

**30 October 2023****INVITATION TO TENDER // CALLS FOR PAPERS FOR 2023**

New Direction – The Foundation for European Reform publishes reports, scientific analysis, economic studies, policy briefings and discussions papers each year.

In the coming months, the Foundation is keen to expand its work in a number of areas covering:

- Eurozone, Finance and the Economy
- Energy and the Environment
- Defence, Foreign Policy and Security
- Accountability, Transparency and Efficiency
- Immigration, Justice and Society
- Transatlantic Relations

**We are seeking an academic, institution, think tank or consultancy, to carry out 4 researches on:**

**1) Crimea: history, present, and what next?**

A brief overview of the history of the Crimean peninsula, which determined its difficult present and unclear future. When and why did we start to perceive it as an "integral" part of Russia? Is it justified? Why is there such interest in him? Should Ukraine give it up? These are just some of the questions to which we will seek the most accurate answers.

**2) Artificial intelligence not only in legal contexts**

The study deals with the topic of artificial intelligence. It defines whether chatbots are truly artificial intelligence, focuses on the development of the technology and related legal aspects. In particular, it focuses on the new EU regulation on artificial intelligence, comparing it to the blanket ban in Italy and the upcoming regulation in Germany. The aim of the study is to provide an overview of the current state and development of legal regulations in the field of artificial intelligence.

**3) Impacts of EU legislation on the functioning of lower territorial self-governing units**

Union legislation affects a wide range of areas in the member states. A specific oblate is represented by lower territorial self-governing units, which are subject not only to the Czech legal order and legal regulations issued by the municipalities themselves in independent jurisdiction, but are also obliged to follow the legal regulations arising from the European Union's legislation. The study deals with the question of which legal regulations based on EU law affect lower territorial self-governing units and demonstrates, using specific examples of municipalities in the Czech Republic, what difficulties or, on the contrary, positive aspects this legal regulation brings.

**4) The EU and the financing of the Palestinian Authority**

The main aim of the report is to review EU to the Palestinian Authority and to evaluate if any funding indirectly enables, even indirectly, any terrorist organization to carry out attacks against

Israel and to provide policy recommendations, if relevant, to avoid such case scenario in the future. The study should also look into EU Member States funding if relevant for the main goal of the study.

#### *Description of the services under this call*

- Preparation of a specific research paper on the question of ‘Crimea: history, present, and what next?’
- Preparation of a specific research paper on the question of ‘Artificial Intelligence not in legal contexts’
- Preparation of a specific research paper on the question of ‘Impacts of EU legislation on the functioning of lower territorial self-governing units
- Preparation of a specific research paper on the question of ‘The EU and the financing of the Palestinian Authority’
- Provision of consultancy services in the form of regular interactions and discussions with New Direction staff, if required,
- Taking part in meetings in Brussels if required;
- Presentation of the research paper at a conference or similar event in Europe if required.
- Reports can be drafted in any EU official language.

#### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

The final papers will have to be original work created in response to this call and should be about:

Comprehensive Reports: circa. 50+ pages in a word format for each report with a minimum of 1800 characters per page.

All reports have to be submitted by mid-December 2023 at latest or earlier if possible.

Authors might also be asked to possibly provide consultancy services in the form of regular interactions and discussions on the subject field with New Direction staff (amounting to no more than approximately 30 working hours).

Moreover, at the request of New Direction, authors should also be ready to present their work at a New Direction Conference, followed by comments of discussants and a general exchange of views among participants.

**Last but not least, the reports should be published in Czech language. However the original work can be done in English but the translation into Czech and its costs has to be bear fully by the provider.**

#### EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- If the bidder has ever made a donation to New Direction or the ECR party, the offer will be excluded from the selection;
- If there is any conflict of interest with other bidders, the offer will not be selected for the evaluation;

- If the bidder attempts to influence the decision-making process of the contracting authority during the award procedure.

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

- The bidder should have the legal capacity to pursue the professional activity needed for performing the contract as required in the tender specification;
- The bidder should submit proof of previous report on EU topics to demonstrate their professional ability;

#### AWARD CRITERIA

New Direction will select a supplier based on:

- The overall cost and value for money (40%)
- The ability to meet our required timescale – Please do mention a clear timeline for submitting the report (30%)
- Previous experience in similar works (track record of publishing research on issues relating to the subject field) and demonstrable professional standing including if possible the CV of the potential expert in charge of drafting the report. (30%)

Each criteria will be evaluated from 0 to 4 and then weight accordingly with each category as described here above (0=unacceptable, 1= Poor, 2= Acceptable 3=Good 4= Excellent)

#### FEE – TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS

- In accordance with the conditions of the contract New Direction intends to pay a global fee of between €10,000 - €15,000 (net) for research services (paper and consultancy services).
- In addition, with respect to the meetings in Brussels, travel and accommodation arrangements, will be made by New Direction. In case of co-authorship, New Direction will provide travel and accommodation for each co-author. The author or co-author is allowed to book travel and accommodation themselves only following approval from New Direction.

All prices quoted must be exclusive of VAT, fixed and shall cover all costs borne in performance.

#### SUBMISSION PROVISIONS

Submission of a proposal implies that the candidate accepts all the terms and conditions set out in these specifications and in the contract.

#### RESERVATIONS

*Withdrawal from Process* – New Direction reserves the right to withdraw from the tender process described in this document for whatever reason, prior to the signing of any Agreement/Contract with any party for the delivery of goods or services described in this document.

*Lowest Cost Proposal* – The lowest cost proposal, or any proposal, will not necessarily be accepted.

*Negotiation* – New Direction reserves the right to negotiate with short-listed tenderers after the nominated closing date for tender submission.

*Part Offers* – New Direction reserves the right to accept tenders in relation to some and not all of the scope of activity described, or appoint one, more than one or no organization on the basis of the tenders received.

*Costs* - All costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal are the supplier's responsibility and New Direction is not obliged to award a contract for these services and reserves the right to withdraw from the procurement process at any stage.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Tenderers (including their officers, employees, contractors, partners and consultants) must declare to New Direction any matter or issue which is, may be perceived to be or may lead to, a conflict of interest regarding their proposal or participation in supply of the services described. Tenderers must describe a strategy so that any conflict of interest will be avoided.

## FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CAPACITY

By responding to this call, candidates declare on honour that they have the financial and economic capacity to deliver the services.

## PUBLICATION AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

New Direction envisages publishing the research papers in a volume collecting all contributions. New Direction will retain the copyright of papers and it governed by the provisions specified in the contract.

## SUBMISSION OF TENDER

Tenders should be returned no later than midnight on 15 November 2023. Tenders received after this time will not be considered. The template for tender can be found on <https://newdirection.online/about/privacy-policy-legal>.

The tender submission must be completed as directed and returned via email to [contact@newdirection.online](mailto:contact@newdirection.online).

The tender submission can be submitted at any time before the submission deadline specified within the document. Submissions can be re-submitted any time before the submission deadline.

Please be advised that incomplete submissions may be rejected.

New Direction cannot accept responsibility for transmission delays. It is the responsibility of the supplier to ensure that its tender response has been submitted in the prescribed manner and in accordance with the specified deadline.

All submissions must be in English or French and prices in Euro exclusive of VAT.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Information of a clarifying nature can be requested solely by email on [admin@newdirection.online](mailto:admin@newdirection.online)

This document does not constitute an offer to provide goods and/or services to New Direction.

New Direction reserves the rights to allocate all the reports to only one supplier or to allocate the reports among different providers in order to give equal chances to all bidders.