

Call for consultants

Case-study research on the impact of the EU's and EU Member States' international cooperation on the reduction of inequalities in Paraguay, Burkina Faso, South Africa and Bangladesh

April 2022

CONCORD is seeking to recruit consultants based in Paraguay, Burkina Faso, South Africa and Bangladesh to conduct research into programmes of the European Union (EU) as well as EU Member States in the country that have contributed or are contributing to the reduction of inequalities.

CONCORD is an equal opportunity employer and considers applicants for all positions without regard to race, colour, religion and belief, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status. All employment decisions are made entirely on merit. All qualified applicants are strongly encouraged to apply regardless of their national origin, race, color, disabilities, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or age.

Background

Inequalities between people and countries have reached staggering heights. The social contract is under unprecedented pressure as witnessed by the multiplication of protests, marches and social unrest against austerity, inequalities and injustice all over the world. Inequalities come in different shapes and can strengthen one another. Not only are inequalities in their different dimensions - economic, social, political, climate-related, driven by digitalisation - morally wrong, they threaten the realisation of human rights. Reducing inequalities will lead to a more sustainable world with less poverty and higher levels of well-being for all, leaving no one behind.

Through their external action in general and their international cooperation and partnerships in particular, the EU and EU Member States have the potential to make a significant impact on inequalities worldwide. Yet, political commitment is not consistent, and even when it exists, action does not always follow. CONCORD's 2021 EU [Scoreboard](#) exposed that several key EU policies lacked any reference to inequalities, or did so only in a partial way. Our 2022 report [The Road to Equality](#) showed that EU Member States' action to embed inequalities in their international cooperation is insufficient. Despite some level of political commitment, tools to mainstream inequalities are scarce, as are the actions targeted at redressing inequalities. Policies that are incoherent with the goal of tackling inequalities persist, and only few Member States reach ODA targets.

Yet, there are some good practices from both the EU and EU Member States that show the positive impacts they can have on inequalities if they put their words into action consistently.

Aims and objectives

We believe that identifying such inspiring practices with the help of our partners worldwide is a key next step to persuade the EU and EU Member States to take further action. Because the concept of inequalities is complex, we want to show them, with concrete examples and based on stories, how that can be done in ways that adequately address the lived experiences of inequalities in partner

countries, adopting, as much as possible, a multidimensional and intersectional approach¹.

In order to achieve so, **we are looking for four skilled consultants based in Paraguay, Burkina Faso, South Africa and Bangladesh who will conduct research to help us deliver a collection of four compelling, concise, eye-catching, case studies. They will each identify and analyse three to four inspiring, recent or ongoing EU and EU Member State international cooperation programmes with demonstrated impact or strong potential impact on the reduction of inequalities in their country.**

These case studies will reflect the realities and the views of partners in the four countries. To do so, the **consultants will help CONCORD set up one advisory group of partners in each country.** Moreover, **they will support CONCORD to conduct one study visit per country to complement and complete their research work and ensure a strong connection with partners.**

Methodology

Each consultant will follow an **8-step process**:

- **Step 1** (+/- 1 day consultancy): online kickoff meeting with CONCORD to ensure a clear shared understanding of the research goals and the output. The meeting will also help make sure the timeline is clear and realistic.
- **Step 2** (+/- 2 days consultancy): identifying key local NGO / CSO partners that CONCORD needs to involve in the partner advisory groups, and supporting CONCORD reach out to them.
- **Step 3** (+/- 1 day consultancy): online meeting with partners identified, to ensure they understand the research, share ideas and have a say on the way to conduct it.
- **Step 4** (+/- 10 days consultancy): research, including desk research and interviews, to:
 - Provide a short introduction summarising the status quo in the country: recent historical and social context relevant to understanding inequalities, and some concise key facts and figures, backed up by reliable sources.
 - Identify and analyse concisely three to four inspiring, recent or ongoing, EU and EU Member State international cooperation programmes in the country with demonstrated impact or strong potential impact on the reduction of inequalities (understood as a multidimensional phenomenon, and with intersectional lenses). The analysis will seek to gather quotes from those who implemented the programmes and those that participated in them.
- **Step 5** (+/- 4 days consultancy): gathering and processing feedback from CONCORD as well as from local partners, shared both via email and through an online meeting.
- **Step 6** (+/- 2 days consultancy): support to organise the study visit by CONCORD:
 - Advice to shape the agenda, including reaching out to partners and other local stakeholders.
 - Support finding a venue for an on-site meeting with partners, and possibly liaising with local providers of video editing services.
- **Step 7** (+/- 3 days consultancy): accompanying CONCORD staff during the study visits.
- **Step 8** (+/- 2 days consultancy): reviewing and providing feedback on last drafts as adapted by CONCORD following the study visit, both via email and an online meeting involving local partners.

