

Terms of References – Final external evaluation

SAIFE program – "Supporting Access to Information and Freedom of Expression", in Tunisia



September 2024

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1. Presentation of the NGO in charge of the project

IREX Europe (acting under the name of and hereinafter referred to as ERIM) is a French NGO based in Lyon whose work contributes to the establishment or maintenance of peaceful, democratic, just, and sustainable societies in which individuals enjoy equal rights, have access to plural and independent information and participate in the construction of the future in which they wish to live.

ERIM works to promote and defend human rights, independent media, and civil society, as well as to develop critical thinking skills so that everyone can make informed decisions and claim their rights.

2. Project objectives

The SAIFE project – "Supporting Access to Information and Freedom of Expression, in Tunisia" was designed to promote and protect freedom of expression and the right of access to information through an improved and more effectively implemented legal and regulatory framework, in line with international standards and the Tunisian Constitution. For the past 5 years, the partners have been building the capacity of civil society organizations and media in the regions so that they can work together and participate in decentralized advocacy work. They supported Tunisian administrations in the development of action plans on access to information. The SAIFE project has also set up a National Academy of Investigative Journalism, developing a study project, and training young journalists. Finally, SAIFE has developed a radio program in collaboration with youth organizations and community radios from all over Tunisia, on the importance of freedom of expression and the right of access to information.

Project No.: SLMAQM19GR2104

Award Title: SAIFE – Support for Access to Information and Freedom of Expression in Tunisia

Responsible body: IREX Europe as ERIM

Dates: 08/07/2019 – 01/31/2025

Location: Tunisia

Budget: 1,557,332 USD

Partners: ARTICLE 19 MENA, GoAct

The target groups of the project are:

- National decision-makers/institutions: INAI, DGRPA, ENA, and other public administrations
- Judicial staff and judges
- Civil Society Groups: Tunisian CSOs working in the areas of media development, freedom of expression, right to information, transparency, and good governance.
- Lawyers and lawyers' organizations.
- Media organizations, professionals, citizen journalists, and community radios: The National Union of Journalists (SNJT), the National School of Journalism (IPSI), the Union of Community Radios (UTMA), journalists, journalism students, radios, and citizen journalists.

General objective of the project:

The SAIFE project aims to promote and protect the right to freedom of information and access to information through an improved and more effectively implemented legal and regulatory framework, in line with international standards and the Tunisian Constitution (objective).

Specific objectives:

SO 1: Support the advocacy of CSOs and media actors for reforms and the practical implementation of new laws related to freedom of expression and the right to information

SO 2: Promote the implementation and monitoring of the new Right to Information Act at the national, regional, and local levels

SO 3: Key civil society actors, in particular journalists and young people, have better knowledge and understanding of the fundamental rights to freedom of expression and access to information and can play a role in monitoring compliance with the principles enshrined in the Constitution

Activities:

- 1.1 Coordinated advocacy by civil society organizations and media groups on freedom of expression and the right access to information
- 1.2 P2P (peer-to-peer) study tour program for CSOs and public institutions
- 1.3 Training of judicial staff on the right of access to information and freedom of expression
- 2.1 Development of national action plans for the implementation of the Access to Information Act
- 2.2 Access to Information Regional Coordination Groups and Sub-Grants
- 2.3 Training of Lawyers on Access to Information and Enforcement of the Access to Information Act
- 2.4 Access to Information Training for Future Public Servants
- 3.1 National Academy of Young Journalists on Access to Information
- 3.2 "Alternative Media Tour"
- 3.3 "Fouq Essour" Training Program and Small Grants

3. Evaluation Objectives

The evaluation will cover the project as a whole, since the start of its implementation in July 2019. The objectives of the evaluation are to:

- Review project implementation
- Assess the actual impact of the project using quantitative and qualitative indicators and examples of the most important changes.
- Assess the level of achievement of activities and objectives
- Support ERIM to highlight lessons learned from the project
- Assess strengths, areas for improvement, and needs for a possible new phase of the project

The evaluation should include the following criteria. Priority will be given to impact and sustainability analysis.

Relevance:

- Assess whether the project was coherent and whether the project met the needs and priorities of the target groups

Efficacy:

- Analyze the achievement of the project's objectives and results in light of its logical framework
- To determine what were the direct and indirect unexpected effects of the project, including concerning changes in context.

