

To whom it may concern

Date: August 7, 2026

Request for Tender

Adviser Services for Resilience Building Strategies and Countering Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) in Europe

Dear Sir/Madam,

IMS is inviting interested bidders to offer adviser services to complete the assignment described in this Request for Tender (RFT). Please note the information on Tender Format and Selection Criteria below.

Please submit your tender clearly marked with:

“RFT IMS-05561” by registered e-mail to: procurement@mediasupport.org

The deadline for receipt of your tender is: 18.09.2026 23:59:59 CET (Central European Time)

Tenders received after the deadline **will** be rejected.

If you do not receive a confirmation from IMS, please contact IMS for verification of receipt.

Your tender shall be composed of a technical and financial proposal as per the following instructions and in accordance with the requirements specified in this Request for Tender:

1. Technical proposal, containing:
 - CV
 - Proposed Method of work
 - References
2. Financial proposal, containing:
 - Daily rate
 - Any assumptions related to availability, travel to the region, remote work, and assignment-related costs
 - Any assumptions underpinning the pricing structure
 - Information on applicable taxes and fees

Assignments under the framework agreement may subsequently be commissioned on a lump-sum or level-of-effort basis using the agreed rates and scope of work for each call-off assignment.

Your tender should be valid for no less than 30 days from the deadline for receipt of the tenders. IMS will strive to notify all bidders of the outcome of their tenders by two weeks after the closure of the tendering period.

ADDRESS

IMS
(International
Media Support)
VOX House
Lyngbyvej 100
2100 Copenhagen Ø
Denmark

EMAIL

info@mediasupport.org

WWW

mediasupport.org

The Contract will be awarded to the Bidder offering the best value for money with reference to the selection criteria.

By participating in this tender, the Bidder accepts IMS general conditions for Framework Agreements (Annex I).

IMS reserves the right to reject a bid, if it without reasonable doubt, determines that the Bidder has engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, or coercive practices.

All enquires and questions should be addressed to ogu@mediasupport.org

Yours sincerely



Olga Gututui

Request for Tender

1. Introduction

International Media Support (IMS) works to protect and strengthen the information ecosystems people rely on, ensuring that people everywhere can access trustworthy, fact-based information. IMS works with local partners in contexts affected by conflict and social tension to support ethical, public-interest information and to help independent media operate safely and effectively.

IMS is implementing activities in Europe that aim to strengthen independent media, improve information integrity, and enhance societal resilience against disinformation, information manipulation, and Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI). The assignment is situated within IMS' Europe division and will contribute to programme design and strategic advisory support for media development initiatives.

In an increasingly complex information environment, FIMI and related disinformation practices can undermine democratic resilience, public trust, and citizens' ability to make informed decisions. IMS therefore seeks specialised advisory support to develop evidence-based resilience-building strategies and to integrate FIMI considerations into programme planning and implementation in Europe.

The contracted supplier will provide strategic advice, contextual analysis, and practical guidance to IMS programme teams and partners. The assignment will support the development of effective approaches that strengthen independent media, improve information integrity, and enable timely and context-sensitive responses to information manipulation. IMS reserves the right to enter into more than one framework agreement as a result of this tender.

The large amount of services as well as the first assignment will focus on Moldova, however a significant amount of work will be also dedicated to other countries in the region of Europe. The work will be carried out in close coordination with IMS, the Regional Director for Europe, programme management staff, and relevant national and international stakeholders.

2. Objectives

The overall objective is to support independent media and relevant stakeholders in Europe as well as other countries in the region to strengthen societal resilience, improve information integrity, and respond effectively to Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) and related information threats.

The specific objective of this assignment: The contracted supplier will provide expert advisory services to lead the development of resilience-building strategies and FIMI-related approaches within IMS media development programming in the countries of interest.

The successful candidate must be able to integrate environmental sustainability in implementation (e.g., minimising carbon footprints, reducing physical travel through hybrid/digital tools)

Outputs

- Resilience-building strategies or strategic frameworks for media development programming in respective countries.
- Strategic advice and written inputs on approaches to counter Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI).
- Political, media, and information environment analyses informing programme design and implementation.
- High-quality analytical reports, strategic papers, policy briefs, presentations, and other written outputs as agreed with IMS.
- Ongoing advice to IMS programme teams on integrating resilience, information integrity, and FIMI considerations across project activities.

The scope of work and time-period of the Contract are described in Sections 3-4 below.

