FoRS – České fórum pro rozvojovou spolupráci
FoRS – Czech Forum for Development Co-operation

CALL FOR RESEARCHER

Mapping and research of policy processes, state of coherence and key policy actors at the EU and international level with respect to poverty eradication, notably SDG 1.A and SDG 1.B

Terms of Reference

1. Background note on the project within which mapping takes place

The project "Coherent Europe for Sustainable Development" strives for **increasing involvement of policy-makers, CSOs and other key actors in promoting coherent policies for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),** strengthening the critical understanding of key actors on the global interdependencies and their engagement in concrete policy actions for sustainable development.

The project is taking place in nine EU member countries and is implemented by 10 organisations (9 national platforms of development CSOs and lead by a Czech NGO NaZemi). All platforms - *AKU from Estonia, BOND from UK, CNCD 11.11.11 from Belgium, FOND from Romania, FoRS from the Czech Republic, Grupa Zagranica from Poland, MVRO from Slovakia (MVRO) and SLOGA from Slovenia -* are participating in the working structures of CONCORD Europe which makes them fairly settled within cooperative working field on EU and international level.

Four thematic priorities - *poverty eradication, decent work, sustainable consumption and production, and climate change responses -* were identified as focus areas among SDGs in order to maximize the effects of the project, utilize the expertise and established communication channels of consortium partners and fit it to different countries' contexts. Each applicant focuses on at least two selected thematic priorities that are relevant for their constituency and perspectives. **All eight national platforms of development CSOs are involved in the advocacy and policy work within the thematic priority of poverty eradication in developing countries.**

Furthermore, three **cross-cutting issues – good governance and human rights-based approach, gender equality, means of implementation**, were identified to be taken into consideration within all thematic priorities.

2. Procedural issues of the mapping

Purpose of the activity:
● underline points of entry for the project implementation through identification of opportunities for change and roles of different actors at EU and global levels, with respect to resources mobilization and sound policy frameworks to support investment in poverty eradication in developing countries (SDG 1.A, SDG 1.B[1]). Particular attention has to be paid to the EU level.

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[1] **SDG 1.A: Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions**

● SDG 1.A.1: *Proportion of resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes*

- complement mappings and research findings from the national levels on the poverty eradication in developing countries
- provide a baseline for monitoring and evaluation of the project achievements
- serve as an internal resource in relation to the other activities (either to feed them in or be updated as the processes evolve):
  A1.2 Methodology for watchdog activities and monitoring the PCD aspects
  A1.3 Elaboration of evidence-based action plan/advocacy strategy
  A1.4 Advocacy actions towards policy-makers
  A2.1 PCD Incubators
  A2.2 Participation in consultations and advocacy actions
  A2.3 Joint media plan

Focus areas:
1) a general overview on the EU and international policies and mechanisms for achieving poverty eradication in developing countries, i.e. a general overview on the mechanisms for the implementation of SDG 1.A and SDG 1.B at EU and international levels; particular attention has to be paid to ODA, both quantity and quality/effectiveness aspects, within larger finance for development context
2) a state of policy coherence in poverty eradication in developing countries at EU and global levels. Poverty has to be captured in its multidimensional character (see multidimensional poverty index (MPI))
3) an overview of key actors and initiatives involved in areas of poverty eradication in developing countries at the EU and global levels, with particular focus on ODA, finance for development and tax justice (with regard to domestic resources mobilization). Contacts will be provided to CSO platforms and initiatives, such as CONCORD, IFP, EURODAD, SDG-Watch, Action for sustainable development (A4SD), Together2030.

Output:
Mapping covering poverty eradication in developing countries (SDG 1.A, SDG 1.B) implementation at EU and global levels[2]. Besides to ODA quantity and quality within larger finance for development context, specific attention will be paid to the tax justice issues which are key for domestic resources mobilization.

Timeline:

14 May	Draft of the mapping
20 May	Commenting procedure within working group of platforms involved

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- SDG 1.A.2: *Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection) (NB: Corresponds well with MPI dimensions)*

SDG 1.B: Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions:

- SDG 1.B.1: *Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups*

[2] The activity will be implemented by each partner, besides BOND. BOND might provide necessary supervision from the methodological point of view. Claire Godfrey will be the contact person for this.

31 May 2018	Approved mapping

2. Structure and contents of the mapping

1) Executive summary of the main findings of the mapping report

    a) Brief overlook on the key areas and findings of the mapping, to be elaborated at the final stage of the mapping.

2) Methodology

    a) What particular research questions or areas you look for and why
    b) Briefly describe methodology: desk research, sources of data and information, way of new data collection (if you developed any questionnaire and who were the respondents and how it was processed - share your questionnaires with other WGs), process of assessing data, potential limitations of the mapping etc. (This includes a short reflection on the overall availability of data. Are the data available? If yes, are they sufficient for our purposes? If not, can we do something about it?)

