights in elementary and secondary school education in Serbia, their content and scope. Recommendations for improvement of curriculum, materials and methodology for teaching human rights;*

**2) Non-formal education in human rights in Serbia – best practices**

*Analysis of programmes for non-formal education (trainings, academies, etc.) in human rights in Serbia, including any format of education that is not a part of formal education, namely schools, universities or any official trainings or programmes organized within or by public institutions in Serbia. Non-formal education in human rights is mostly organized by civil society organizations or international organizations. This can include, but is not limited to trainings for judges and legal professionals, trainings for students and young professionals, trainings for teachers, etc. Identification of best practices in non-formal education in human rights in Serbia that will be used in the advocacy for the first topic;*

**3) Best practices in higher education in human rights in the region – comparative approach**

*Identification of best practices in formal higher education in human rights in the Western Balkans, using a comparative approach. Recommendations for improvement of curriculum, materials and methodology for teaching human rights based on the positive examples that have already been developed in the region;*

**4) Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on higher legal education in Serbia**

*Analysis of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on higher legal education, including public law faculties in Serbia. It shall include, but not be limited to identification of changes in schedules of classes, content that was included in classes in comparison to the curriculum, comparison to the courses' outcomes and outputs in comparison to the same period previous year, etc.*

Policy papers will be 10-15 pages long and will be based on analysis of primary and secondary data. In order to ensure quality and relevance, the Project Team will closely work with selected experts and supervise all stages of development of policy papers and will support the expert in accessing and providing data as well as with contacts of relevant experts that will be interviewed. Once finalized, policy papers will be translated into English and published both in electronic and printed version. Policy papers will also be used as tools for advocacy for the improvement of the education in the field of human rights and the rule of law protection in Serbia.

**One expert or group of experts can apply for minimum one and maximum two topics.**



*The Project Team reserves the right to propose additional relevant topics and request deliverables not explicitly mentioned in the above mentioned expected service, but related to the objectives of the project and based on the recent developments of the situation in respective countries.*

## **DELIVERABLES**

- Inception report that will include a detailed work plan, methodology description and proposed structure of the policy briefs;
- Summary of the preliminary findings;
- First draft of the policy paper for review and comments from the Project Team;
- Final draft of the policy paper, including a set of recommendations for the relevant stakeholders.

## **EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND TIMELINE**

	<b>Tentative dates (2021)</b>
Selected applicants to be announced	15 January 2021
Experts meeting with the Project Team	18 January 2021
Desk research and data collection to start	19 January 2021
Inception report on the work plan and methodology	25 January 2021
First draft of the policy paper to be submitted for review	12 February 2021

## **Payment**

The payment will be done in one instalment after the submission of the final approved version of each policy paper. The fixed all-inclusive gross fee for developing each policy paper is **1,200 USD**.

## **REQUIRED COMPETENCIES AND QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Eligibility**

The applicant can be an individual or a team, including researchers, practitioners, activists, etc. with residence in Serbia.



Applicants who have experience in research and have conducted similar studies on the similar topics as of this call will be given advantage in the selection process.

### Qualifications

A bachelor's degree in law, Public Policy, Political Sciences, International Relations or related disciplines is required. A masters or PhD will be considered an advantage.

### Competencies

- Proven track record of working on rule of law, human rights and education analysis;
- Strong analytical skills;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Excellent organizational skills and proven ability to deliver within deadlines;
- Ability to synthesize research and draw comprehensive conclusions and recommendations on the related subject;
- Writes clearly and convincingly, and is able to adapt the style and content to different audiences;
- Experience of working with supervisors and implementation of reviews.

### Experience

- At least 3 years of professional experience including but not limited to: education in rule of law and human rights, policy analysis and development of policy papers.
- Excellent understanding of national education system, as well as institutions, actors, mechanisms and processes relevant for the topics of policy papers.

### DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

Interested applicants are invited to submit following information in order to be considered:

1. **Detailed letter of interest**, including a preference for a topic or topics (maximum two) that they would be focusing on, highlighting their relevant experience (maximum 2 pages);
2. **Timeline of activities**, including deliverables;
3. **Detailed CV** (or CVs in the case of a team), demonstrating clearly that the applicant fulfills the required competencies and qualifications criteria;
4. **Examples of previous similar work** (publications/policy papers/research reports etc.)

Interested candidates should **send** their **application** to Neda Mirkovic, Programme Officer, [neda.mirkovic@crd.org](mailto:neda.mirkovic@crd.org) by **12 January 2021 the latest**.