Efficiency:

- Assess the quality of day-to-day management (operational planning and implementation; coordination, information management, reporting) and the extent to which stakeholders have been kept adequately informed of project activities
- Evaluate the efficiency of managing project resources (budget, expertise, time, etc.) and how they could have been used more optimally.

Impact:

- Analyze the degree of achievement of the project's impact indicators
- Analyze the effects and results of the project on beneficiaries and target groups, including initially unexpected, positive, or negative outcomes.
- Assess the project's effects on building the capacity of lawyers, journalists, media professionals, and civil society to play an observer role and monitor the implementation of existing laws and regulations in line with international standards.
- Evaluate how the training and resources provided have impacted the ability of CSOs and media to collaborate effectively, assess the success and impact of the collaboration between CSOs and media in decentralized advocacy efforts, and identify and measure the tangible outcomes resulting from these joint efforts in advocacy.

Durability:

- To analyze the extent to which the effects and results of the project are likely to last beyond its implementation period
- Identify the actions undertaken or to be implemented to ensure the political, institutional, and financial sustainability of the project
- Collect lessons learned and good practices and make recommendations for partners and all stakeholders

4. Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation should include a literature review, interviews, and a briefing note. A scoping meeting will precede the evaluation to ensure that the methodological approach chosen by the evaluator corresponds to the objectives of the evaluation.

1. The literature search should include a review of all documents and productions made and developed within the framework of the project, reports of events organized, narrative reports, etc. which will be transmitted to him by ERIM at the start of the mission. The consultant must collect and analyze all quantitative and qualitative data of the logical framework (list of activities, number of participants, number of grants, etc.).

2. External literature that would use academic research to provide a broader context for the evaluation results. The consultant must compare findings with existing studies on capacity building and advocacy to confirm the effectiveness and relevance of the project's outcomes.

3. For interviews, the consultant will have to conduct a sufficient and representative number of interviews to assess the impact of the project (ideally on-site, in Tunisia but interviews can also be conducted online) and representatives of the target groups (civil society groups, media professionals, judges and lawyers, young people, journalists and community radio stations), Tunisian institutions that participated in the project (MPs, advisors, Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Justice) and any other relevant stakeholders.

The interviewees will be selected in consultation with ERIM and the project partners at the start of the mission.

5. Deliverables

- Notes from the scoping meeting
- Executive Summary
- Final Report: The consultant will write an evaluation report in English, 20 to 30 pages long, including a table of contents, a brief introduction, a summary (max 1 page), objectives and methodology, observations, lessons learned and conclusions, and a list of findings and appendices.

- The consultant will make a brief presentation to the project partners, reviewing the main findings and recommendations of the evaluation. This presentation (in PowerPoint) will then be used by ERIM and its partners to present the results to external stakeholders

6. Organization and schedule

Dissemination of the call for expressions of interest	September 13, 2024
Deadline for receipt of applications	September 27, 2024
Consultant Selection	October 4, 2024
Start of the assessment	October 9, 2024
Conducting interviews	October/November 2024
Submission of Interim Report	December 9, 2024
Submission of the final version of the report	January 6, 2024
Presentation to partners	Date to be defined

7. Required skills

Qualifications

- Degree or professional experience in fields related to human rights and/or media
- At least eight years of experience in the field of external evaluation, including DRL-funded projects
- Experience in media and information literacy evaluation would be a strong asset
- Applications from consultants based in Tunisia are encouraged
- Fluency in English and Tunisian Arabic is mandatory. Fluency in French is an asset.
- Availability and ability to work independently and on a flexible schedule.

You can apply individually or as part of a team of assessors. In both cases, your application must include the following:

- Expression of interest, highlighting relevant experience, motivation, and daily rate (max. 2 pages)
- A technical proposal detailing your understanding of the main issues of the evaluation and the context, a proposal for a methodology, and an indicative timetable (maximum 6 pages)
- A detailed financial proposal
- An up-to-date CV
- Contact details of 2 references (per person)

Price: Up to 9000 \$ (including all costs related to the mission, including travel and per diem costs).

Please send your application and financial offer until September 27, 2024, to vmaurer@erim.ngo and pzanetti@erim.ngo