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National Association Men for Gender Equality**
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Solidarity Action for Equality (SAfE) – Call for proposal

Project name: Solidarity Action for Equality (SAfE): A Cooperation Project between Women and Men in Russia and Sweden

Project period: 1st April 2015 – 31st of March 2019

Contact: Project officer Karin Caspani, karin.caspani@mfj.se

Deadline for proposal: 7th of January 2018

Background

The high level of violence against women in Russia remains one of the biggest problems in the country. It drastically blocks equality of opportunities for men and women in Russia regarding the political and economic participation of women in social life. Inversely, a high level of gender inequality increases the cases of violence against women, and gender based violence is the most extreme expression of gender inequality. Despite the work done to combat violence against women in Russia over the last 20 years, a systemic approach at government level does not exist.

Project *Solidarity Action for Equality* (SAfE) is built on the work, lessons learned and achievements from previous projects and adapts a holistic approach to counteracting men's violence. It involves a wide range of actors, target groups and stakeholders at all levels of society, and includes preventive as well as reactive strategies. The project has a strong rights based foundation with a gender power analysis on individual as well as structural levels being at the very core of the applied theory of change.

Despite the challenges in this complex context, the project *SAfE* has continued to develop its holistic work to stop men's violence against women, first of all through measures to prevent violence from happening, but also to develop and coordinate the efforts along the entire chain of violence: before, during and after. The project is carried out in partnership between Men for Gender Equality (MÄN) and Unizon in Sweden that constitute the Swedish team, and several organisations in Russia who are working directly with women and children subjected to men's violence or with male perpetrators.

Project objectives and expected results

The overall (long-term) development objective of project *SAfE* is that men's violence has been reduced and thereby women and men have, to a greater extent, the same power to shape society and their own lives.

The project objective is that men's violence has been reduced in North-West (NW) Russia and that relevant actors, service providers (non-governmental and state) and authorities who meet abused women, their children and male perpetrators in NW Russia implement holistic work against men's violence against women (MVAW), preventive as well as reactive.

This objective is linked to four expected results, on a Medium Term Outcome level, connected to a corresponding number of strategic stakeholder categories, each relevant to the fulfilment of the project objective. The theory of change for project *SAfE* is based on the realisation that the project objective can only be achieved through the work and efforts of the project partners together with the contribution and engagement of other actors. A key strategy in the theory of change is thus to work for change in the behaviours of the identified stakeholders, namely targeted: (1) Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), (2) Public Institutions, (3) Legal Institutions and (4) Media in NW Russia.

- **Civil Society – Expected Outcome 1:** Civil Society Organisations in Russia are cooperating (with each other and international organisations) and conducting effective work on violence prevention, support to survivors of violence and treatment of perpetrators using a gender and power analysis.
- **Public Institutions – Expected Outcome 2:** Targeted Public Institutions in Russia are collaborating, with each other and with CSOs, in implementation of work on MVAW (prevention, support to survivors and treatment of perpetrators).
- **Legal Institutions – Expected Outcome 3:** Targeted Legal Institutions are preventing and responding effectively to MVAW.
- **Media – Expected Outcome 4:** Targeted Media are actively promoting MVAW-issues in order to raise awareness among the population in NW-Russia.

In line with the two main strategies for Russia the *SAfE* project also aims at looking at possible synergy effects of bringing together the two fields of gender equality and environmental responsibility.

All details in form of project application, reports, project results matrix and other relevant documents will be shared with the individual or organisation performing the evaluation.

The Evaluator's Role

In order to get recommendations and guidance for developing the project, its implementation and the cooperation between partners, the *SAfE* partners seeks to contract an evaluator. The main objectives for the evaluation are as follows:

- Evaluation of existing cooperation within the project and between project partners
- Evaluation of the cooperation with external actors
- Evaluation of the project partners understanding of and coherence with agreed guiding principles for the project
- Mapping of project partner's ideas and visions for future development of the project
- Evaluate the project documents and processes in regards to their efficiency as tools for follow-up and monitoring
- Give recommendations for development and future work in relation to all the above mentioned points

This evaluation will not focus on results and measuring of goal fulfilment in relation to the existing results matrix, this will be done through other processes.

Each bid for the contract should include a proposal with a brief description of how these objectives are planned to be met, including time needed and costs for providing the service.