3. Scope of Work

- Strategic advisory support: The contractor will lead and support the development of resilience-building strategies for IMS media development programmes in Eastern European and Western Balkan countries ensuring that approaches are grounded in contextual analysis and aligned with programme objectives.
- FIMI and information integrity expertise: The contractor will provide strategic advice on approaches to counter Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), disinformation, and related information manipulation practices in countries of interest and the wider regional context.
- Programme design and refinement: The contractor will contribute to the design, implementation, and refinement of programme strategies, interventions, and project activities, including the integration of resilience and FIMI considerations across relevant workstreams.
- Contextual and stakeholder analysis: The contractor will conduct political, media, and information environment analyses to inform programme decisions and support evidence-based planning.
 - Stakeholder engagement: The contractor will engage, where requested by IMS, with national and international stakeholders, including media organisations, civil society actors, government institutions, and development partners.
 - Knowledge products and reporting: The contractor will prepare high-quality analytical reports, strategic papers, policy briefs, presentations, and other written outputs in English.
 - Trend monitoring and advice: The contractor will monitor emerging trends related to disinformation, information manipulation, FIMI, and media resilience in Moldova and the wider region, and provide timely advice to IMS.

4. Timing and Duration of the Contract

IMS aims at concluding the tender process and entering into a framework agreement with the selected Supplier as soon as possible. The assignment is expected to run until 30 September 2027, with the possibility of extension subject to programme needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. The place of performance is remote, with regular travel to Moldova and other countries in the region as agreed with IMS.

The contract may be subject to prolongation, if deemed necessary to fulfil the objectives of the assignment. IMS and the Supplier will negotiate the conditions of any such prolongation.

5. Method of Work and Approach (maximum 55 points)

The bidder should propose a clear and practical approach to delivering strategic advisory services on resilience-building strategies and countering FIMI in Europe. IMS will assess:

- Understanding of the assignment, including the media landscape, information ecosystem, and geopolitical context of the region.
- Proposed methodology for developing resilience-building strategies and integrating FIMI considerations into programme design and implementation.
- Analytical approach to political, media, and information environment analysis, including the ability to translate findings into actionable programme advice.
- Ability to engage effectively with relevant stakeholders, including media organisations, civil society, government institutions, and development partners.
- Capacity to produce high-quality written analytical and strategic documents in English.
- Relevant language capacity, including fluent Romanian and English; working proficiency in Russian will be considered an advantage.
- Availability to work in remotely with regular travel to Moldova and other countries in the region, as required by the assignment.

A total maximum score of 55 points will be allocated to Method of Work and Approach.

6. Previous experiences (maximum 20 points)

The bidder should submit at least 2 references of completed assignments of the types described in this RFT, meeting the following minimum criteria:

- documented professional experience in media development, information integrity, resilience-building, democratic governance, communications, public policy, or related fields;
- documented professional experience in Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), including strategy development, research, policy, or programme implementation, preferably with relevance to countries in the region.

For each reference, the following information must be submitted:

- Client
- Time period
- Type of engagement

A total maximum score of 20 points will be allocated to previous experiences.

7. Reporting

All reports and written outputs under this Contract are to be written in English.

8. Financial proposal

The bidder shall provide daily rates under the framework agreement. IMS may commission assignments based on agreed scopes of work and estimated level of effort, including but not limited to:

- Strategic advisory services on resilience-building strategies and countering FIMI – daily fee
- Political, media, and information environment analysis – daily fee or lump-sum fee per deliverable
- Preparation of analytical reports, strategic papers, policy briefs, and presentations – daily fee or lump-sum fee per deliverable
- Stakeholder engagement, consultations, and related advisory support – daily fee
- Programme design and review support, including integration of resilience and FIMI considerations – daily fee
- Travel-related costs for programme countries, where applicable and subject to prior written approval by IMS
- Other relevant costs or assumptions necessary for delivery of the assignment

The financial proposal should clearly specify:

- daily rate for the proposed adviser
- any assumptions related to availability, travel to Moldova, remote work, and assignment-related costs;
- any assumptions underpinning the pricing structure;
- all applicable taxes and fees.

The proposed fees shall be inclusive of VAT and all other applicable taxes. Travel and other assignment-related expenses may be reimbursed where expressly approved by IMS and provided for in the relevant assignment and contract provisions. IMS will not reimburse expenditures beyond those explicitly agreed in the Contract.

IMS shall under **no circumstances** be responsible for any payments of social charges, personal income taxes, value added taxes (VAT), and other statutory contributions which may be imposed on the Supplier in relation to this Contract.

9. Conflict of Interest

IMS defines a conflict of interest as a situation where a person involved with IMS or acting on behalf of IMS has a direct or indirect personal, financial, or business interest in a decision or action by IMS. Any existing or potential conflicts of interest concerning this RFT must be brought to the attention of IMS. IMS reserves the right to exclude a bid that is subject to a conflict of interest.

