



**Tender 04/2026**

**June 9, 2026**

## **INVITATION TO TENDER // CALLS FOR MEDIA PRODUCTION**

New Direction is a conservative political foundation funded in part by the European Parliament. As part of both its vision and mission to inform the public on conservative principles and to disseminate the same, New Direction is seeking to retain a qualified provider (which can be an institute, think tank, non-governmental organization, academic institution, or similar organization) to compile a book on Post-Soviet Republics and their (In)dependence. Details on this endeavor are provided below.

The project will have to be completed within a reasonable time after the relevant contract is signed between the successful bidder and New Direction.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICES UNDER THIS CALL**

The book to be compiled is expected to run around 360 pages in length in printed form. It will examine selected post-Soviet Republics (Baltic states, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Centra Asia, and Crimea, all states which gained de jure independence from the USSR in the 1990s but remain, to this day, under varying degrees of Russian influence, having only achieved a limited degree of genuine freedom.

The book is expected to be a compilation of expert studies by historians, political scientists, security specialists and other relevant and competent scholars who are expected to provide an historical overview and analyze key relevant questions, among them: How independent are these countries from the Kremlin elites? In what areas? Why? What factors determine this (in)dependence, and what are the future prospects for maintaining or diluting this (in)dependence.

Furthermore, the book is expected to provide sustained and lasting value and be structured in two parts: rigorous analyses, as well as interviews with notable figures and personalities from the regions and countries listed above. Stakeholders who currently collaborate or have in the past collaborated with Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty would constitute an added value to the book. The stories and analytical content are expected to be of such nature and scale as to vividly illustrate local complexities, historical injustices, and the perils associated with geographical proximity to Russia.

Another subtopic which is expected to comprise the book will be designed to elucidate Russia's foreign policy of dominance, opposition and the stymieing of the aspirations of these states to EU accession. The growing influence of Russian foreign policy in the European Union, especially in the Baltic region (including hybrid threats and tactics), Ukraine, and the Balkans, is also expected to be analyzed and explained, and show how it challenges European unity and security. The book is expected to be essential to comprehend the tools Moscow is deploying to foster disunity among the Members of the European Union.

## **TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT**

1. The book is expected to consist of (a) ten (10) studies and (b) ten (10) interviews. The studies and the interviews will be coordinated with New Direction Foundation and subject to appropriate approval.
2. Appropriate graphic designs and works will be required.
3. It will be the responsibility of the successful bidder to print the book. The number of copies will be 500.
4. The successful bidder will be responsible for any translations into English associated with the book, if and as necessary.
5. The successful bidder will be responsible for proofreading the manuscripts.
6. Typesetting and adjacent services will likewise be the responsibility of the successful bidder.
7. It will be the responsibility of the successful bidder to coordinate and ensure the timely completion of the book and of all aspects associated with its compilation.
8. The book will be written in English.

## **PRICING DETAILS**

Each bidder is required to provide itemized pricing, providing a separate price for each item separately, as well as a total price for the entire project.

All prices must exclude VAT.

Licensing fees, copyright fees, and other out of pocket incidental costs which are currently unforeseen must also be excluded from the bid pricing. Such fees, however, will have to be approved by New Direction whenever they arise and upon timely notification from the successful bidder.

The bidders are also to provide a concise but meaningful statement about the resources they possess to produce the materials covered by this tender, as well as the anticipated time and costs for travel and accommodation, if any, connected with the production of the book.

## **MISCELLANEOUS TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

All work created in response to this call will have to be original work.

The deadlines for the completion of the book and the intermediate steps will be addressed in the contract between New Direction and the successful bidder. Nevertheless, on an informational basis, the general deadlines that are anticipated are listed in this Tender Call below.

Repurposing already created material will not be accepted. Content creators will be required to sign a Certificate of Authorship when submitting their work-product attesting to the originality and authenticity of their work.

The use of artificial intelligence will be strictly scrutinized to ensure ethical use.

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

At the request of New Direction, content creators should also be ready to present their work at New Direction Conferences, followed by comments from discussants and a general exchange of views among participants.

## **EXCLUSION CRITERIA**

Tenders will not be considered, among others:

- If the bidder has made a donation to New Direction or the ECR party in the two years preceding the submission of the tender;
- If there is any conflict of interest with other bidders;
- If the bidder attempts to influence the decision-making process of the contracting authority during the award procedure.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

- The bidder must 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 relevant work to demonstrate their professional ability;
- Failure to itemize the pricing of services requested in this tender will result in the lowering of your final score.

## **AWARD CRITERIA**

New Direction will select suppliers based on:

- The overall cost and value for money (40%)
- The ability to comply with the deadlines for completion of the book (30%)

- Previous experience in similar work or an established track record as well as demonstrable professional standing including if possible the CVs of the potential experts and writers in charge of drafting the various parts of the book. (30%)

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

## **TIMESCALE**

The following general deadlines are anticipated: (A) submission of the manuscript (October 1, 2026); (B) Proofreading and editing, including translation, if necessary (November 2, 2026); (C) Graphic and design work (November 16, 2026); (D) Printing (December 15, 2026). In responding to the Tender Call, the bidder should specify in clear terms its ability to meet these deadlines.

## **FEE – TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS**

Should there arise a need for the successful bidder or its employees or associates to travel for the fulfillment of its obligations under a future contract for services with New Direction, the necessity, costs of travel and accommodation, if any, will be agreed upon between the parties.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND REPRESENTATIONS**

Submission by a tenderer of a proposal constitutes acknowledgment by the tenderer that the candidate accepts all the terms and conditions set out in the Tender Call and in any subsequent contract.

By submitting and signing its response to the Tender Call, the tenderer represents to New Direction that (a) it has no conflict of interest that could prevent it from applying for or receiving an award from New Direction under the Tender Call; (b) everything in the response to the Tender Call is accurate and correct as of the submission date; (c) the tenderer has the expertise to create the materials and products covered by this Tender Call; and (d) the tenderer has the legal capacity to respond to the Tender Call and enter into a formal contract with New Direction in the event the tenderer's bid is successful.

## **RESERVATIONS**

*Withdrawal from Process* – New Direction reserves the right to withdraw from the tender process described in this document for whatever reason, at any time and even prior to the signing of any Agreement/Contract with any party for the delivery of the 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 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 sole responsibility.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

Tenderers (including their officers, employees, contractors, partners and consultants) must disclose 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 the supply of the services described. Tenderers must identify and adopt a strategy to avoid conflicts of interest.

## **FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CAPACITY**

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

## **PUBLICATION AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES**

New Direction envisages disseminating the products to be created under the Tender Call and, therefore, will retain the copyright to all products, a matter which will be governed in greater detail in a separate contract to be concluded between New Direction and the successful bidder.

## **SUBMISSION OF TENDERS**

Tenders should be returned no later than midnight on Friday, June 26, 2026. 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 [peter.costea@newdirection.online](mailto:peter.costea@newdirection.online)

Tenders can be submitted at any time before the submission deadline specified in the document. Submissions can be re-submitted any time before the submission deadline.

Please be advised that incomplete submissions may be rejected. New Direction is not responsible for transmission delays. It is the sole responsibility of the supplier to ensure that its tender response is submitted in the prescribed manner and by the specified deadline.

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

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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

This document does not constitute and may not be interpreted by a tenderer to constitute an offer to provide goods and/or services to New Direction.

New Direction reserves the right to allocate the production of all products covered by this Tender Call to only one supplier or to different providers to ensure equal chances to all bidders.