

# Development of the State of the Country Report 2023

## Terms of Reference

### **Background**

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Moldova announces a call for quotations for the development of the 2023 edition of the annual State of the Country Report (SCR). The key goal of the SCR is to provide a nationwide platform for public debate across government, private sector, civil society, and the international community in the development of policies and prioritization of the key public sectors, which need assistance for further development. The SCR is conceived as an eye-catching publication, combining economic, social, political, and geopolitical analysis in the key development sectors of Moldova. It also provides a set of relevant indicators for assessing the progress and challenges Moldova is facing and identifies policy priorities aimed at fostering sustainable development and improving people's lives.

### **Scope of Assignment**

The scope of the assignment is to develop the 2023 edition of the SCR according to the concept described below.

### **Concept of the State of the Country Report 2023**

The year 2023 appears to be a year of mild recovery from the numerous crises of 2022, amid high uncertainty due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, Russian hybrid attacks through their local proxies, weak energy autonomy, and slower-than-expected pace of reforms for the consolidation of the state, economic and social security systems.

In this context, the SCR 2023 will analyze the main peculiarities and vulnerabilities of the economic, social, and political systems of Moldova, to identify the necessary strategic interventions which may ensure the much-needed breakthrough the country has to undergo to become more resilient against the existing and potential threats and crises, as well as to engage more effectively in the tremendously complex and challenging negotiation processes for EU accession.

This analysis will be integrated into the usual structure of the SCR, which reflects the three key elements that define the state of a country: (i) households, (ii) firms, and (iii) government. The households will be analyzed from the point of view of the well-being of the population: incomes, access to the labor market, access to public services and infrastructure, and personal security, and how these dimensions could benefit from a qualitative boost. The firms will be analyzed from the point of view of their competitiveness: access to capital, access to relevant skills, implementation of know-how and capacity to innovate, and access to domestic and foreign markets, and how they should be fostered. The government will be analyzed from the point of view of good governance and key reforms: domestic political affairs, foreign policy, capacity to promote key reforms (anti-corruption, justice, and rule of law), budgetary policy, and law and fiscal enforcement capacity, as well as what should be done to speed up the reforms and be better prepared to accession negotiations.

The Report methodology is based on the following tools: fundamental analysis of the key statistical data about the main economic, financial, and social trends; perception analysis of the population and firms, based on the public opinion polls and other representative country surveys; comparative analysis (benchmarking) with other countries from Central and Eastern Europe; interviews with field experts and relevant policymakers; and, mass media screening.

Each chapter of the SCR 2023 will also have a similar structure, containing the following elements (in consecutive order): An introductory paragraph, revealing the importance of the topic and highlighting the issues, which will be analyzed further; analysis of the main trends over the last year/comparison of main indicators over the last 2 years; mid-term outlook and key challenges; Policy priorities.

The SCR shall have approximately 50 pages, and shall represent a consistent document, including the main results of the analysis (rather than being descriptive), showing the risks persisting in different areas, and including the key recommendations. The report shall be written in Romanian.

### **Timeline for Report Development**

The deadline for the report development shall be 30 September 2023.

### **Requirements for the implementing organizations**

- Well-established and reputable think-tank with at least 5 years of activity.
- At least 5 years of experience in conducting similar reports/analyses.
- Deep knowledge of the economic, social, and political situation of Moldova and the region.
- Proven capacity to identify relevant experts to ensure the successful implementation of the project.
- Positive experience of working with FES Moldova will be considered as an advantage;
- References to similar reports and analyses will also be welcome.

### **Application process:**

All organizations interested in this assignment shall submit their quotations including the following:

**Financial offer:** A complete budget that will include all the costs pertaining to the report development.

**Technical offer:** The technical offer shall include a general summary of each chapter of the study, Additionally, the applicant shall provide a set of indicators to be integrated into the planned analysis for each chapter described in the TOR.

**Please send your full application no later than the 21<sup>th</sup> of July 2022.**