



EUROPEAN CENTER
FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT

Terms of Reference

Position Information

Job Title: Consultants on Development of Draft Model Law for State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs) in Nigeria

Duty Station: Abuja, Nigeria

Reports to: Project Coordinator and Executive Director

Duration: 20 Working Days (December 2021 – January 2022)

Organisational Context

ECES is an independent, non-partisan and not for profit Foundation headquartered in Brussels with a global remit. Since its establishment in 2010, ECES has implemented activities in **more than 50 countries**, mainly, but not only, in Africa and the Middle East, primarily with funding from the EU and EU Member states.

ECES promotes **electoral and democratic strengthening** through the provision of advisory services, operational support and management of large projects mainstreaming capacity and leadership development via peer exchanges and comparative experiences, dialogue and the prevention and mitigation of electoral conflicts.

ECES has obtained the TRACE certification for transparency in its financial management and the ISO 9001 certification for its Quality Management System. ECES has crafted and copyrighted its strategy called "**A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support - EURECS**", which is implemented via **specific methodologies and tools** also copyrighted by ECES. EURECS is an innovative mechanism to implement **electoral and democracy assistance activities that are consistent primarily with European values and EU policies, while targeting the facilitation of cooperation between the EU, its member states and their partner countries on electoral matters.**

ECES, in partnership with the College of Europe, Interpeace, Mediateur, Fondation Hirondelle and the Institute of Research and Education on Negotiation (ESSEC), implements the European Resource for Mediation Support (ERMES) project. ERMES is a strategic tool used in facilitating the EU's role in mediation and dialogue. In the context of this project, ECES provides the key expertise and office for the project.

ECES is also a member of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office network, the biggest and leading civil society European platform of 40 independent organisations and think tanks from 16 European countries committed to peacebuilding and the prevention of conflict.

Since February 2012, ECES has signed over 60 contracts in support of transparent, credible and cost-effective electoral processes and for the strengthening of democratic institutions in more than 50 countries essentially in Africa and in the Middle East. The founders and personnel of ECES possess extensive field experiences and well-established network, having worked in over 70 countries around the world. The EU is by far ECES' largest donor, while the organisation has also signed contracts and partnered with many other organisations.

Project's context

The European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) project, component 1 – Support to Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (INEC) is part of a five-component election programme of the EU, designed to complement the efforts of Nigeria's Government towards improving and strengthening democracy, especially with regards to the 2019 General Elections. Within the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), national authorities renewed their commitment to cooperate in the pursuit and achievement of the objectives foreseen in the EU-SDGN Project. Component 1 - Support to INEC is part of a broader EU programme composed of five components as follows: Component 2: Support to the National Assembly; Component 3: Support to Political Parties; Component 4: Support to Media; and Component 5: Support to CSOs. The project aims at contributing to the reinforcement of democracy in Nigeria through building strong, effective and legitimate democratic institutions. Component 1 of the programme as implemented by ECES has six broad objectives which includes 1) strengthening INEC's strategic planning, policy framework and operational capacity; 2) enhancing INEC's internal communication and strengthen the institutional mechanisms to engage with stakeholders 3) Supporting INEC's periodic voter registration system for a largely clean register of voters; 4) Strengthening INEC's oversight of political parties; 5) Improving INEC's and political parties' capacities in Electoral Dispute Resolution are fostered and; 6) Enhancing FOSIECON and SIECs institutional capacity and collaboration with stakeholders enhanced.

The design of the project was undertaken in close cooperation with all relevant electoral stakeholders in Nigeria, considering the findings and recommendations of the EU EOM to the 2015 general elections, as well as INEC's internal review and report on the 2015 general elections. Furthermore, the project is anchored upon ECES' unique methodology a "European Response to Electoral Cycle Support Strategy". Mid-way into project implementation, recommendations from the 2019 General Elections as well as priorities of the electoral Commission in the wake of a new electoral cycle, facilitated the alignment of project activities to meet the overall goal and programme objectives.