3) Policy framework analysis related to the thematic priority of poverty eradication in developing countries at EU and international levels

    a) Briefly describe the context of the issue in relation to the Agenda 2030 implementation and the key policy frameworks and processes at int./EU levels, what are the aims/milestones set within the poverty eradication in developing countries so far. Identify policy coherence issue and their implications on selected SDGs (SDG 1. A, B).
    b) What are the key international commitments and their relation to the EU level, how far is the EU and its MS in meeting the commitments (compared to the UN/OECD average etc.) Is there any legal basis for contributing to poverty eradication in developing countries at intl./EU levels, any strategy being prepared or implemented, how active EU is in implementing the commitments Any reference to PCD in EU legislation or strategy/action plans?
    c) Describe key decision-making procedures at intl./EU levels – what relevant policies or action plans are being adopted or under preparation, what are the political and possibly also technical/legislative procedural levels of the decision-making, who has the decision-making power in different stages of a policy process, institutions involved and their roles. Any PCD focal point in EU institutions?
    d) Any ex-ante impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms carried out by official institutions being in place, relevant sources of data, any of which reflecting upon coherence issues
    e) Identify the spaces for CSO engagement in the policy framework, consultations being held or foreseen.
    f) Main relevant intl./EU events foreseen within next 3 years.
    g) List relevant strategic documents at intl./EU levels.

4) CSOs policy positions and engagement in relation to the poverty eradication in developing countries in general, ODA and finance for development (FfD) in particular

    a) Who are the key CSOs working on poverty eradication in developing countries in general and FfD/tax justice in particular at intl./EU levels, incl. CONCORD. Key points that CONCORD and other thematic CSO networks are advocating for and in what processes

they have been involved. What have they achieved so far and what they consider challenge.

b) Platforms' positions and engagement at the EU/int. levels: what are policy positions in the poverty eradication in developing countries/FfD/tax justice, what are the advocacy priorities, what are the already established channels of influencing and achievements so far, what has been platforms' engagement in CONCORD / other networks in relation to the poverty eradication in developing countries/FfD/tax justice and at the int./EU level, which networks are platforms members of.

c) Platforms' members' engagement at the EU/int. levels: what are the advocacy priorities/issues of platforms' members in relation to the poverty eradication in developing countries/FfD/tax justice, how much involved they have been in advocacy in respect to the poverty eradication in developing countries/FfD/tax justice and in what international coalitions/networks, what they have achieved in their advocacy so far, identify the key member organisations of the platforms being engaged or necessary to get engaged.

d) Any monitoring and evaluation mechanisms carried out by EU/international CSO platforms and/or initiatives being in place, incl. how does your platform monitor the advocacy achievements.

5) Stakeholder analysis at int./EU/national levels with regard to influencing EU/int. policies in poverty eradication in developing countries/FfD/tax justice

a) Identify who is affected by the poverty eradication in developing countries/FfD/tax justice and who can influence the poverty eradication in developing countries/FfD/tax justice – list examples of concrete institutions and groups from political, public, civic, business, academia, religious and other sectors at int./EU/national levels.

b) Influence/power analysis – Are they aware of the issue? How much do they know about it? Have they got access to factual information and research on the PCD and SDGs? What is their interest in the poverty eradication in developing countries/FfD/tax justice/ how much do they consider it important, how much influence do they have over the poverty eradication in developing countries/FfD/tax justice, what is their attitude towards our/CSOs proposals?

c) Interpret the results and identify: Who are the priority stakeholders, who are your most important allies and opponents, who are the neutrals.

	High influence	Medium influence	Low influence
High support	Maintain	Most important	Do not invest
Medium support	Most important	Most important	Do not invest
Low support	Engage!		Do not invest
Unsupportive	Minimise	Minimise	Minimise
Proactively hostile	Minimise	Minimise	Minimise

6) Reflection of the project cross-cutting issues (good governance and HRBA, means of implementation, gender equality) in the mapping

Note: The background materials on the criteria and toolkits for the cross-cutting issues will be provided to the researcher by FoRS.

7)   Brief SWOT analysis and conclusions from the mapping

    a) Strengths – any good practice and achievements, what is our added or potentially added value, established channels of influence by us/our allies, any other advantages.
    b) Weaknesses – any problematic issues in concrete policies or institutional practice and behavior, lacking expertise, data, limited access to decision-making for CSOs etc.
    c) Opportunities – which policies / practice could be changed/implemented, are there any alternatives identified, any new policies foreseen, any potential new allies, concrete proposals for an improved engagement in CONCORD and other networks advocacy, fostering synergies and links, any other windows of opportunities.
    d) Threats – strong opponents with influencing power, general political outlooks in our countries, any other obstacles.
    e) Concluding remarks and what issues remain with question-marks – e.g. what to focus on if more topics/options appear as worth of looking into after the mapping process.

8)   References

    a) List of the researchers/allies/other partners and actors that were approached during the mapping
    b) Links to the sources of data and information and references to the documents

3. Candidate profile:

✓ sound knowledge and very good understanding of the EU development policy, ODA, development effectiveness, finance for development, Agenda2030 and SDGs
✓ proven track record of similar research and studies
✓ experience of policy analysis, report writing, incl. ability to write about complex issues and to clearly formulate key findings
✓ ability to work independently and in line with agreed timeline
✓ fluency in written and spoken English

Selection procedure:

Please send your CV outlining your relevant expertise and experience for meeting this assignment along with a proposal on how you will undertake this research, including a suggested number of days and their distribution between the different phases of the work and your expected remuneration.

Application must be submitted to Katarína Šrámková, FoRS Senior Policy Officer at katarina.sramkova@fors.cz by 19 April 2018 (COB). In case of inquiries please do not hesitate to get in touch via email or tel.: +420 774 736 700.
Please include *FoRS – call for researcher + your name* **in the subject of the email.**

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by 23 April 2018.