Specific Objectives for the Evaluator

The proposal should describe how the evaluator intends to meet the six main objectives, and what will be required from the Swedish project team and the Russian partners in order to carry out the proposal and meet the objectives.

Objective 1 – Evaluation of existing cooperation within the project and between project partners

Within the frames of the project there are several existing structures and constellations for cooperation, both formal and informal. Some of these structures are made up and agreed upon to enhance efficiency and relevance, and others are more informal based on interest and relations. The evaluator is expected to look at existing structures, both formal and informal, different functions and relations between different partners etc. Example of possible questions to answer: How do partners view each other and their roles and responsibilities? How does each partner organisation view itself in project SAfE and in relation to the project's objectives and purpose?

Existing constellations for cooperation that we have identified as relevant to evaluate:

- cooperation between project partners in Russia and Sweden
- cooperation between the project partners in Russia
- cooperation within the Swedish team
- cooperation between project partners and sub-grantees/regional centres
- cooperation within the civil society network at large in Russia

The evaluator is encouraged to highlight other structures that may be encountered during the course of the evaluation.

Objective 2 – Evaluation of the cooperation with external actors

The project is in many ways based on cooperation with external actors who have been identified as the project's targeted stakeholders, namely Civil Society, Public Institutions, Legal Institutions and Media. The evaluator is asked to look closer at cooperation and relationships between the Russian partners and external actors. Example of possible questions to answer: How do partners view the relationships, dialogue and cooperation with the targeted stakeholders? How do these relationships look like? Are there any other cooperation or relationship important to the work against men's violence besides these targeted stakeholders?

If possible, meetings with relevant external actors will be arranged in communication with partners.

Objective 3 – Evaluation of project partners understanding of and coherence with agreed guiding principles for the project

The evaluator is expected to get a picture of and understanding of how partners relate to, understand and use the internal document stating agreed guiding principles. Example of possible questions to answer: How is a power analysis integrated in the work done by partners and in implemented activities? How does each partner understand and view the agreed guiding principles and the term accountability?

Objective 4 – Mapping of project partner's ideas and visions for future development of the project

As this evaluation will lay as ground for project development and potential new project ideas the evaluator is asked to try to map and identify the needs and possible development potentials viewed by each partner. What possible ways forward do partners see? The project also looks at investigating possibilities on how partner's work can be made sustainable beyond the support of the project, and recommendations from the evaluator in this regards is welcomed.

Objective 5 - Evaluate the project documents and processes in regards to their efficiency as tools for follow-up and monitoring

The evaluator is asked to read the relevant project documents presented by the Swedish team and look at the existing procedures for planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Possible questions to answer: How do the documents relate to each other? Are the documents user friendly and do they simplify the process of follow-up, monitoring and evaluation for partners? How do each partner's internal processes relate to the follow-up and monitoring of the project?

Objective 6 – Give recommendations for development and future work in relation to all the above mentioned points

Based on the evaluation made in relation to objectives 1-5 the evaluator is expected to present recommendations and guidance for development of the project and future work. Possible questions to answer: What have worked well, according to the evaluation of the five objectives? What have worked less well, according to the evaluation of the five objectives? What are the evaluators' recommendations in relation to the new ideas presented by the project partners? And what are the possible strategies and actions for development recommended by the evaluator?

Scope

The evaluator will have between the 22nd of January 2018 until the 15th of March 2018 to perform the evaluation and complete a written report. The evaluator will be expected to provide MÄN and project partners with requests for information and meetings in good time during the period of the evaluation. The proposal should include a suggestion with a timeline with the needed interventions for data collection and how hours will be allocated over the course of the evaluation period.

On the 15th of March the evaluator is expected to deliver a written report with the findings, conclusions and recommendations made based on the evaluation. The report is expected to be written in English. The evaluator is expected to partake in the following two meetings with the Swedish project team in Sweden:

- January 2018: most likely on one of the dates 24th – 26th of January, for further information and to deepen the understanding of the project
- March 2018: on one of the dates between 19th – 23rd of March, where the evaluator is expected to present the evaluation findings and report to the Swedish team.

The scope of this call includes data collection both in Sweden and in Russia. The evaluator needs to be able to travel to St. Petersburg and Moscow to carry out data collection, through for example interviews, with the Russian project partners and other relevant actors. Visits to other regions of Russia may also be of interest to the evaluator. Trips to Russia require a visa if you are not a Russian citizen. The evaluator must be prepared to present the needed documents to acquire a visa if necessary. MÄN will give more information to support this process to the individual traveling to Russia.