10. Selection criteria and evaluation method

IMS will apply a combined weighted average scoring method for evaluating the tenders.

The maximum score for the technical proposal is 75 points.

The maximum score of 25 points for the financial proposal will be awarded the lowest priced tender. The financial proposals will be scored in proportion to the lowest price, as follows:

Score for price proposal X = lowest price proposal * maximum score / price of proposal X.

The selection criteria are as follows:

SELECTION CRITERIA	
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	MAX POINTS
1. Method of work and approach suitable for strategic advisory services on resilience-building and countering FIMI	
a. Understanding of the assignment, including media landscape and information ecosystem of respective countries, as well as regional geopolitical context	10
b. Proposed methodology for developing resilience-building strategies and integrating FIMI considerations into programme design and implementation.	10
c. Analytical approach to political, media, and information environment analysis, including ability to translate findings into actionable programme advice	10
d. Stakeholder engagement approach with media organisations, civil society, government institutions, and development partners, demonstrating the integration of a human rights-based approach and universal design/accessibility principles to foster meaningful participation, representation, and empowerment of marginalised groups in the design and implementation of resilience-building strategies.	5
e. Capacity to produce high-quality analytical reports, strategic papers, policy briefs, and presentations in English	10
f. Knowledge of English language; Knowledge of other languages will be considered as an advantage.	10
2. Applicant's experience and reputation	
a. Documented professional experience in media development, resilience-building, information integrity, FIMI, strategy development, research, policy, or programme implementation	10
b. References from similar assignments	10
SUB TOTAL 1: TECHNICAL CRITERIA	75
FINANCIAL PROPOSAL	MAX POINTS
Points for the financial proposal must be a minimum of 25 points	25
SUB TOTAL 2: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL	25
TOTAL MAX POINTS	100

11. Submission and format of tender

The tender shall be submitted to IMS electronically to procurement@mediasupport.org in any of the following formats: .docx, .pdf, .ppx, marked with "RFT IMS-05561".

Technical proposal, containing:

- CV

- Proposed method of work and approach
- References

Financial proposal, containing:

- daily rate for the proposed adviser
- any assumptions related to availability, travel to Moldova, remote work, and assignment-related costs;
- any assumptions underpinning the pricing structure;
- all applicable taxes and fees.

12. Questions

Questions regarding this request for tender can be sent via email until September 6, 2026. Please send questions to <mailto:ogu@mediasupport.org> procurement@mediasupport.org with the subject line “Inquiry regarding Request for Tender IMS-05561”. Questions and answers will be distributed among responsive bidders and published on a web-site with original advertisement.

13. Ownership and Intellectual Property

Where the winning bidder’s proposal leads to a Contract between IMS and the Supplier, it is a requirement, that IMS acquire all rights and sole property to any material produced under such a Contract.

14. Confidentiality

IMS acquires and retains the ownership of all tenders received. IMS will maintain the confidentiality of prices, terms and conditions of all tenders received.

15. Exclusion grounds

IMS reserves the right to exclude bids that are:

- Subject to a conflict of interest as defined in the attached General Conditions, article 10;
- Based on a misrepresentation of information required by IMS as a condition to participate in the contract or failure to supply this information;
- Submitted by bidders that are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- Submitted by bidders that are convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment, which has the force of res judicata;
- Submitted by bidders that are guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means, which IMS can justify.

16. Processing of personal data

IMS will process the personal data included in tender documents and communications received from bidders in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (“GDPR”). IMS ensures that all personal data is handled with the utmost confidentiality and security, adhering to GDPR principles. This includes, but is not limited to, the lawful and transparent collection, storage, use, and transmission of personal data. IMS will only process personal data as necessary for the purpose of

evaluating and managing tenders, and will ensure that such data is not disclosed to unauthorized parties. All bidders have the right to access, rectify, and request the deletion of their personal data in compliance with GDPR.

17. Attachments

- Draft Framework Agreement – specific and general conditions and call-off order (Annex I)

Annex I

Draft Framework Agreement

Instructions to candidates: At this stage of the Request for Tender this document is for your information and intended to make you aware of the contractual provisions. The information missing in this document will be filled in when a Contractor has been selected, and the “draft” Contract will then become the “final” Contract” between the Contracting Authority and the successful Contractor.

