

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Evaluation of the 'Democratisation' Bankwatch work area effectiveness

Proposals should be sent to Olexi Pasyuk opasyuk@bankwatch.org no later than the 20th of November 2021.

Introduction

CEE Bankwatch is a network of civil society organisations from the region of central and eastern Europe. It works to influence the policies and operations of international financial institutions (IFIs) such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and European Investment Bank (EIB). The network's operations from 2016 to 2021 were guided by a Strategic plan that covered two areas: the climate change area, to transform energy systems away from fossil fuels, and the democracy area, aimed at improving decision-making structures in IFIs and community control over resources. As Bankwatch will soon approve its new strategic plan till 2025, supported by the campaign area plans for 2021-2023 and corresponding funding proposals, now is a good moment to have an external reflection on effectiveness of the work.

Evaluation object: Intervention to be evaluated

Bankwatch is looking for a consultant to evaluate the effectiveness of the work in the strategic area 'Democratisation of International Public Finance' over the period of 2019-2021. This was one of the five areas of Bankwatch operations and had four objectives. It is implemented by a team of 8 people and is a combination of advocacy work and cooperation with communities and CSOs. The geography of work covers central and eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and individual cases in African countries. The operation is covered by several donors, with Sida being the leading contributor.

The work of Bankwatch's Democratisation team aims to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts on the natural and social environment caused by the loans of the multilateral development banks. For this purpose, Bankwatch engages in dialogue with decision makers on changes in the Banks' strategies, policies and procedures as well as on individual loans. Collecting evidence on the ground, cooperation with local CSOs and impacted communities is an important element of our approach, along with media outreach and use of the network's own communication channels.

Evaluation rationale

Bankwatch's Democratisation working area has a set of ambitious objectives that are supposed to be met by a team of 8 people working in various countries. Internal evaluation done as a part of the strategic planning process conducted in 2020-2021 revealed that the team devotes a significant amount of time to the work on selected cases of problematic IFI project in different countries. Our new strategic plan again combines work on individual cases and policy objectives. The evaluation should help to assess the effectiveness of the Democratisation team's work over last two years and suggest the best way to balance various objectives and types of work as the team starts its new operations period.

Evaluation purpose: Intended use and intended users

The results of the evaluation will be used by Bankwatch's Democratisation team, as it will be adjusting its medium-term strategic area plan for the period 2022-24.

Evaluation scope

The evaluation should investigate the implementation of the Democratisation strategic area plan in 2019-2021. The scope should look into Bankwatch's work with communities, keeping in mind that the majority of the cases are in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Western Balkans countries and the rest in few countries in Central Asia and Africa. The evaluation must include activities at the international level, particularly advocacy towards international financial institutions (with a focus on the EIB, EBRD and ADB).

Evaluation objective: Criteria and questions

The evaluation should assess the effectiveness of the Democratisation area goal set in 2019 and summarised as: *'The democratisation of investments by the EIB, EBRD and EU funds'*.

More specifically, we are looking for opinion on whether choice of objectives and actions within Bankwatch's Democratisation area of work was relevant to the effective achievement of the strategic area goal.

Bankwatch is looking for an answer to the questions:

Is there a good balance and complementarity of advocacy work on policy and direct help to communities in the Bankwatch Democratisation team? Should the priorities be shifted?

Evaluation approach and methods

We expect that the evaluation methodology will be prepared at the inception phase and documented in the inception report. We estimate that the evaluator will conduct interviews with up to 8 Bankwatch staff members, up to 8 external contacts from civil society organisations and local communities Bankwatch has been working with, plus 3-6 people from the development banks and their accountability mechanisms. The evaluator will have access to the planning documents, internal evaluation notes, reports to the donors and products.

Evaluation quality

Evaluations shall conform to OECD/DAC's Quality Standards for Development Evaluation. Therefore, the evaluator shall use the OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and shall specify how quality assurance, in accordance with DAC's quality standards, shall be handled during the evaluation process.

Time schedule and deliverables

We expect the evaluator to start working at the latest on January 10 and to prepare clear plan of the process following the inception period by 10 February. We expect the final report to be produced by 20 April 2022. At this moment, we do not expect any trips to be required for the assignment.

We expect that the consultant will provide a well-structured, reader-friendly report of 15-30 pages in English which presents they key findings of the conducted research, bearing in mind the above outlined evaluation aims. The audience of the report will be Bankwatch's Democratisation team members, the organisation's management, and the Bankwatch Executive Committee.

2.8. Evaluation team qualifications

The evaluator (core team member for teams) should demonstrate experience in similar assignments, knowledge of central and eastern Europe and proficiency in English.

2.9. Financial and human resources

We expect the cost of the work will not exceed EUR 10 000.