

Independent Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant - Terms of Reference

Project title: Strengthening Capacity for Freedom of Information (Fol) and Data Activism in Türkiye's Civil Society

Project Reference Number: (NDICI-THE-NEAR/2024/453-230)

1. Context / Background to the Project

The overall objective of the '***Strengthening Capacity for Freedom of Information (Fol) and Data Activism in Türkiye's Civil Society***' project is to enhance public access to information and, in doing so, strengthen democratic governance in Türkiye. The action pursues this goal through targeted legal reform initiatives, cross-sector collaboration within civil society, and comprehensive capacity-building activities. The primary target groups are independent journalists and civil society organisations (CSOs) that depend on Fol legislation to carry out their work and promote public accountability. The action seeks to reinforce the Fol ecosystem by strengthening cooperation between journalists and CSOs, and by supporting awareness-raising, network development, and capacity-building efforts.

2. Objective

The purpose of this assignment is to engage a Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant to monitor and assess the following three components of the project:

- Fol trainings
- The mentorship programme (supporting journalistic content that is based on Fol requests)
- Legal Advisory Board activities

This monitoring and evaluation exercise will be carried out in line with the OECD/DAC criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact).

3. Scope of Work

3.1. Fol Trainings

- Reviewing the content and delivery quality of the training modules
- Comparing participant numbers and composition (organisation type, gender) with project goals
- Measuring participant satisfaction through surveys or interviews
- Tracking whether participants went on to file Fol requests after the training

3.2. Mentor-Mentee Programme

- Verifying the number and content of completed one-on-one mentorship sessions
- Assessing the extent to which participants achieved their learning objectives
- Measuring participant satisfaction through written surveys and one-on-one interviews
- Verifying the number of news articles, publication status, and outlet of FoI-based stories produced by each participant

3.3. Legal Advisory Board

- Reviewing the total number and nature of requests received (FoI requests and/or journalistic)
- Auditing compliance with the 15-working-day response time
- Assessing the proportion of consultations that resulted in concrete guidance
- Measuring the assessments of both board members and beneficiaries regarding the board's work, through written surveys and one-on-one interviews

All findings gathered during the monitoring and evaluation process will be documented in detail and consolidated into a "Monitoring Report." The report will include separate sections for each of the three components as well as an overall assessment summary.

4. Timeline

Phase	Date	Activity
Inception and methodology	Month 1 (November 2026)	Preparing the monitoring framework and data collection tools; reviewing relevant project documents and work carried out; gathering information on activities through meetings with the IPI Türkiye team
Data collection	Month 2 (December 2026)	Document review, interviews, surveys, and field/remote validation
First draft and data assessment	Month 3 (January 2027)	Preparing the Monitoring Report and sharing it with the IPI team by the end of the month
Reporting and closure	Month 4 (February 2027)	Finalising the report with feedback and updates

5. Performance Deliverables

- At least one comprehensive Monitoring Report, with separate sections for each of the three components
- At least one interim findings note per component
- In addition to a closing meeting with the IPI team at the end of the reporting period, delivering a list of recommendations and providing suggestions on how to enhance the program's impact.
- Submission of participant feedback data (surveys/interviews), both raw and summarised
- Contract duration: 1 November 2026 – 28 February 2027

6. Expected Qualifications

- Demonstrable experience in monitoring and evaluation (M&E), preferably on EU-funded projects
- Knowledge of media freedom, freedom of expression, or freedom of information
- Familiarity with Türkiye's media ecosystem and dynamics.
- Proficiency in qualitative and quantitative data collection methods (interviews, surveys, content analysis)
- Adherence to confidentiality and security protocols when working with sensitive sources (journalists, CSO representatives)
- Strong analytical reporting skills and commitment to high ethical standards
- No prior involvement in the implementation of this project, and no other conflict of interest
- Strong written reporting skills in both Turkish and English (the report will be shared with both the donor and the IPI team, and must be clear and fluent in both languages)

7. Payment Method

Payment will be made in Euros for the defined scope of work, including document review, interviews, surveys, field/remote validation, interim findings notes, and the final Monitoring Report.

8. Application Requirements

Interested candidates are required to submit the following documents:

- Up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV)
- A brief methodology proposal
- References or a portfolio from comparable work, if available
- A signed declaration of absence of conflict of interest

Applications must be submitted no later than 22 September 2026 to turkiye@ipi.media.

