

Call for tender for AidWatch methodological review

Terms of reference

Background

For 18 years, AidWatch reports have provided a comprehensive assessment of the state of play of the EU's ODA. With an ever-evolving methodology and yearly innovations, we have been able to keep our analysis fit for purpose, despite significant changes in ODA rules and the evolution of trends affecting development aid levels.

However, a more exhaustive review is now necessary as the field of international cooperation has gone through deep changes. First of all, the ODA modernisation process, started by the DAC in 2012, has brought important changes in the way ODA is counted, both regarding the expansion of the list of ODA-eligible activities and in relation to how it is later reported.

Secondly, there are key political events currently affecting the way the world approaches international cooperation. The pandemic first, and the effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine later, have posed additional challenges and are impacting previous plans. For example, the global food crisis - aggravated by the war and especially acute in partner countries - is pushing the EU and its Member States to reconsider the priorities in the allocation of funds. In this context, the growing climate crisis is also adding pressure to the need for new resources and mechanisms that allow a proper response to its challenges, without forgetting about previous commitments that are core to ODA purposes.

Finally, the EU itself is going through an important reconsideration of its overall approach to international cooperation and to the place given to the sustainable development agenda.

Following all these developments, CONCORD needs to consider a renewed methodology that covers new priorities for the EU's approach to international cooperation, in order to support the advocacy work to keep this high in the EU's political agenda.

Objectives and scope of the work

Based on the evolution of the international cooperation landscape described above, CONCORD has identified several aspects of the AidWatch methodology where an exhaustive review is needed, as it might not be entirely capturing the dimension of the changes:

- *Review of the Equality-focused section:* in line with the focus on inequalities as a central thread to our work, we will review the way we approach its analysis in the report. Special attention will be paid to the analysis of EU ODA going to climate finance, gender equality and civil society.
- *Review of the 'Effective ODA' section:* we will analyse the possibility of coming up with specific indicators to measure aid effectiveness. The focus will be, on the one

hand, on the recent policy developments at the EU level in relation to international cooperation, that is, the introduction of the Team Europe approach and Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs), the NDICI-Global Europe implementation, and the Global Gateway strategy. On another hand, we will explore how to enhance the monitoring of ODA effectiveness at the MS level looking at the examples from current frameworks.

- *Review of the methodology for measuring aid inflation:* inflated aid is one of CONCORD's main contributions to the monitoring and assessment of EU ODA. Over the last few years, the main trends driving aid inflation have changed, so we will seize the opportunity of this methodological review to renew our approach to measure inflated aid by assessing elements currently covered as well as the possibility to include new drivers of aid inflation. For this, we will need to explore different sources of information that can provide us more detailed information on some of the aspects covered. We will therefore include an analysis of at least the following issues: securitisation, migration, special drawing rights and private sector instruments, and climate.
- *General review of the 4Es approach:* based on the aspects above, we will finally conduct an assessment of the relevance and adequacy of the current structure of the report. We will assess whether the current division of contents is the best way of presenting the findings, and whether different issues could be included in each of the sections.

Job description

The main tasks of the work would include:

- Conducting extensive desk research on the issues described above
- Interviewing external stakeholders, especially EU officials
- Consulting with CONCORD members in order to gather input along the process
- Organising, together with CONCORD Secretariat and members, a series of 4-5 'expert meetings' on the main issues covered in the review. These meetings should take place around the month of March.
- Develop a methodological framework report that can guide the analysis for the next AidWatch report, containing all the aspects covered in the review.
- Deliver a full bibliography with the resources consulted and used.

Please note that, due to the nature of the work, a team of consultants is also welcome. Group applications are welcome (see more details below under 'How to apply').

Candidate/s profile

- Excellent knowledge of ODA databases and strong analytical skills. Good understanding of the OECD DAC database is essential, but the ability to conduct research on other platforms (IATI, EU Aid explorer, other sources collecting and analysing data on ODA thematically and climate financing...) is also required.
- Proven understanding of ODA reporting rules and current debates around their reform.

- Sound knowledge of the EU's international cooperation landscape and policy framework.
- Good understanding of inequalities.
- Excellent English writing skills.
- Ability to coordinate a large and diverse group of stakeholders.
- Experience working in the NGO environment is an advantage.

Timeline

The assignment should be carried out between February and June 2023. A first draft of the methodological framework should be submitted by mid-April for testing against the 2022 ODA figures published yearly around this date. The final product should be delivered by the end of June 2023.

Budget

Please note that project proposals should not exceed EUR 14.5k.

How to apply

To apply for this post, please upload the following documents to the portal below:

- your CV outlining your relevant expertise to meet this assignment (2 pages max);
- your proposal on how you will undertake this research, including a suggested number of days and their distribution between the different tasks and phases of the work and your day rate (2 pages max).

If you are submitting a group application, please provide the 2-pager CV for each of the candidates and one single proposal.

In case of any difficulties or questions, you may contact Salvatore Nocerino (salvatore.nocerino@concordeurope.org).

The deadline for applications is 19 January at midnight CET.

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