The data collection should be designed and carried out by the evaluator, but in cooperation and with input from the Swedish project team.

Methodology

The proposal should include a description of the approach and methodology that the evaluator intends to use to achieve the objectives. Since the results of the evaluation will support and guide the project partner's future process of developing the project and the cooperation it is also expected that the proposal includes a description of the conditions necessary for data collection and analysis of the information.

Roles and Responsibilities

The evaluator will be contracted by Men for Gender Equality Sweden (MÄN). Any questions or complications should be directed to the project officer Karin Caspani, who will then be responsible for answering any questions and handling any issues together with the other project partners.

MÄN will be responsible for providing the evaluator with all relevant project documentation and initial contact with project partners. The Swedish project team will also be ready to answer questions and adhere to requests for interviews if the evaluator sees it as a relevant part of the data collection.

In any external contact, the evaluator represents her-/himself in her/his professional role, but not as a representative of the project or project partners.

Guiding Principles and Values

MÄN is guided by principles and values based on feminist theory and a gender power analyses. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been drawn up and signed by all the participating partners in project *SAfE*, stating the project agreed guiding principles. The MoU will be shared with the evaluator when doing the evaluation.

Other documents that are guiding the work of MÄN and the project partners are MenEngage alliance Code of Conduct¹, MenEngage alliance Core Principles², The Global Network of Women's Shelters Guiding Principles and Values³. We expect the author of a proposal to have read these documents and show a deep understanding of their content. Understanding of these principles and values is crucial in order to be able to evaluate and understand to what extent partners understand, share and implement them. A proposal in conflict with these principles has to be revised or will not be considered.

Professional Qualifications

The evaluator is expected to have the following qualifications:

- A good understanding of men's violence against women and children, and masculinities
- Experience from evaluating international cooperation projects
- Thorough knowledge of evaluation methodologies suitable for evaluation of an international cooperation project
- Fluency in English, both in speaking and in writing

It is extra merit if the evaluator has the following qualifications:

¹ <http://menengage.org/about-us/our-core-principles/>

² <http://menengage.org/code-conduct/>

³ <http://gnws.org/en/about/guiding-principles.html>

- Experience from working with men's violence against women and children
- Experience from working with masculinities and/or engaging men and boys for gender equality and violence prevention
- Very good proficiency in Russian, both in speaking and in writing
- Experience from the Russian context
- Experience from evaluating projects focusing on violence prevention and/or equality work with a value-based entry point

Deliverables and Payment

The allocated amount for the external evaluation is 300 000 SEK for the whole period, including all expenses such as travel to Russia, visa and interpreter if needed. The price of the proposal needs to be calculated inside this frame in order to be considered.

The payment will be divided in to two payments in accordance with deliverables over the course of the evaluation period identified in the proposal and specified in the contract. The deliverables will include:

- attendance at a meeting in Stockholm in January 2018
- evaluation report and final presentation meeting in Stockholm in March 2018.

Structure and Submission Guidelines

The proposal should include:

1. Contact information to submitting organisation or individual and name of the author of the proposal.
2. Summary of qualifications and merits that will make the person(s) suitable to carry out the evaluation.
3. Description of the proposed approach and methodology for fulfilling and meeting the objectives
4. A timeline and number of working hours needed to fulfil the objectives.

We are keen to maximise the expertise that the evaluator brings to the project and we therefore welcome thinking "outside the box" to ensure that the complex social issues at the heart of this work are adequately addressed. We are also open to looking at new ways of measuring efficiency and relevance of methods, strategies and structures within this project, if deemed relevant by the applicant.

We expect the proposal to be 2-4 pages and be submitted by the 7th of January 2018 at the latest via e-mail to karin.caspani@mfj.se. Shortlisting will take place on the 12th of January and shortlisted applicants will be invited to join a face-to-face or Skype interview between the 15th and 17th of January (please hold these dates in case of shortlisting, and/or indicate in your cover email a specific time convenient for you during these dates should you be successful).

A proposal will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. The feasibility and quality of the proposal (40%)
2. The candidate's experience and competencies (40%)
3. Cost efficiency (20%)