Enhancing the institutional capacity of the Forum of State Independent Electoral Commissions (FOSIECON) and its collaboration with Stakeholders is one of the six outputs of the Component One of the EU-SDGN. It seeks to strengthen capacities of the SIECs to conduct credible elections at the local government levels. While Part Two (b) of the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution gives the SIECs broad power to organise, undertake and supervise elections into local government councils within the state, the responsibilities for enacting the enabling laws for the conduct of the elections rest with the respective State Houses of Assembly resulting in situation in which all the 36 SIECs have different laws to guide the conduct of the elections.

Within the context of enhancing institutional capacities to conduct elections at the local government levels, ECES in its support to SIECs was requested to aid development of a model electoral law that will serve as a minimum irreducible standard made available for the operations of the SIECs. While the responsibilities for enacting laws for SIECs will continue to lie with the State Houses of Assembly, it is the expectation that the model law will serve as benchmark and guide. The specific objectives of the Model laws for SIECs are:

- To serve as guide for the State Houses of Assembly in formulation and review of electoral laws for conducting local Government elections in Nigeria ;
- To promote best practices in the conduct of local Government elections in Nigeria ;
- To provide a common framework for the coordination of electoral activities, peer Learning and experience sharing.

In order to realise the development of the draft Model Laws for SIECs in Nigeria, the service of a National Consultant is required to facilitate the process.

Functions / Key Results Expected

ECES seeks 2 Consultants to develop a Draft Model Law for State Independent Electoral Commissions of Nigeria (SIECs). The consultants, under supervision of the Project Management Unit and Executive Director will facilitate the development of the Draft Model Laws with the following specific responsibilities and will provide the following deliverables:

- Collate existing enabling laws and operational guidelines of the 36 State Independent Electoral Commissions of Nigeria ;
- Undertake a desk review of the enabling laws of the SIECs with a view to identifying areas of convergence and divergence ;
- Undertake engagements with Electoral Stakeholders especially Chairmen of SIECs, State Houses of Assembly, INEC, development partners with a view to seeking their inputs into the draft Model Laws ;
- Prepare the draft of the Model Laws ;
- Facilitate validation meetings of stakeholders on the Draft Model Law.

DELIVERABLES

The Consultants will be expected to deliver as follows:

- Report of the Desk review of existing legislations of SIECs
- Report of Engagement with Electoral Stakeholders
- Draft Model Laws for SIECs
- Report of the Validation Meetings on the Draft Model Law

VALUES

- Promotes the vision, mission and strategic goals of the ECES;
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability;
- Demonstrates integrity by modelling ECES' values and ethical standards.

Recruitment Qualifications

Education:	Advanced University degree or equivalent in Political Science, administration, social sciences or any related field of Study
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least ten (ten) years of relevant work experience with proven experience of relevant work on election management work in Nigeria; • Previous experiences in similar positions within not for profit organisations and/or international organisations; • Demonstrable experience working with State Independent Electoral Commissions; • Familiarity with the Nigerian electoral laws; • Excellent reporting and analytical skills; • Proficient knowledge of MS Office applications is a must; • Good interpersonal skills and result orientation; • Ability to work in a multi-tasking and multi-cultural environment; • Ability to perform effectively under high pressure, hardship conditions.
Language Requirements:	Excellent working level of English language in both writing and speaking

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

- i. Applications should consist of three separated documents:
 - A motivation letter of maximum one page
 - Curriculum Vitae of maximum of three pages
 - A 1-page financial offer for this service

No further documents are required at this stage

- ii. Applications will be assessed in 2 formats
 - Individual applications to identify 2 suitable candidates
 - Joint application by 2 consultants suitably positioned to provide this service
- iii. All applications should be sent to nigeria@eces.eu
Applications will be considered on a rolling basis
- iv. Application is open from 22 – 30 November 2021.