

Answers to questions received regarding the ToR for the Midterm review of IMS' 2024-2028 strategy implementation

Question 1:

Please clarify whether we need to submit our financial offer including VAT? Or is IMS registered in the EU VAT system (VIES) and therefore the reverse charge mechanism applies?

IMS is not registered for VAT and is therefore not able to recover input VAT. Tenderers should therefore submit their financial offer inclusive of any applicable local VAT or other taxes. Accordingly, the maximum budget of EUR 40,000 is inclusive of any applicable VAT.

Question 2:

- Will exiled media outlets/organizations be included within the scope of this assignment?

Exiled media outlets and organisations are not expected to be a significant part of the assignment scope. However, their inclusion may be considered depending on the final methodology and scope agreed during the inception phase.

- Which other broader EU countries will the assignment cover?

The assignment is expected to focus primarily on the countries and thematic areas outlined in the ToR. IMS has piloted approach on countering disinformation in Moldova, which is now also being implemented in Ukraine. Initial steps are being taken to explore similar approaches in other countries; however, these activities are not expected to constitute a major component or priority of the review.

- Could you provide an indicative number of people/organizations to be interviewed, between IMS staff and partner organizations?

As an indicative estimate, the assignment may include approximately 10–12 interviews with IMS staff, some of which may be conducted as group interviews. In addition, the review may include approximately 12–15 interviews with partner organisations and 12–15 interviews with external key informants. Depending on the final review design, this may be complemented by focus group discussions with relevant audiences, target groups or other stakeholders.

- Could you confirm whether the indicated budget include costs related to organizing focus groups during the field mission (place rentals, beverages, etc.)?

Costs related to organizing of focus group discussions, such as venue rental and refreshments, will be covered by the relevant IMS programmes and should therefore not be included in the consultant's financial offer.