<i>Between</i>	<i>and</i>
International Media Support (IMS)	[Insert name of person/company]
VOX House	Address
Lyngbyvej 100	
2100 Copenhagen Ø	
Denmark	
CVR No.: 26487013	Registration number:
Telephone: +45 8832 7000	Contact person:
	Mobile phone:
	E-mail:
(hereinafter referred to as “IMS”)	(Hereinafter referred to as “the service provider”)

PART 1. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

1. ASSIGNMENT

The service provider is hereby Framework agreed by IMS to fulfil the tasks of [.....]. The scope of work constitutes the following services:

-

Under the provisions of this framework agreement, upon the request of IMS, the service provider shall undertake individual assignments as defined in a call-off order.

This framework agreement does not contain any guarantee for volume or number of assignments.

2. FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PERIOD

The Framework agreement period is 1 year from the date of signing.

The Framework agreement will be subject to prolongation if motivated by operational reasons for no more than 3 years total.

3. FEE AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

If an assignment under this framework agreement contains eligible expenses, these must be reasonable, relate to the agreement, and fall within the agreement period.

OUTPUT BASED

The daily fee foris listed below:

4. PAYMENT CONDITIONS

1. Social charges, taxes, etc.

The service provider shall be responsible for all payments of social charges, personal income taxes, value added taxes (VAT), and other statutory contributions which may be imposed on the service provider in relation to this framework agreement. IMS shall under no circumstances be required to make any such payments.

2. Payment of fee

Payments will be transferred to the bank account of the service provider as follows:

3. Payment of eligible expenses

Eligible expenses to be reimbursed:

Eligible expenses are subject to reimbursement upon submission of the annexed expense report with original receipts, i.e. actual expenses documented by invoices / receipts from a third party for all the items purchased and covered by the IMS funds, including communication expenses. For flight costs to be eligible, boarding card stubs or digital captures of electronic boarding cards must be submitted as proof of travel.

5. TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

A call-off order will be issued by IMS for each assignment to be performed by the service provider under this framework agreement. The call-off order contains the scope of work for the individual assignment and it can have a terms of reference attached to it. The call-off order will become effective when it has been signed by both parties.

6. ANNEXES

1. Call-off order

PART 2. GENERAL CONDITIONS

I. DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Service provider may not assign or delegate any of the assignments or responsibilities relating to this Framework agreement to another legal entity, without the written consent of IMS.

It is the responsibility of the Service provider, that any individual or entity, to whom the Service provider delegates the assignments or responsibilities related to this Framework agreement, complies with terms of this Framework agreement.

II. TRAVEL

All international travel for IMS must be approved prior to departure. Upon approval, IMS Travel Guidelines will be sent to the service provider. By signing this Framework agreement, the service provider confirms that the IMS Travel Guidelines, including standards and maximum rates specified therein, will be strictly adhered to.

III. TRAVEL INSURANCE

International travel insurance is provided by IMS. This insurance only covers activities related to this Framework agreement. Travel in current, registered country of residence or employment is not insured by IMS. If the service provider already has separate travel and safety insurance, the service provider must inform IMS thereof.

IV. SAFETY

If the consultancy involves travel IMS will provide information on safety procedures. By signing this Framework agreement, the service provider accepts the IMS safety procedures and any subsequent safety instructions by IMS. Failure to comply with the IMS safety procedures or instructions will constitute a breach of Framework agreement.

V. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The service provider warrants that there is no separate interest, either current or reasonably foreseeable, which will create a conflict of interest related to this Framework agreement.

Should a conflict of interest arise or be foreseen by the service provider, the service provider must immediately bring this to the attention of IMS and cease the affected activities.

VI. MANDATE

The service provider shall not engage in activities or enter into agreements that commit IMS to any expenses or courses of action without having obtained the prior written consent of IMS. The service provider is liable for any obligations including financial obligations that might pertain from such activities.

VII. ETHICS

No offer, payment, consideration or benefit of any kind, which could be regarded as an illegal or corrupt practice, shall be made, promised, sought or accepted - neither directly nor indirectly - as an inducement or reward in relation to activities funded under this Framework agreement, incl. tendering, award or execution of Framework agreements. Any such practice will constitute a material breach of the Framework agreement and be grounds for such additional action, civil and/or criminal, as may be appropriate. At the discretion of the donor(s), a further consequence of any such practice can be the definite exclusion from any tendering for projects, funded by the donor(s).

VIII. BANK ACCOUNT

To ensure timely bank transfers, IMS requires the service provider to submit an official letter, payment instruction for inward remittances or ‘certificate of bank details’ from his/her bank. The service provider is responsible for providing IMS with correct and accurate bank details, including any changes to the bank details that should occur during the Framework agreement period.

Any bank charges related to the return of amounts to IMS or bank search for transferred amounts due to inaccurate information will be deducted from the final transfer to the service provider. IMS is not liable for bank fees deducted by the service provider’s bank or corresponding banks, pertaining to the service provider’s receipt of transfers.