Deliverables

¹ For more information about our approach to inequalities, check out CONCORD, [Inequalities Unwrapped: An urgent call for systemic change](#), 2019.

Each consultant will produce the following tangible deliverables:

1. 0.5 to 1 pages on the context of inequalities in the country: historic and social background, drivers of inequalities, evidence of the prevalence of inequalities in their multiple dimensions.
2. 3 to 3.5 pages analysing concisely three to four recent or ongoing interesting or promising EU and EU Member State practices, with demonstrated impact or strong potential impact on the reduction of inequalities in their country.
3. A list of local NGO / CSO partners and contacts to involve in the advisory group of partners.

To complete them in a timely manner, they will need to deliver the services specified in the 8-step process:

1. Support contacting local partners.
2. Kickoff meeting with CONCORD to start the work.
3. Joining meetings to gather feedback, and implementing such feedback.
4. Supporting CONCORD to organise the study visits, and accompanying CONCORD during the visits.
5. Reviewing final versions and providing feedback.

Budget

The total consultancy budget per consultant cannot exceed EUR 6,000 including VAT (+/- 25 working days per consultant).

If for safety or other reasons the study visit to a country is not possible, the budget would be adapted after deducting the days budgeted for the visit.

Considering that the Consultant is an independent contractor, the Consultant is solely and exclusively responsible for all social security and tax obligations, including V.A.T., related to the fees and/or any other amounts paid in virtue of this Consultancy Agreement. **These are by no means employment contracts.**

Skills and Qualifications

The consultant is expected to have:

Essential:

- Proven understanding and knowledge of:
 - Inequalities with a multidimensional and intersectional focus and how to address them through (international) cooperation;
 - Gender equality and mainstreaming it in policy and programme analysis;
 - EU international cooperation policies, programmes and funding; knowledge of cooperation policies of EU Member States would be a plus.
- Based in and with excellent knowledge of the social reality of Paraguay, Burkina Faso, South Africa or Bangladesh;
- Excellent knowledge of the landscape of civil society organisations in the country;
- Good English writing and speaking skills; ability to write about complex issues in an engaging manner.

Desirable:

- Excellent professional references.

- Proof of similar pieces of work conducted.
- Experience researching international cooperation programmes;
- Experience conducting case-studies and study visits;
- Experience working with partners from other countries and regions;

Indicative timeline (2022; subject to adaptations)

Beginning of May	Selection of consultants; signing consultancy contracts.
May	Kickoff meeting with CONCORD, identify key local partners, and online meeting with partners.
May to June	Conducting the research and preparing a draft version to share with CONCORD and partners.
Second half of June	Gather feedback (email and online meeting) and adapt the draft accordingly.
June to October (dates to be confirmed)	Support CONCORD to plan the study visit (in the weeks ahead of the visit), and accompany CONCORD staff..
October-November	Provide feedback on the final drafts (email and online meeting).

Application procedure

To apply for this post, please [upload to our website](#), and in one single PDF, the following documents by **Thursday 5 May 2022, 23:59 Brussels time**:

- A CV outlining your relevant expertise for this assignment;
- A short proposal (max 1 page) on how you will undertake the research (work plan, methodology) and a price quote (budget);
- Professional references and/or proofs of similar consultancy work undertaken;

If you have any questions, you may contact Borja Arrue (borja.arrue@concordeurope.org) and Martina Ponziani (policy.assistant@concordeurope.org)