IX. PAYMENT CONDITIONS

The Service provider shall be responsible for all payments of social charges, personal income taxes, value added taxes (VAT), and other statutory contributions which may be imposed on the service provider in relation to this Framework agreement. IMS shall under no circumstances be required to make any such payments.

X. TITLE TO EQUIPMENT

IMS shall retain ownership of any equipment and/or supplies furnished by IMS. Such equipment shall be returned to IMS in an acceptable condition no later than at the termination of this Framework agreement. The Service provider shall be liable for equipment determined to be damaged or degraded beyond normal wear and tear.

XI. DATA PROTECTION

In this Framework agreement the scope and range of “data processing” is defined by Article 4(2) of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (“GDPR”). Where the service provider acts as an autonomous Data Controller, the service provider must ensure compliance with relevant laws that govern data processing.

XII. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, CREDITS, AND EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

IMS shall have the ownership of the intellectual property rights (IPR) to any materials produced and/or other results of this Framework agreement, reports and other related documents, notwithstanding the incorporation of IP and/or materials previously produced by the Service provider.

At the request of the Service provider, IMS shall credit the Service provider for the involvement in creating the IPR.

The Service provider warrants that there will be no incorporation of any material that would affect any intellectual rights of third parties.

IMS is not responsible for any opinions, beliefs, or viewpoints expressed by the Service provider.

XIII. CONFIDENTIALITY

Information about IMS’ partners, programmes, personnel or financial issues shall be treated as confidential by the service provider. This shall also apply after the termination of the Framework agreement.

Both during and after the Framework agreement period, the service provider will, when asked, return to IMS any confidential information related to IMS and/or any property of IMS.

The above includes any employees, Framework agreementors, sub-suppliers etc. that the service provider has used.

XIV. SOCIAL MEDIA AND ADVERTISING

The Service provider is not to engage in social media as a representative of IMS unless the specific mandate has been given by IMS' Communications Unit or through the job description. Furthermore, the Service provider is encouraged to consider if certain social media activity may reflect negatively on IMS.

The Service provider shall not advertise or otherwise make public the fact that he is a service provider to IMS without specific approval from IMS. Nor shall the Service provider use the name of IMS in connection with his business or otherwise. Non-observance of these conditions shall entitle IMS to cancel the Framework agreement, or any part thereof, and to hold the Service provider liable for any subsequent damages suffered by IMS.

XV. TERMINATION OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT AND FORCE MAJEURE

This Framework agreement may be terminated by four weeks written notice by either party.

In case of material breach of Framework agreement, force majeure or any other unforeseen situation rendering it impossible for either party to perform its obligations according to this Framework agreement, IMS may terminate the Framework agreement with immediate effect.

In the event of termination by either party, all advanced payments as per the date of termination are to be returned to IMS together with complete reporting for services delivered/activities implemented for the period up until the date of termination.

XVI. BREACH OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

In case of non-compliance with the provisions of this Framework agreement, IMS shall notify the service provider in writing - informing the service provider that continuing lack of compliance constitutes a breach of Framework agreement. The notification shall state the nature of the non-compliance as well as what section/provisions of this Framework agreement the breach relates to.

From the date of receiving a written notification stating a breach of Framework agreement, the service provider must - within a period of 10 calendar days - comply with all Framework agreement obligations and produce written documentation to IMS that any error, breach and/or non-compliance with this Framework agreement has been corrected. If the service provider fails to do so, this will constitute a material breach of this Framework agreement that entitles IMS to terminate the Framework agreement with immediate effect according to section XIV below.

XVII. MATERIAL BREACH OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

In case of the service provider's material breach of Framework agreement, willful misconduct or gross negligence of obligations under this Framework agreement, IMS shall have the right to terminate the Framework agreement with immediate effect and the service provider shall indemnify IMS in accordance with general principles of Danish law.

In case of material breach of this Framework agreement IMS shall have any and all remedies available to it under general principles of Danish law. IMS, at its sole and exclusive discretion, shall be entitled to enforce claims (including the right to claim a refund of all payments made and indemnification of losses related to the breach of Framework agreement).

XVIII. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

If any dispute arises relating to the implementation or interpretation of this Framework agreement, the parties shall seek to reach an amicable solution.

Any dispute that cannot be solved amicably shall be settled according to Danish laws and regulations and shall be settled at IMS venue: Copenhagen District Court, Nytorv 25, 1450 Copenhagen K.

Date: [INSERT DATE]

Date: [INSERT DATE]

[Name of IMS signatory]

[Name of Service provider/Signatory]